



MARK THAT SPOT—1st Lt Michael G. Keuhn of the 919th Engineer Co calls in to headquarters description of a mine he has just uncovered. (Photo By Larson)

# Actions Yield 344 Enemy

QUAN LOI — Hard-fighting Blackhorse troopers killed 344 enemy soldiers in scattered action this month.

The heaviest fighting came in the first 12 days of the month, when a total of 323 enemy died.

On Sept 6 an all-day battle between elements of the 1st Sqdn and part of the 209th NVA Regt about 2½ miles west of Loc Ninh left 54 enemy dead and six captured.

The fighting, until then the heaviest seen in more than two weeks, came as B Trp was moving through the jungle about 9:00 am, on its way to sweep an area where C Trp had killed 12 NVA the previous afternoon.

The action began when the crew of one of the lead ACAVs spotted an estimated company-sized unit and opened up with all guns.

"All at once there was RPG and AK 47 fire hitting us all over," a weary ACAV driver said in describing the action.

D Co and C Trp, sweeping the jungle nearby, were contacted and moved to aid B Trp.

By mid-morning, C Trp was also in contact.

Maj. John C. Bahnsen, then commander of 1st Sqdn, was overhead, directing operations from his command helicopter.

"They were trying to set up an ambush for us, but we walked in on their little party and let them taste some more of our lead," he commented.

Later in the day, F Trp killed 13 NVA while defending its NDP.

The next day was also destined to bring heavy action to the iron horses of Blackhorse.

I Trp, newly-arrived from Blackhorse base camp, was moving about five miles south west of An Loc about 3:00 p.m. when it encountered small arms, RPG and machine gun fire.

M-60 and .50 caliber bullets lashed out from the ACAVs' and Sheridans' machine guns, splintering the jungle as they probed for the enemy.

Clouds of earth and tree belched skyward as main gun rounds from the Sheridans screamed onto the ambushers' positions.

The Air Cav Troop's light observation helicopters (LOHs) and Cobra gunships raced to the area and raked the enemy with rocket and mini-gun fire. Blue Max gunships and artillery fire from the 1st Cavalry Division chewed up the jungle even more.

M-48 "Patton" tanks from M (Continued on Page 6)

## "Gleason" Changes Shows

By John Cody

FSB JON — Only one month after being assigned to B Trp, 1st Sqdn a former NVA first lieutenant named Ha Van Phong has been put in for a Bronze Star with "V" for valor.

Known as "Jackie Gleason" for his constant smile and appreciative consumption of U.S. Army chow, the Kit Carson Scout has become a charter member of the troop.

His journey to the 11th ACR began in January 1969 in Hanoi when he started south with the 308th NVA Infiltration Division. Ha was a company commander at the time.

After a harrowing eight-month march, his unit arrived south of the DMZ and he turned himself in to a Chieu Hoi center.

"Some of the GIs were a little suspicious at first, but I was treated well for the most part," said Ha.

He was flown to a political orientation center near Saigon for (Continued on Page 7)

# BLACK HORSE

— Find the Bastards — Then Pile On —

Vol. 1, No. 5

BLACKHORSE

October 1969

## 1st, 2nd Get New COs

Two squadrons of the Regiment welcomed new commanders during September.

On Sept 5 Lt Col Grail L. Brookshire succeeded Lt Col James H. Aarestad as commander of the 2nd Squadron, and, two days later, Lt Col John M. Norton took command of the 1st Squadron from Maj John C. Bahnsen, Jr.

In the first ceremony, held at Fire Support Base Aspen II, Regimental Commander Col James H. Leach presented Lt Col Aarestad with a Silver Star with two Oak Leaf clusters, a Legion of Merit with one Oak Leaf cluster and an Air Medal

with "V" and one Oak Leaf cluster.

Lt Col Aarestad commanded the 2nd Squadron for his last five months of his Vietnam tour. From Sept 1968 to April of this year he served as Deputy G-3, I Field Force.

"I am very, very proud to have served with what has to be the finest fighting unit in the Pacific theater, and almost certainly the entire Army," he said.

He won the Silver Star when, on June 7, he ordered his command helicopter flown at extremely low levels over a battle between part of the 2nd Squadron and an estimated battalion

of NVA, and for the remainder of the battle gave directional direction to the ground forces.

At one point in the battle, which cost the enemy 95 dead, he alerted ground forces to an outflanking attempt by part of the NVA force.

The Legion of Merit was awarded for outstanding achievement and professional competence during his Vietnam tour.

The Air Medal for valor was presented for heroism in flight on April 29, when he disregarded enemy fire and made low-level (Continued on Page 3)

## MP's Share Role

By Mike Mang

AN LOC—The 11th Cav has begun an ambitious program aimed at producing effective law enforcement through cooperation between U.S. and Vietnamese authorities.

The chief aspect of the program is combined patrols of An Loc consisting of MPs from the 11th Cav and the 1st Air Cav Division, and members of the Quan Sat (civilian police) and ARVN MPs.

Developed by Capt Robert I. Anderson, 11th Cav provost marshal, the program is intended to improve liaison and efficiency of the law enforcement agencies of An Loc.

"Soon after the 11th Cav MP platoon was organized in late July, it became apparent that a better way was needed to provide uniform law enforcement

and smoother cooperation between civilian and military authorities in An Loc," said Anderson.

He cited differences between American units' regulations as one cause of problems before the program was started. "With the 1st and 11th Cavs operating together in An Loc there will be no question as to what is to be enforced," he added.

The joint patrols are also expected to eliminate problems between military police and civilians. "Military law forbids searches of civilian personnel or property by MPs. With the Quan Sat there, we will not lose time waiting for the proper authorities to arrive after an incident occurs," said Anderson.

Anderson first worked with such combined patrols while serving with the 18th MP Bde in Saigon, before being assigned to the Blackhorse Regiment in July.

"This is the first time this (Continued on Page 2)



POWER PLAY—M-48 tanks from M Co rumble forward on line in search of the enemy. They were sweeping an area about six miles south of Quan Loi.

(Photo By Mang)

## Commander's Column

# Armor in RVN: New Techniques



On August 18, the Blackhorse Regiment began airlifting an entire troop of ACAVs to an isolated village which was almost inaccessible by road.

By the time the project was completed the next day, the Regiment had written a new page in the unit's colorful history.

The Bo Duc airlift shows once again how the Regiment's troopers have won fame and achieved battle success repeatedly through new techniques and innovations on the "by the book" ways of doing things.

Troopers of the Blackhorse have capitalized on the Vietnamese jungle terrain and tactics of the enemy by breaking entirely

away from the traditional armor concept. No longer does an armored squadron attempt to keep itself autonomous and massed in one large recon formation.

Current operations of the Blackhorse present a splendid display of the Regiment's ability to operate effectively on multiple fronts, strategically dividing its forces and using each element to its maximum ability in fighting against an elusive enemy.

