

Cav Sees Command Changes

Colonel Soucek Takes Command 11th Avn Group

PHUOC VINH — Colonel Leo E. Soucek has assumed command of the 11th Aviation Group here.

He succeeded Colonel Foy Rice, who has been assigned to work as Chief of the Department of Tactics, Fort Rucker, Ala.

Representatives from each of the group's battalions witnessed the event, which was highlighted by the presence of numerous Army aviation officers and music provided by the Skyrooper Band.

Major General E.B. Roberts, commanding general, noted that the 11th Group "provides the real capability for the 1st Cav to operate. The group's own initiative has overridden all obstacles."

In his comments upon assuming command, Colonel Soucek said, "I'm no stranger to this group, having watched it from afar for some time." Saying that he'd long wanted to be a part of the organization, the colonel said, "We will continue the fine performance of this unit, so that we can maintain the great record already established."

Before coming here Colonel Soucek attended the Naval War College.

Taking Command . . .



Colonel Soucek

Major General E.B. Roberts pins the 11th Aviation Group crest on Colonel Foy Rice during change of command ceremonies at Camp Gorvad.

Colonel Barker Assumes Helm Of Garry Owen

QUAN LOI — A former Army private who received a battlefield commission during World War II, Colonel John P. Barker, has assumed command of the 3rd Brigade.

"I couldn't be more pleased to have this command in his able hands," said Major General E. B. Roberts, the 1st Cav's commanding general, during change of command ceremonies. "I'm certain that this brigade will go on to even greater things in the days ahead under his leadership."

Colonel Barker succeeds Colonel Karl R. Morton who has been assigned to the Office of Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, CONARC.

The new brigade commander saw his first action as a rifleman with the 88th Infantry Division in Italy during the summer of 1942. He rose through the ranks to become platoon sergeant then was awarded a battlefield commission in August 1944.

The brigade he now heads was described by MG Roberts at the ceremony as being in the "vanguard" of the Cav's defense of the Saigon area earlier this year.

"Fighting in the most difficult terrain, I suppose, that anyone has conducted combat operations in since World War II in the Pacific," the general said, "this brigade gave a splendid account of itself. I think the work this brigade did against the 5th VC division has been largely responsible for the enemy's inability to do anything with that unit at all."

Injured, Saves Buddies, Wins DSC

By SP4 George Vindedzys

LAI KHE — The Distinguished Service Cross was presented to Staff Sergeant Martin A. Manglona by Lieutenant General Julian Ewell, II Field Force Commander, in a recent ceremony at Landing Zone Grant.

Sergeant Manglona, a platoon sergeant in Company A, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry, in the words of the official citation, "distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions during a reconnaissance-in-force mission in Tinh Bien Hoa Province."

Company A had set up their FOB (forward operations base), sent out their ambushes, and settled down for the night. At 3:30 the stillness of the night was broken by the sudden blasts of enemy mortar rounds. Skytroopers scrambled into their bunkers and waited for the enemy to appear.

"Quite a few men were wounded by the mortars," said First Lieutenant George F. Dove, platoon leader. "Among them were myself and Sergeant Manglona."

While helping to repulse the ground attack, the platoon sergeant — who is serving his second tour with the 1st Bn, 12th Cav, and his third with the 1st Air Cavalry Division — was

blinded by shrapnel from a B-40 rocket.

Unable to see, Sergeant Manglona ordered his men to place him in a firing position with his

weapon pointed at the NVA, and kept firing at the enemy until all the wounded were evacuated.

"Even after he received reinforcements from the 1st Platoon,

he refused to be evacuated until all of his men were safe," said Lieutenant Dove. "And even then, he was bodily taken out by his RTO and another man."

DSC Winner . . .



(U.S. Army Photo)

Staff Sergeant Martin A. Manglona wears the Distinguished Service Cross presented the heroic NCO at Landing Zone Grant.

Hard Serving Under DSC SGT, But Safe

By PFC William K. Block, Jr.

LZ GRANT — Staff Sergeant Martin A. Manglona has moved elsewhere from his job as platoon sergeant of the second platoon of Company A, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry, but his men will remember him.

"Serving under a Distinguished Service Cross winner is harder, but safer," said Sergeant Gary B. Dilley. "He was always on the job. He continually checked everything from the depth of the foxholes, to police calls of the night defensive positions. And in any free minute he was likely to ask someone if his weapon was clean."