At the same time A Trp's ACAV's were winging their way to Bo Duc, tankers of M Co and members of G Trp were working at widely-separated locations in support of 1st Cav Div troops.

Meanwhile, K Trp was performing another one of our many diverse missions; training the 5th ARVN Armored Cav Regt at Blackhorse.

With 1st Squadron headquarters at Loc Ninh, 2nd Squadron at Di An and 3d Squadron at An Loc, the Regiment is deployed in such a manner that it can bring effective armored power against enemy action anywhere in the II Field Force area of operations.

With helicopters to facilitate rapid troop movement and instant radio contact to coordinate operations, Blackhorse troopers are in a position to instantly destroy any enemy force.

Blackhorse Troopers, I salute you for your constant innovation and ability to accomplish the seemingly impossible. Your professionalism has produced the fine combat record for which Blackhorse is known and envied. Allons!

Col James H. Leach,  
40th Commander,  
the Blackhorse Regiment

## WO Career Programs To Begin Next Year

A three-level career development course for non-aviator warrant officers has been approved by Gen William C. Westmoreland, Army chief of staff.

The education program, to be organized much like the two-level aviator warrant officer program established at Ft Rucker in July, is outlined in DA pamphlet 600-11.

Establishment of the two warrant officer programs marks the first time in Army history that they have had a separate military education plan.

For a number of years, officers have had such a program.

The goal is to have a career development plan for warrant officers in almost all MOSSs. Some exceptions may be the five ones assigned to the Adjutant General branch. They are: 711A, 712A, 031A, 741B and 741C.

The initial courses will be limited to 25 or 30 different MOSSs.

Entry Level courses will run from 15 to 18 weeks in length

and attendance will be required as soon after appointment to WO as possible.

Warrant Officers will be considered for Career Course attendance five years after their appointment. Courses in this level will range from five weeks for graphic technicians to 51 weeks for missile maintenance technicians.

Initially, Career Course attendance will be limited to about 23 different MOSSs.

The Advanced Course, the caps tone course for warrant officers, will be limited to those with at least 13 years of WO service. Courses are expected to range from seven to 14 weeks.



"Guess he's just back from Aspen II."

## Chaplain's Corner

### Quest Depends on Quester

By Chaplain  
William P. Trobaugh

Several years ago I saw a program on television which had an interesting theme. The question, "Who are you?" was put to many individuals to see what their answer would be.



Before you read any further, answer that question yourself with two or three one-word answers.

The responses given on that program were not particularly earth-shaking. "I am a husband, father, man, doctor, etc" were typical replies made to the question.

The interesting part of the topic is the order in which the answers are given. The first response is generally what a man thinks of himself and the standards he set for himself to live up to.

In both the Old and New Testaments of our Bible, the observation is made that as a himself, so he is.

His name, serial numbers, social security numbers and the like

are convenient methods of identification and certainly have a useful place.

But that is not enough for any of us to base our life upon. For myself, I answer the question by saying, "I am a man, a husband, a father, a soldier, an American, a golfer, a Christian and a host of other things."

I hear soldiers calling other soldiers things they are not; most unprintable names. And of course, these titles are not taken seriously by anyone.

Now, who do you think you are? The answer is pretty important because it really determines the way you live.

Those around you can watch your actions and come up with a pretty good answer. The description may be: a bum, good man, a friend or anything else that accurately describes your actions.

Whatever you think you are, you are.

## MPs Start Patrols

(Continued From Page 1)

kind of operation has been tried in a small location," he said.

Minor problems are expected as the Americans and Vietnamese get used to working together, but the MPs are confident the success of the program.

## Christmas Season Early for Mailers

BIEN HOA — "Christmas comes but once a year," the saying goes, but for Army postal clerks that is probably once a year too often.

During the Yuletide season mail triples in volume, long lines queue up in front of the mailing windows and extra people have to be added to postal staffs to handle the maelstrom of mail.

And although the days may be trying for the mail clerks, they are more than willing to give troopers every assistance.

But they also ask their customers' assistance in getting the mail off on time.

As in any good governmental enterprise, Army postal units offer a number of ways to ship packages and letters home. And a little extra is added for the Vietnam soldier — namely, cheaper prices.

The four options available are shipping by surface, space available mail (SAM), parcel air lift (PAL) and air mail.

Surface mail is shipped by boats and of course takes much longer than the other options. Surface mail should be sent by Oct 15.

SAM is sent on a space-avail-

able basis by air to the state then by surface to its final destination. It should be postmarked by Nov 20 and is limited to parcels under five lbs in weight.

PAL mail is limited to packages not more than 30 lbs weight—and should be sent 1 Dec 1. Like SAM packages, they are shipped by air to the U.S. then carried by surface mail. They do not, however, fly to the states on a space-available basis.

The charges are the same for SAM, plus \$1.

Air mailed parcels travel 1 air all the way to their destination, and should be mailed 1 Dec 8.

SAM and PAL were designed for servicemen overseas to give service nearly as good as that provided by airmailing packages at the civilian rate, yet at much lower cost. It's a small soldier that takes advantage of them.

And so, as the snow begins swirl (in Minnesota) it is again time to reach down into the recesses of your ACAV or tail and pull out that little kimono for Alice and the toy car for Bert, wipe the red dust off, and get them in the mail.

## BLACKHORSE

— Find the Bastards — Then Pile On —

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you can't  
PASS IT!

SECURITY  
is an individual  
responsibility





## Old Hulk Proves Useful

**QUAN LOI** — It was just a burned-out hulk of an armored vehicle, mouldering in the middle of a rubber plantation. But to a small unit of 11th Cav troopers it was a dream come true.

Members of the Regimental Hq Scout section encountered the hulk as they drove their three ACAVs along the road of a Rubber plantation three miles northwest of An Loc.

"As we came up the road about 2 pm we noticed the burned out ACAV about 20 feet off the road to our right. It gave us a weird feeling," said SSgt Jerry Cusick, Scout section leader.

Burned out ACAVs have a naturally depressing effect on people who ride them every day, and it could be that some cavalrymen are even a little superstitious.

Sure enough, as the lead vehicle roared through a long mudhole just past the destroyed ACAV, a clanking thud brought it to a fast stop. "Oh my God, it's a thrown track," said at least one crewman.

As Cusick posted men to secure the vehicle, the Track Commander Sgt Roy Johnson, and the Driver, Sp4 Jim Meyers got out and diagnosed the problem as a broken final drive yoke.

"The thing's like a universal joint on a car. You can't go without it, and we didn't have a replacement," said Johnson.

As they began debating the possibility of being pulled back to camp through the deep mud, someone had a bright idea.

(Continued on Page 7)



**COMMAND CHANGE**—Lt Col Grail L. Brookshire, 2nd Sqn commander, takes his unit's colors from Col James H. Leach (left) Regimental commander.

(Photo By Larson)

## New COs for 1st, 2nd

(Continued From Page 1)

passes to mark enemy positions.

In the second change of command ceremony, held at Fire Support Base Jon, Maj Gen Elvy B. Roberts, commanding general of the 1st Cavalry Division, pinned a Silver Star and Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf cluster, the 1st Squadron's outgoing commander.

Also attending the ceremony was Brig Gen George W. Casey, assistant division commander of the 1st Cav.

Col Leach, 11th Cav commander, accepted the 1st Squadron's colors from Bahnsen and passed them on to the new commander, Lt Col Norton.

Bahnsen arrived in Vietnam September, 1968, and for the first seven months of his tour commanded the 11th Cav's Air Cavalry Troop. He took command of the 1st Squadron on April 13.

"When I took over the squadron we were fighting a battle that netted us 20 NVA dead before sunset," Bahnsen later remarked, "and it almost seems like 'Charlie' is trying to give me a good send-off. Yesterday we were in another firefight and this one cost him 15 dead.

"That's all right, though. I'll guarantee the enemy that any time he wants a fight, the best unit in the U.S. Army is more than willing to oblige."

Bahnsen's Silver Star came for gallantry in action on Sept 6 when, after directing his men from a low-flying helicopter over a firefight, he ordered his command ship landed and took over for the ground commander, who had been hit.



**Lt Col Brookshire**  
new 2d Sqn C.O.

**FSB ASPEN II** — Lt Col Grail L. Brookshire of Springfield, Va, new commander of 2nd Sqn, is on his second tour with the Regiment in Vietnam.

On his previous tour, from September, 1966 to June, 1967, he was the Regimental S-2. Before taking over the 2nd Sqn this tour, Brookshire served as Regimental S-3 since June.

He was commissioned in the Army after graduating from North Georgia University in 1953. In 1960 he attended the Army school of Armor at Ft Knox, Ky. He also attended a German language course at the University of Kentucky in 1962.

Before coming to Vietnam, Lt Col Brookshire served as executive officer of the 3rd Bn, 33rd Armor, 3rd Armored Division in Germany.



**Lt Col Norton**  
new 1st Sqn C.O.

**FSB JON** — Lt Col John M. Norton of Centre, Ala, new commander of the 1st Sqn, has been an "armor man" for his entire 19 years of service.

He was commissioned as a 2nd Lt in December 1949 and graduated from Auburn University in Alabama with a B.S. degree in 1950. At that time he entered active duty.

Lt Col Norton also holds a Masters degree in Business Administration from Syracuse University in New York, where he graduated in 1966, and has attended the Armor Officer's Advanced Course at Ft Knox, Ky.

He has also served two overseas tours in Japan, one in Korea and two in Germany. This is his first time in Vietnam.

Before coming to the 11th Cav, Lt Col Norton commanded the 2nd Bn, 13th Armored Regt at Ft Hood, Tex.

# Valorous Deeds Cited

## DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS

PSgt Donald M. Biggin, L Trp.

### SILVER STAR

Col James H. Leach, 11th ACR commander.

Lt Cols James H. Aarestad, former 2nd Sqn commander; Lawrence S. Wright, former 11th ACR executive officer.

Majs James W. Bradin, Air Cav Trp commander; William C. Privette, 1st Sqn, Don F. Snow, 2nd Sqn.

Cpts Dennis E. Firestone, M Trp; Michael B. Hartgraves, F Trp; Claude K. Hudson, G Trp; Henry F. Simon, Hq Trp; Arthur L. West III, C Trp; John C. F. Tilson, A Trp.

1st Lt Charles Gill, A Trp.

WO Paul D. Madsen, Air Cav Trp.

PSgt Donald M. Biggin Jr., L Trp.

Johnny A. Moore, A Trp; Ronald L. Murphy, 919th Eng Co.

Sp4s Michael C. Grove, F Trp; Donald E. Honaker, L Trp;

Thomas E. Naylor, Air Cav Trp; Daniel Stocki, 919th Eng Co.

Pfcs Stephen H. Jacobs, A Trp; Willie F. Owens, A Trp; Darwin R. Yopek, F Trp.

## DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

Cpts Lee J. Church, Air Cav Trp; Theodore A. Duck, Air Cav Trp; Alan A. Moore III, 398th Trans Det.

1st Lt Carl B. Marshall, Air Cav Trp.

WO Larry M. Parsons, Air Cav Trp.

## BRONZE STAR FOR VALOR

Lt Col Lawrence S. Wright, former 11th ACR executive officer.

Maj Louis J. Naylor, former base camp commander.

Cpts Frank S. Graham, 2nd Sqn; Douglas H. Starr, 1st Sqn.

1st Lts John R. Barbeau, F Trp; Frank S. Graham, 2nd Sqn.

MSgt David Wolff, 1st Sqn.

SSgts James Regina, B Trp; Sixto Cruz-Carrion, M Co.

Sgts James T. Burns, Jr, 1st Sqn; William G. Duncan,

M Co, Keith Morgan, M Co.

Sp5s Norman B. Cooper, 3rd Sqn; Nelson W. C. Lampe,

D Trp.

Sp4s Jimmy O. Adams, H Trp; George Bouchereau, E Trp;

Gary G. Coates, K Trp; Doyle Dickson, C Trp; Herbert W. Fabian,

A Trp; Ronnie P. Glawson, L Trp; Pedro L. Hernandez, G Trp;

Bruce B. Huber, L Trp; Daniel L. Mullins, Air Cav Trp; Tommy

S. Palmer, M Trp; Orlando J. Peach Jr, M Co; Thomas W. Single-

ton, A Trp; Chris R. Turnbull, M Trp; Ricky L. Wood, 1st Sqn.

Pfc Wayne Eckman, B Trp; Stephen H. Jacobs, A Trp; Arthur

N. La Montagne, 3rd Sqn How Btry; Charles C. Napper, A Trp;

Ronnie Smith, B Trp.

## ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL FOR VALOR

1st Lts Gerald T. Cole, M Trp; Richard T. Wood, Air Cav Trp.

WO Eric B. Hairston, Air Cav Trp.

SSgts Franklin P. Atwell, C Trp; David E. Wright, M Trp.

Sgts Stanley E. Kavesky, C Trp; Frank L. King, M Trp;

Sp4 Robert E. Barnett, M Trp; Randy L. Bodo, B Trp; Ronald

Carey, Hq Trp; Daniel Cox, B Trp; Gilbert L. Holder, A Trp;

Charles P. Irby, A Trp; Donald L. Lawson, A Trp; William F.

Rigdon, A Trp; Terry G. Smith, L Trp.

Pfc Jimmy G. Brown, B Trp; Jesse A. Carpenter, B Trp;

Larry M. Dennis, M Trp; Robert M. Gardner, B Trp; Dale R.

Shafer, B Trp; Curtis C. Thomas, A Trp; Charles E. Williams,

M Trp.