The second platoon credits Sergeant Manglona with a great sense of fairness. He believed that if everyone assigned to the

field could not go to the rear, none should go, unless it was really necessary. On his own infrequent trips to the rear, he would spend a good part of the time attending to the needs of his men. He would arrive back in the field with plenty of pens, stationery and cases of soda.

The sergeant also worked hard to keep up the spirits of his men. He kept them informed about their missions, and held platoon meetings to iron out dissatisfaction. If his men were attacked by an enemy company, he would comment, "It could have been a battalion." In addition, when there were extra C-rations, he would hold up a can and shout, "Anyone want peaches?" Six men might break a leg running for the can, only to find it was date pudding.

COMMANDER'S CALL

During the past month the 1st Air Cavalry Division exceeded the Department of the Army assigned objectives in the reenlistment of all categories of personnel.

The 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry, surpassed its assigned objectives in all categories of personnel eligible for reenlistment. This exceptional accomplishment significantly contributed to the success attained in the division program. Your high retention rate of first term personnel was especially noteworthy. In this effort alone, you exceeded Department of the Army objectives by 66 percent.

I wish to express my appreciation for your exceptional achievements in this vital program. Convey my appreciation to those officers and noncommissioned officers whose leadership and support have been most helpful in this effort.

E. B. Roberts
E. B. ROBERTS
 Major General, USA
 Commanding

... For God And Country

It was early evening. The orange sun silhouetted the mountains and trees . . . the peaceful quietude broken only by vivid memories of what happened earlier in the day. Some men were still eating chow; others were talking over the events of the day. There was still, however, an atmosphere of anxiety in the air. Would there be another barrage of rockets and mortars? Would there be another sapper attack on the three-company firebase manned now by only one company of infantrymen and supported by a battery of artillery.

I was sitting on one of the bunkers when one fellow came up to me and said, "You know something chaplain . . . this army really made a man out of me. It made me grow up . . . made me mature in a lot of ways. I'm also convinced now more than ever before that there is a God. I've had more than one close call and I mean close! I know that there must be someone up there watching over me."

This was the first time that I had heard anything like this. But little did I realize that in the months to follow I would hear much of the same thing from many other soldiers.

For many a man Vietnam is a humbling experience . . . but it is humility that builds men of true character . . . it is humility which makes men see themselves as creatures of God and dependent upon Him for all their needs . . . and in the end it will be the humble person who will be rewarded. "For he who humbles himself will be exalted and he who exalts himself will be humbled" (Lk. 18:14).

LOUIS M. DYTKOWSKI
 Chaplain (CPT), USA
 Assistant Group Chaplain

Gets \$10,000 . . .



(U.S. Army Photo By SP5 Paul Sgroi)

Staff Sergeant Robert S. Holdren, 15th Transportation Corps, raises his hand as he is sworn into the Army 1970 fiscal year Reenlistment Program. The first Skytrooper to enter this year's program, Sergeant Holdren received a \$10,000 bonus for his 5-year enlistment. Brigadier General Frank Meszar, assistant division commander, administers the oath.