## AIR MEDAL FOR VALOR

1st Lt Randall T. Gary, 3d Sqn.

WO Wayne J. Cichello, Air Cav Trp.

**Buy United States Savings Bonds**



# Blackhorse!

By Ray Waldrep

Blackhorse Troopers recently observed the Regiment's third anniversary in Vietnam by doing the same thing they've been doing since the unit arrived here—searching for the enemy.

Since the Regiment left Fort George Meade, Md, in August of 1966 and arrived at Vung Tau the following month, Blackhorse tanks, AVACs, howitzers and Sheridans have traversed more than 3,000 miles of jungle, and have burned up tons of spare parts and ammunition.

Deeper than the myriad ruts they have left on the jungle floor is the impression Blackhorse troopers have made on the enemy's mind. "A large number of the enemy soldiers who surrender to us have said they don't want to fight our tanks and ACAVs. They are really afraid of Armor," said COL James H. Leach of Houston, Tex., 40th commander of the Blackhorse.

The enemy's fear is well justified. With 52-ton tanks in the lead, an element of the Regiment can crash through the thickest jungle to locate an enemy base camp, and once there can obliterate the strongest defensive position the enemy can build.

"Our recent operations in the An Loc-Loc Ninh area have proved once again that we can

operate anywhere in this country. Despite the deep mud and all the other problems of the rainy season, we have kept moving and made the An Loc area a hot spot for the enemy," Col Leach added.

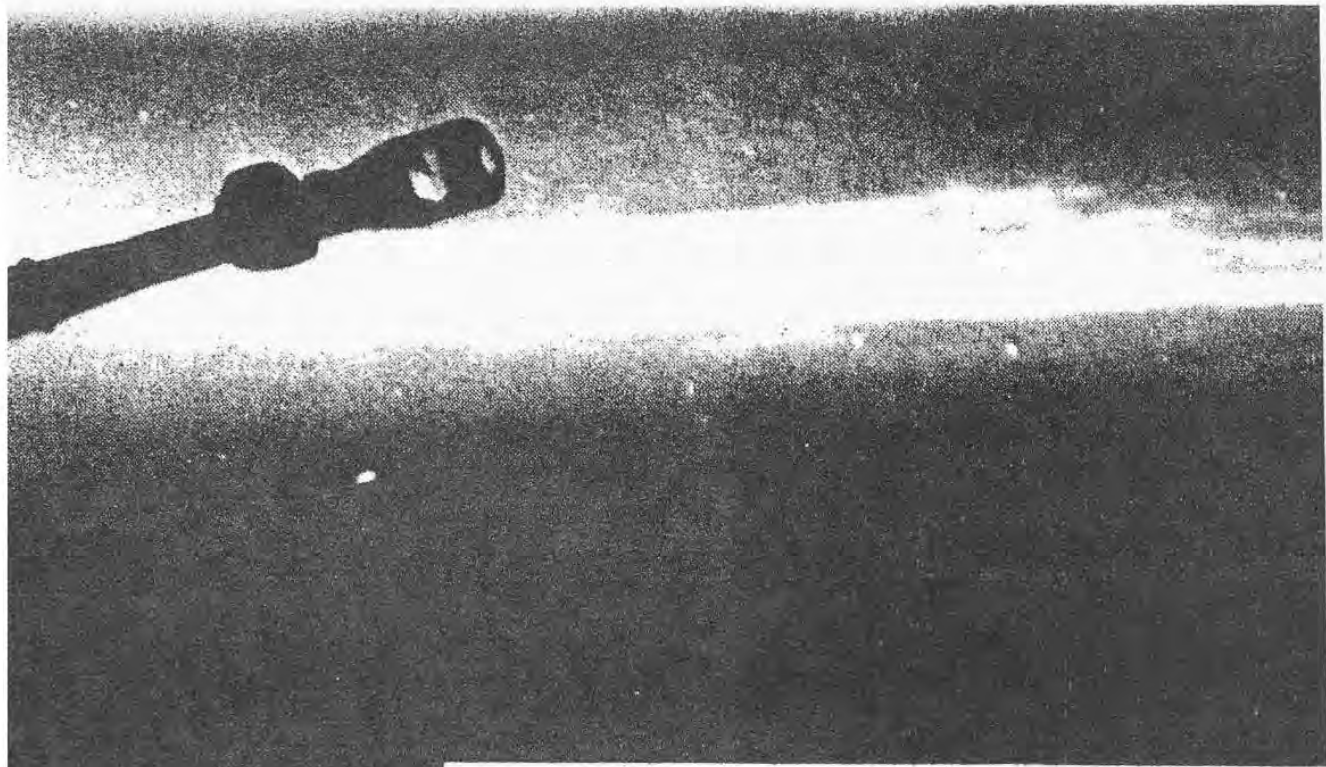
A good indication of the Blackhorse's success is the large number of soldiers who are serving their second tours with the Regiment. Among these are Lt Col Grail Brookshire, 2nd Squadron commander; Lt Col David K. Doyle, 3rd Squadron commander; and Regimental Comd Sgt Maj Donald E. Horn.

Many veteran troopers and commanders of the other arms were skeptical of the ability of the 11th Cav, the first full armored unit to deploy in Vietnam, to operate in the harsh climate and terrain. The Cav has shown it can do the job almost anywhere.

Just how well it has done the job was shown in August when the 1st Sqdn and attached platoon of the 919th Engineer Company received the Presidential Unit Citation.

The Regiment's unique feature is its mobility and adaptability to meet all challenges. With the recent addition of the M551 Sheridan, the Blackhorse has continued to make its armored might felt by the enemy.





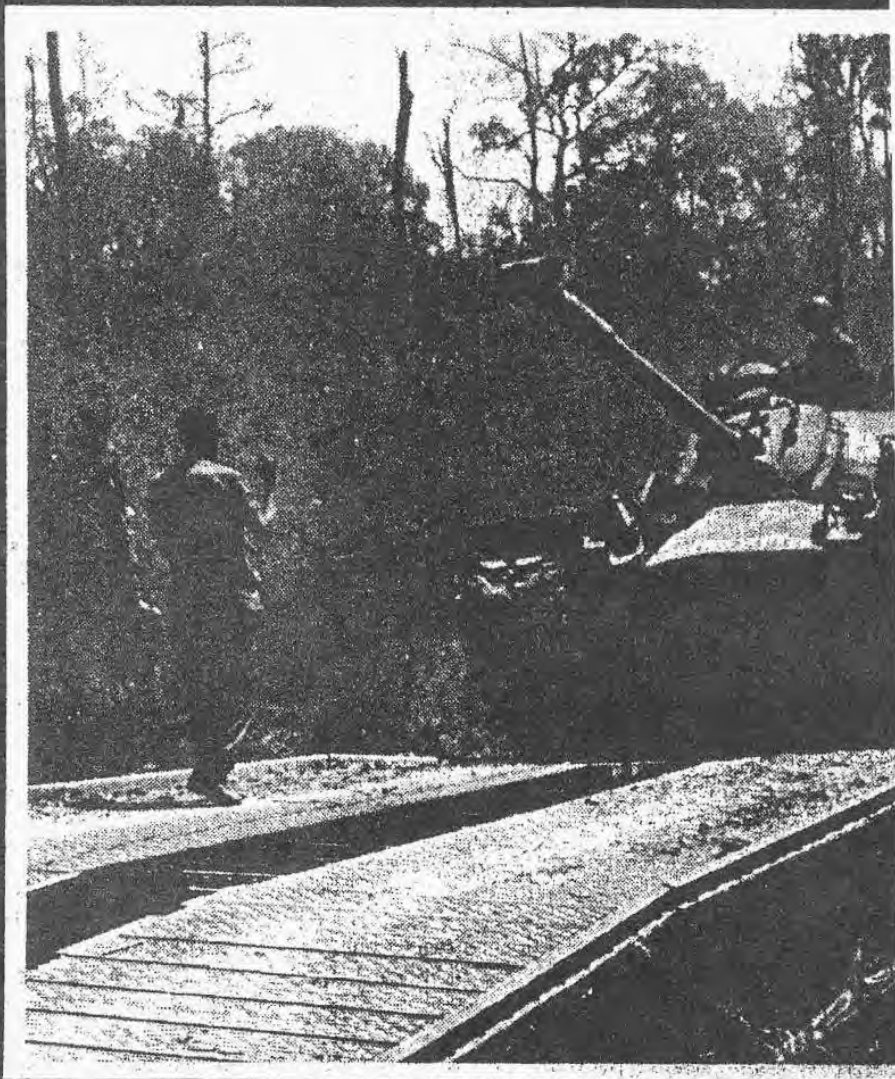
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## With His Slingshot

## This Top Packs a Wallop

Weapons of every design and description can be found in Vietnam — from the latest in electronic gadgetry to the ancient crossbow, from big-bore battle-ship guns to small-bore handguns.

And though most soldiers rely upon their standard Army-issue, many carry a little something extra to help them out of a tight spot or through sheer habit.

1st Sgt Alfred J. Brennan, "top kick" of K Troop, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, is a soldier who packs a little something extra. He carries a slingshot.

"The slingshot will certainly never replace the rifle for the infantryman," the tall, heavy-set Texan chuckled, "but it has capabilities few people are aware of."

Brennan, whose family makes

their home in Caldwell, Idaho, began shooting the slingshot during the depression years at the age of six.

"I grew up in Brownwood, Texas, and there was precious little food on the table and plenty of small mouths to feed," he said. "I didn't have a rifle, so I started practicing with a slingshot, and before long I was shooting rabbits and doves for the table. Since then what began as a very real necessity has become my hobby."

The 22-year Army veteran is never without a slingshot jammed into his back pocket and willingly demonstrates its use against moving targets.

"You don't really sight with the slingshot," he explained, drawing the rubberized surgical tubing back. "You just point to your target, like practicing

quick kill with the BB gun. It's all in developing a sense of timing." He let go of the leather pocket and sent a rock crashing into a beer can thrown 20 feet above his head.

"I can remember when almost every kid had a slingshot — it was just part of growing up. Every boy carried with him a slingshot, a pocketful of rocks, about 10 feet of string and a frog," he laughed, "and I still don't know what the frog was for. But the slingshot went out with the frog — kids just don't pack 'em around anymore."

According to Brennan, the slingshot can be a very lethal weapon. "Most people don't realize how powerful it is," he said. "I've brought down larger animals than I'm willing to admit and, quite honestly, if there is a need for a silent kill against the enemy over here, the slingshot would be a perfect weapon."

The 1st Sgt makes his own slingshots and has carried his present "favorite" since 1965. The wood-and-tubing instrument produces about a 40-pound pull at 36 inches of draw.

Along with his interest in the slingshot, Brennan has also shot in Army rifle and pistol matches.

"All weapons are related, some are just more efficient than others," he said. "Basically, they were all built with the same job in mind. But when everything else fails, the slingshot will still pull through. There is never a shortage of ammunition and malfunctions are easily fixed."

"The largest malfunction in slingshots as a whole came in the 1940s with the development of synthetic rubber, headed,



**CAV QUEEN**—Sometimes it's hard to separate dreams from reality. Just the other day L Trp's CO thought he saw a beautiful girl cavorting in a pool while they were out on a RIF, and took her picture. Nobody believed him, of course, until this picture came back yesterday. Last we heard L Trp is planning another RIF in the same area...



By Larry Calvert

Thinking about taking home a good camera to use in the world for the next few years? A look at the trusty snobbox you've carried for the last ten months over here would convince you, if it looks like mine, that it's time to camera shopping.

The sooner you begin the search the more bargains you'll run up on.

While all popular cameras are sold for substantially less here than in the U.S., better selections will be found in Japan, Hong Kong and your Pacific Mail Order Service catalog than in the P.X.

But if you've got less than two months left with no R&R to go to, you'll have to make do with what's in stock at the P.X.

Regardless of the source, \$150 is enough to buy a good camera body with a 50mm "normal" lens.

I'm only going to consider 35mm single lens reflex (SLR) equipment here. feel it's the best system an amateur can buy in the medium price field.

With SLR equipment, the image seen in the viewfinder is the same as the one "seen" by the film.

On the other hand, rangefinder cameras use a separate "window" to obtain the viewfinder image and do not always present the same view the film is getting. This means that the picture you think you're taking may not be the same as the one you'll see when your film is processed.

Additional conveniences, such as through-the-lens metering are only available on SLR cameras.

Removable lenses are featured on nearly every good camera being marketed today. They are held in place by either a screw mounting system or a bayonet mount.

For general ease of handling I prefer the latter. A button to release the lens lock is found on the camera face. When pushed, it allows the user to twist the lens, in a single motion, from its mounting in the camera body.

Other lenses can be attached just as easily.

The alternate system, somewhat more time-consuming, requires screwing a finely-threaded lens from its mounting and screwing in the replacement.

If you're in a hurry, or your hands are very cold, you'll soon be yearning for a bayonet-mounting lens.

Specialty attachments and lenses are available over here for all SLR cameras. They range from 7mm "fisheye" to 1,000 mm high-magnification telephoto lenses, and attachments for slide copying and microscope photography. All can be purchased at a great saving while you're stationed in the East.

A through-the-lens light metering system is also important to have. Most are operated by adjusting shutter speed and lens aperture settings to correctly position a needle visible in the viewfinder.

When buying any camera with a built-in light meter be certain the batteries are new, and check the meter carefully for proper operation.

Healthy sounding cameras are hard to pick out, but if you listen for a smooth-sounding shutter and rasp-free operation of the entire mechanism you won't go far wrong.