Awards

SILVER STAR

- WILFONG, Norman A., SFC
Btry A, 1st Bn, 30th Arty
- PETERSEN, Robert J. LTC
HHC, 1st Bn, 5th Cav
- BODE, Byron W. WO1
HHC, 3d Brigade
- RESTIVO, Richard R. SP4
Co A, 1st Bn, 8th Cav
- LUMBERT, Edward L. SSG
Company A, 1st Bn, 8th Cav
- WALKER, Kenneth W. SGT
Btry B, 2nd Bn, 19th Arty
- WHITE, Jack W. SGT
Co C, 2nd Bn., 5th Cav
- EVERSON, Norman J. 1LT
Co C, 1st Bn, 12th Cav
- BACH, Lyman C. SSG
Co A, 1st Bn, 8th Cav
- MAXSON, John R. SGT
Co A, 2nd Bn, 5th Cav
- TAYLOR, Preston PFC
HHC, 1st Bn, 8th Cav
- HESS, Kerry E. 1LT
Co A, 2nd Bn, 5th Cav
- HICKEY, John PFC
Co D, 1st Bn, 5th Cav
- KEIL, Paul WO1
227th Assault Helicopter Bn
- PUPPEL, Dennis D. CPT
Co B, 2nd Bn, 5th Cav
- WHITAKER, Nicholas PFC
Co C, 1st Bn, 5th Cav
- KADER, Michael A. SP4
Co C, 2nd Bn, 5th Cav
- DOUGLAS, Robert N. 1LT
Co D, 2nd Bn, 7th Cav
- HUGHINS, David A. 1LT
227th Aviation Bn
- AMBROSE, Greg R. 1LT
Co E, 2nd Bn, 8th Cav
- NILES, Louis B. CPT
Troop B, 1st Sqdn, 9th Cav
- JACKSON, William D. 1LT
Co D, 2nd Bn, 8th Cav
- GARZA, Samuel SP4
Co E, 2nd Bn, 12th Cav
- MCGILL, Jack R. PFC
Co D, 2nd Bn, 7th Cav
- HEMPHILL, Frederick L. SP4
Co A, 2nd Bn, 8th Cav
- MACKEY, John C. CPT
Co A, 2nd Bn, 8th Cav
- GRAHAM, Michael J. SP5
Troop B, 1st Sqdn, 9th Cav
- BRENNAN, Thomas J. 2LT
Co A, 1st Bn, 8th Cav
- MCANDREWS, John SGT
Co C, 2nd Bn, 7th Cav
- CARTER, Thomas W. 1LT
Co D, 2nd Bn, 8th Cav
- HATFIELD, Jack SGT
Co A, 1st Bn, 5th Cav
- GALLIHER, John C. SGT
Co E, 2nd Bn, 7th Cav
- BASSI, James R. SGT
Co C, 2nd Bn, 5th Cav
- GORDON, Rex E. SGT
Co C, 2nd Bn, 12th Cav
- MORGAN, Richard E. 1LT
Co D, 2nd Bn, 7th Cav
- HERRON, Richard B. SP6
Troop B, 1st Sqdn, 9th Cav

Cav Commentary

Editor's Note: The following letter was addressed to the Editor, 1st Air Cavalry Division Magazine. The staff of the CAVALAIR wish to share its contents with you, the members of THE FIRST TEAM.

Dear Sir;

It is the morning of 4 July in Tullahoma, Tenn., and I am writing to your distinguished magazine to thank every man of THE FIRST TEAM, of which my son is one member only, for giving to me and to the other members of my family this special American holiday in FREEDOM.

My second son, not yet of service age, bumped me out of the car for the whole day for a picnic and water sports at the lake. My eldest daughter graduated from college in June. At 49 years of age, I've just earned a master's degree, something I should have done years ago. Next week, there'll be a family reunion on my wife's side in the comfortable Blud Ridge mountain area of Virginia.

Who gave me all this? THE FIRST TEAM, and the least I can do is to bestir my over-fed pot-belly and lazy fanny and get to the typewriter to peck out this THANK YOU!

I say THE FIRST TEAM because my son is assigned to it. But by the reference I mean every man who has ever borne arms to keep America free and give justice in the world chance in live.

Those hay-foot Minutemen at Concord Bridge hardly knew what end of the gun to point and it was tough wearing snow for shoes at Valley Forge; thousands of GI's (that's the old term for grunt), sleep easier in military cemeteries across the world because of your valor; the USS Arizona is still in commission and manned forever by half her crew; Argonne, Bastogne, Heartbreak Ridge, and Porkchop Hill—they were all hard go's. But I am alive and free today because of those men.

So to millions of us there is no such thing as a forgotten American serviceman. We're getting off as many "rounds" of prayers to God for your safety and victory as you are laying down fire-power against Charlie. Forget the headlines, the hippies, the howlers, and the growlers. Come on home and put the rest of us to the test. We'll show you what love, honor and respect from your countrymen really means.

God bless each man on the line today and thank you for my FREE Fourth of July. You bought it for me. I wish each of you were home to enjoy it with your own families. But home wouldn't be here at all if it were not for the loneliest grunt in the farthest foxhole. I pray he knows this. I hope he knows that every true American from George Washington to the gal next door is sitting there with him. Ya can't see us, but I pray you can feel our hearts.

Just one father out of millions,
 Bill Surber

See Red Cross If Ever Troubled

The American National Red Cross, established in 1881, received its first Congressional Charter in June 1900. Two of the purposes of the organization relate to activities with the Armed Forces and, as specified by the Congress, are:

To furnish volunteer aid to the sick and wounded of the armed forces in time of war.