Remember, the manufacturer won't fix your camera under warranty unless you register its purchase. Be sure your warranty certificates are included with the new camera before you leave the store or PX.

Individual questions will be answered by the photography staff of this newspaper, so address your problems to this column, c/o 17th PID, 11th ACR, APO 96257.

## How's Break Quiet, Charlie

**FSB FRIEDA**—The beautiful quiet of a warm Vietnamese night was broken by the electric sound of a speaker barking.

"Movement sighted about one zero zero meters from your perimeter on azimuth four seven zero zero."

For a second longer the night retained a fingerhold on tranquility. Then muffled scrapings,

thumps and clanks drifted on the light midnight breeze as one of the 1st Sqdn How Btry's hulking guns prepared to fire.

Its crew had been standing by, ready to fire short range missions, and SSgt Luther Ellis, the gun's section chief, had only needed the target's range and azimuth to put a loaded tube on the enemy.

This particular mission originated at a nearby radar to which had traced movement near the perimeter. From the word had been flashed to battery's fire direction center (FDC) for computation.

The battery's Executive Officer, 1st Lt Richard Miller, SSgt Larry Sherrill, chief of very firing, were next to be notified.

With their approval, the 1st gave the firing command.

## LTC Aims High for 11th

**QUAN LOI**—Lt Col Donald C. Mulvanity arrived here Sept 26 to assume his new duties as the Regiment's deputy for artillery.

"My job is to give our howitzer batteries all the help I can in putting their shells right on target," he explained.

He will also be organizing a fire support element at Regimental Hq for the control and coordination of artillery fire, and establishing artillery liaison sections at each squadron.

Lt Col Mulvanity, from Hampton, Va., is on extended TDY from II Field Force, where he is deputy G-3 for plans. He will return to II Field Force in December.

He brings an extensive background, both civilian and military, to his job with the Regiment. He graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a Masters degree in Latin American Studies, and has attended the Command and Staff College at Ft Leavenworth.

His last assignment was as commander of an artillery officer candidate school battalion at Ft Sill, Okla.



Lt Col Mulvanity

Mulvanity said the 11th Cav's howitzer batteries are already known for their ability to lay down fire power faster than other comparable units. He noted, "They do this despite working conditions which are probably the worst in the world for a gun crew."

"The mud is a constant hazard for the men loading the tubes. The projectiles have to be kept clean and the powder dry. This is a massive task in the face of constant monsoon rains."

## Enemy Take: Big Losses

(Continued From Page 1)  
Co rumbled into the fray, engaging the attackers from the on site direction.

Action continued until p.m. when the enemy fled under cover of the approaching darkness.

Trp I and M Co were credited with 55 NVA killed in the act. The same day, the 1st Trp's gunships attacked two caliber anti-aircraft positions killing 15 enemy soldiers, their rockets and mini-guns.

Another day of heavy tact was Sept 11, when 31 were killed by 11th Cav units.

Troopers of B Trp and D teamed up to wipe out 12 of enemy that day, while probing an area of suspected enemy concentration about two miles of Loc Ninh.

An additional nine NVA were killed by C Trp while operating about four miles east of Minh.





**MORED MOVE**—Part of the 3d Sqn, moving from Blackhorse base camp north Aspen II, roars through a Vietnamese village along Highway 13.

(Photo By Calvert)

## CS Awarded for Valor

Continued From Page 1)  
ooling in South Vietnamese  
ernment and military struc-

a earned the Bronze Star  
ination on Sept 6 while  
ating with the B Trp com-  
track. While the ACAVs  
e firing on line, several NVA  
iers had crept up from be-  
l carrying RPGs.

ooting to the rear, Ha gun-  
ned them down with his M-16.  
He was wounded by grenade  
fragments, but refused evac-  
uation until after the contact.

Ha willingly spoke about his  
training and experience with  
the enemy. He noted that NVA basic  
training is as much political as  
it is physical. The first month  
for all new recruits is devoted to  
political indoctrination, and ex-  
tensive political training contin-  
ues throughout the course.

"Although he was never in a  
firefight during his march to  
South Vietnam, Ha said their  
route brought them close to B-52  
bomb strikes. He reported that  
the psychological effect of the  
bombs was as bad as the physi-  
cal damage inflicted.

"Even those not outwardly  
harmd by the bombs would  
wander around in shock for  
hours, totally unable to respond  
to commands," he said.

He added that the NVA troops  
kept constant watch for U.S.  
spotter planes in attempts to  
escape areas slated for the strikes.

The NVA supply line in Viet-  
nam is efficient and well-stocked

close to the Cambodian border,  
but peters out as it stretches  
into South Vietnam, according to  
Ha.

He said the ordnance they re-  
ceived was well made, and  
added that NVA soldiers pre-  
ferred to use their own AK-47s  
rather than captured M-16s. The  
American rifles were generally  
turned over to VC guerrillas who  
could use them to disguise them-  
selves as South Vietnamese sol-  
diers.

The quality of newly-recruited  
NVA soldiers seems to be drop-  
ping, Ha noted. He said they are  
younger and have received poor-  
er training than recruits of two  
or three years ago.

The war is also straining the  
economy and people of North  
Vietnam, he said. Ha indicated  
that Chinese have been used to  
fill many jobs in Hanoi, leaving  
Vietnamese free to fight.

Surprise, meticulous planning  
and careful reconnaissance play  
a much larger role in North  
Vietnamese tactics than they do  
in American plans, he said, the  
latter relying more heavily on  
superior firepower.

Specially trained scouts will  
infiltrate an Allied camp —  
sometimes burning through bar-  
bed wire with acid — and draw  
up detailed plans of the base be-  
fore launching an attack, he  
said.

Trong concluded by saying  
that he is proud of his assign-  
ment with the Blackhorse Regi-  
ment.

He also made plain his happi-  
ness at being able to ride on a  
Sheridan rather than having to  
face the deadly muzzle of its  
stubby main gun in action.

## Old Hulk Useful

(Continued on Page 3)

"We went over and looked at  
the hulk, and discovered that it  
still had a yoke on it. So we got  
out our tools and started taking  
it apart," said Meyers.

The Track Commander and  
Driver of another ACAV, Sgt  
Barry Cochran and Sgt Martin  
Foor, pitched in to help but the  
job still took three hours.

"The track had been sitting  
there at least six months, and it  
was a little rusty," commented  
Cochran.

When the part was finally  
freed they put it in their broken  
ACAV, prayed a lot, and started  
the engine. It worked.

The Scouts went on to com-  
plete their mission and return to  
the base camp at Quan Loi, giv-  
ing silent thanks to the ghost of  
the destroyed ACAV.

## 'We Can Fix It' Is 11th Cav Word

By John Cody

"Plowing through sand dunes  
at Ft Knox, running highways in  
Germany or tearing through  
scrub at Ft Hood is a lot easier  
than ramming through jungle,  
weeds and swamps in Vietnam,"  
said 1st Lt William Gillette, 2nd  
Sqn motor officer, "and the fig-  
ures prove it."

The 11th Cav's jungle busting  
operations burned out 140 ACAV  
engines during May, June and  
July.

"When an M-48 drags another  
tank out of the mud or spends 12  
hours a day busting through  
jungle and bamboo, something's  
got to give. Because of the  
stress placed on equipment over  
here, we had to replace 18 trans-  
missions during June and July  
in the 2nd Sqn. The torsion  
bars snap and have to be re-  
placed," said Gillette.

The Regimental Logistics Offi-  
cer, Maj. Joe G. Driskill, has  
the final responsibility for keep-  
ing Blackhorse tracks running.

Coordinating the operation is  
Capt John P. Graber, Regimental  
maintenance officer.

Each squadron has a mainte-  
nance section split between base  
camp and the field.

The work of ordering major  
assemblies — engines, trans-  
missions and final drives — and  
dealing with more complex re-  
pairs such as wiring and re-  
building is handled by the 140th  
Maintenance Company, which  
has a contact team of 15 men  
with each squadron.

Graber said, "One of the big  
problems is the length of the  
supply line. The replacement  
parts have to be shipped over  
the 65-miles road from Long  
Binh to Quan Loi and used here  
or shipped farther out into the  
field."

"The coordination is hard and  
the delay caused by shipping  
distances means the men in  
maintenance have to work fast  
and hard to keep deadline time  
to a minimum.

"My men have a rough job,"  
he continued. "Even with our  
lift capability there, always  
comes a point when they have to  
manhandle the steel, such as  
when replacing the 90-lb torsion  
bars or the road wheels."

He also pointed out mainte-  
nance supply difficulties. His  
clerks stock 1,376 line items in

quantities between one and 50  
for each item.

CWO Leslie Y. Kaneshiro runs  
the 140th Contact Team for 2nd  
Sqn. The 140th is the only  
maintenance company from the  
185th Maintenance Bn directly  
supporting a combat line unit.

"There's nothing really diffi-  
cult about our job. When we  
have the parts we can fix every-  
thing except the material bound  
for the salvage yard. But we  
have to do the work regardless  
of the conditions; rain or shine,  
dry or wet," he said.

Pfc Ira S. Lewis, a mechanic  
for the 140th, says he has a good  
job except for the hours.

"Sometimes we have to work  
all night to get a track ready to  
move out by morning. When a  
job comes in we have to keep  
working until the track moves.  
If not, we end up with a yard  
full of junk like this," he said,  
pointing to an M-48 with a bent  
frame and four road wheels  
missing on one side as a result  
of hitting an enemy mine.

The 140th also works on com-  
munications equipment, power  
supplies, artillery and small  
arms. The unit's small arms re-  
pairman is Sp4 Karl Leopold. He  
repairs about 200 M-16s, M-60s  
and .50 caliber machine guns a  
month.

He said, half-seriously, "My  
problem is paperwork. It's not  
bad — it's hopeless. It's getting  
so bad that I can't even get the  
paper for the paperwork!"

The biggest part of his job is  
replacing burnt out barrels and  
jammed gas assemblies.

"The combat damage is one  
thing," he noted, "but a lot of the  
stuff that comes through here is  
just first echelon trouble that's  
been neglected and has gotten  
out of hand."

MSGT Herbert Feary, chief  
supply NCO, said that the most  
common replacements required  
on the squadron's armor are  
tracks, road wheels, batteries  
and generators.

"A track will be torn up after  
500 or 1,000 miles by conditions  
in Vietnam while the same track  
will go 4,000 to 5,000 miles in  
Germany or stateside use," he  
said.

The Regiment is men and ar-  
mor. The men can keep them-  
selves up, but they've got a big  
job tending to their steel com-  
panions.

## Units Cited For Action

UNIT	PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION	VALOROUS UNIT CITATION	MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION	VIETNAMESE CROSS OF GALILEY
HHT, 11th ACR		31 Jan 68—5 Feb 68		7 Sep 66— 10 Aug 68
1st Sqn	11 May 68—3 Jun 68 21 Nov 66 2 Dec 66*	31 Jan 68—5 Feb 68		7 Sep 66— 10 Aug 68
2nd Sqn		31 Jan 68—5 Feb 68		7 Sep 66— 10 Aug 68
3rd Sqn		19 Jun 68 & 21 Jul 67	13 Sep 66— 31 May 57*	7-Sep 66— 10 Aug 68
		31 Jan—5 Feb 68		
Alr Cav Trp		31 Jan—5 Feb 68		7 Sep 66— 10 Aug 68
919th Eng Co	12 May 68—3 Jun 68	31 Jan—5 Feb 68	14 Aug 66— 11 May 67	7 Sept 66— 10 Aug 68
407th Rad Res Del		31 Jan—5 Feb 68	1 Aug 67— 23 Apr 69	7 Sept 66— 10 Aug 68
37th Med Del		31 Jan—5 Feb 68		7 Sept 66— 10 Aug 68

\*For 1st Pilot  
of C Trp  
and B Trp only

\*Hq Trp only

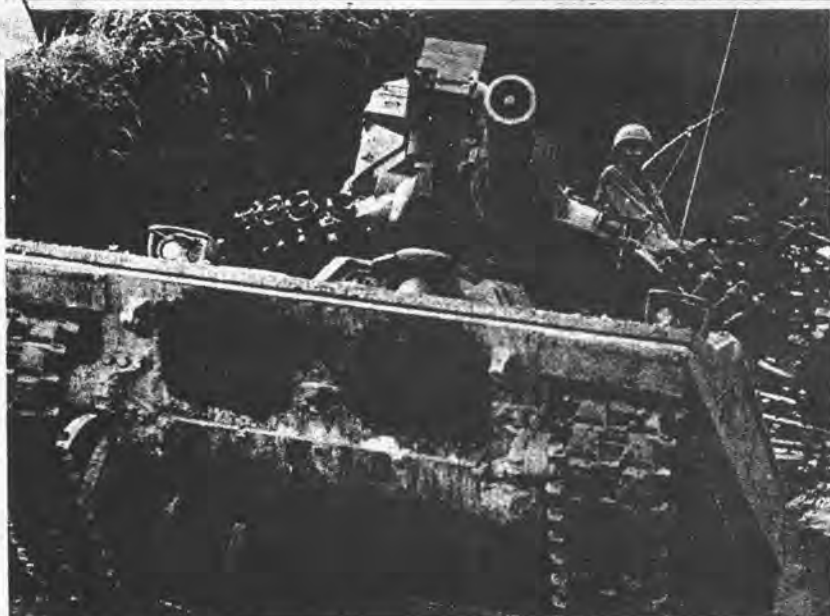
Personnel in other units assigned or attached to the 11th ACR during periods of  
Regimental awards may also wear some.



**NIGHT POSITION**—An M-48 tank from  
D Co moves into its night defensive posi-

tion while escorting B Trp on a recon  
mission west of FSB Jon.

(Photo By Calvert)



**JUNGLE MONSTER**—Troopers of I Trp training ARVN for armored jungle warfare near Blackhorse base camp. (Photo By Giannini)

## Troopers Train 18th in Combat

Training designed to acquaint the 5th ARVN Armored Cav Regt with armored jungle warfare resulted in the first successful jungle ambush by a troop-sized element of the regiment recently.

The fight began after the ARVN received instruction in jungle warfare from the 11th Cav's 3d Sqdn.

Although the Vietnamese had been in firefights before, they had merely responded to the enemy's attacks upon populated areas.

The battle in enemy-occupied jungle was the ARVN's first contact in rugged terrain.

The action took place near the 11th Cav's base camp, south of Xuan Loc.

The ARVN cavalrymen, on night ambush patrol, caught the enemy by surprise after occupying a well-concealed but momentarily empty enemy base camp.

After opening up on the squad-sized enemy force at point blank range, the ARVN withdrew to a more secure defensive position. A sweep the next morning revealed a number of blood trails. The ambushers suffered no casualties in the encounter.

"It was a perfect end to our training program," said 1st Lt Frank Trafton, K Trp platoon leader and one of the 11th Cav instructors during the training.

"Tactically, the ambush could not have been better. The VC tossed rocks into our position to see if there would be any response, and the ARVN troops just kept quiet and let them get right on top of us before opening up."

An enemy burst of AK47 fire in return. We had to pull back then because of our location. They knew where we were and the terrain was such that a large enemy force could have had us at a real disadvantage."

The training program began in August, when the 3d Sqdn returned to Blackhorse from Quan

Loi to refit for the Sheridan vehicle, and ended in mid-September when the last of the ARVN troops finished training with K Trp.

"Although the 5th had had M-41s, and APCs fitted nearly the same as our ACAVs with two .30 caliber guns in addition to the .50 caliber machine gun, they had been deployed for nearly a year providing ready security and perimeter defense, and had never busted jungle," said Capt Robert Harris, K Trp commander.

"The first day we began with a firepower demonstration, using our own vehicles. Then we progressed to assaults into mock enemy areas, demolition and mine detector training and a course in proper loading of the machines."

The final phase of the week-long training program consisted of a track crew proficiency course — a trail nearly two miles long designed to test the reactions of the armor crewmen.

"We made it as realistic as possible," said Lt Trafton, "using live fire to simulate enemy activity. By all appearances the crews reacted as a unit and with a great deal of ambition. It was a good showing."

The fact that much of the training took place in enemy-contested areas added to the realism of the instruction. During the week the ARVN troopers spent two nights in the 11th Cav base camp and the rest in ambush positions in the jungles of Long Giao.

"The purpose of the training was to demonstrate, and then instruct, the ARVN on the use of armor in jungle warfare," said Lt Col David K. Doyle, 1st Sq commander, "and the only way to learn jungle tactics is to practice them."

"They spent a lot of time reconnaissance moves, assuring blocking positions and old jungle busting. It was 'first' for the 5th Cav, and very successful first. They learned their lessons well!"

## Flower Child to Tanker

**FSB ASPEN II** — The sensitive, artistic hands of Sp5 Walter Davis, which once lovingly caressed flowers as he arranged them into bouquets, are now skillfully guiding one of M Co's M-48 tanks through Vietnam's mud and jungle.

From flower child to tank driver — how did it happen?

Davis began his unusual occupation by working as a delivery boy for a florist shop in Columbus, Ohio.

"The longer I was around the place, the more interested I became in the artistic know-how required to make a good floral arrangement."

"Besides, I just dig flowers," he said.

"After a while I couldn't contain my artistic side, and began messing around with flowers and greenery that were being discarded. I found that the work was even groovier than I'd expected."

"I could almost 'paint' my feelings in blossoms."

The people working in the

shop noticed that Davis had talent, and in the summer of 1964 sent him to a 12-week school of floral design and arrangement.

About 18 months later, Uncle Sam had plans of his own for the young artist.

A lot of Davis' technique is locked away in a recess of his mind labelled "professional secrets," but he did give a few general hints for effective design.

"The center portion of an arrangement should be about eight inches, on at least noticeably higher than the bulk of the flowers," he said.

"Generally flowers can be mixed in a bouquet providing the colors don't look bad together. There are two exceptions to this rule — Roses and Carnations. They're never mixed."

"When a person looks at a well-made arrangement there should be no visible tinfoil or other material used to hold the display together. It should be all hidden by greenery or skillful arrangement."

The flowerpot is first given a thin layer of grit on the bottom, inside. Then a block of moss-like material, called oasis, is soaked in water, wrapped in tinfoil and inserted in the pot.

"Wires are run up the flower stems to ensure they hold the desired shape, and the wired stems are stuck, with appropriate greenery, into the water-soaked oasis," he finished.

When Davis gets out of the service in November he plans to attend a beautician school, then go to work and gain on-the-job experience while his wife takes similar training.

"When I feel we have enough experience — probably in two or three years — we'll open up a beauty parlor of our own," he said.

With only 50 days left in the Army, and a short-timer's glint in his eyes, the flower child-turned tank driver from M Co will likely do just that.

## CIDG Saves Troop, Hopes to Visit U.S.

**FSB JON** — When SP4 Melvin L. Lafranchi returns home to San Rafael, Calif., from Viet Nam, he's hoping a 16-year-old soldier named Thach "Butch" Sanh will be able to go with him for a visit.

Lafranchi probably wouldn't be going home at all if it wasn't for Butch. The young Cambodian saved his life on Sept 5 while they were checking bodies after a firefight.

"As I bent over one," explained the ACAV commander from B Trp, 1st Sqdn, "I heard an M-16 blast a stream of slugs over my head. I hit the dirt, then rolled over."

"Butch was standing a couple of feet away, his rifle still aimed at an NVA soldier sprawled on the ground. From the position of the RPG he'd been carrying we

could tell it had been aimed right at my back."

"I wouldn't be around here now if Butch hadn't been looking out for me. Although they don't speak the same language, Butch's ear-to-ear grin shows that friendship needs no tongue."

"I make sure he gets on my track whenever we go out on patrol with the CIDGs," said Lafranchi.

Butch is already a seasoned soldier after one year with a Civilian Irregular Defense Group, organized by a Special Forces team at nearby Loc Ninh.

"My wife, Shelly, and I owe that kid a lot and about the best thing I can think of is give him a rest in a place where there isn't any war going on," Lafranchi said.

The biggest obstacle he faces is finding enough money to fly Butch home. "I'm going to try every way I can think of to raise the money," Lafranchi vowed.



**ATTACK FROM THE REAR**—A small Vietnamese lad learns of modern medical techniques during a recent 2nd Squadron MEDCAP to his tiny village.

(Photo By Larsen)