To act in matters of voluntary relief and in accord with the military authorities as a medium of communication between the people of the United States and the Armed Forces.

While these purposes are specific, Red Cross is not limited to these activities. Over the years, as changing situations have presented changing needs, Red Cross has expanded its activities with the knowledge and consent of the Congress. Charter amendments, new federal laws, and military directives give the Red Cross the authority to carry on

its expanded activities for the benefit of the Armed Forces and their families, both in peace and war.

What does this mean to you in the 1st Cav? It means that no matter where you are, you are not far from a Red Cross representative. Assistant Field Directors are presently located at Tay Ninh, Quan Loi, Bien Hoa and Phuoc Vinh. They are on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to assist you in getting that emergency message to or from home, to bring you news of the arrival of that long awaited son or daughter, or just to discuss a problem that is bothering you. They don't pretend to have all the answers, but they may be able to point the way to a solution.

Supported by the voluntary contributions of the American people, the Red Cross receives no subsidy from the government.

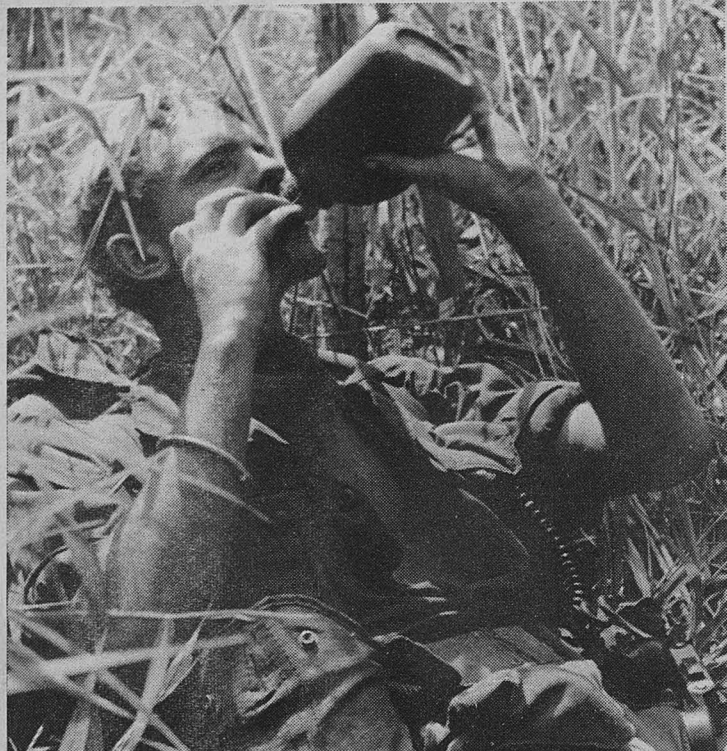


The CAVALAIR is published weekly under the supervision of the Information Office, 1st Air Cavalry Division, APO SF 96490, and is an authorized Army publication. The command newspaper is printed by Pacific Stars and Stripes, Tokyo, Japan.

Opinions expressed in the CAVALAIR are those of its editorial staff and not necessarily those of the Department of the Army.

Commanding General MG E.B. Roberts
 Information Officer MAJ J.D. Coleman
 Publications NCOIC SSG R.R. Dyslin
 Production Editor SP5 Allan Schlosser
 Layout Editor SP4 Al Persons

Delicious! . . .



(U.S. Army Photo)
Specialist Four Eric Nelson gulps down some water during a break with 1st Bn, 8th Cav. The RTO keeps his radio close by as the troops await the completion of an air strike.

Blackhorse Engine Pond Keeps Vehicles Rolling

By SP4 Dave Wolfe

LAI KHE — The truck roared into the Headquarters Company motor pool of the 2nd Brigade. It was parked, checked-in for the night, and left in a row of similar vehicles, smaller trucks and jeeps.

The sun slowly ebbed below the horizon. Then it happened. Camouflaged by the shadows of the receding sunlight, the "Mad Painter" began working. Feverishly he put tape over the headlights, windows, and mirrors. He struggled with the heavy tailgate, closed it, then continued masking. But what about those unauthorized markings on the doors and hood? Should he try to save these ingenious, whimsical designs? No! They must be painted. But would there be time to complete the mission before the sun completely disappeared?

Two hours later, the "Mad

Painter" had completed what he'd set out to do. Standing before him, freshly painted and fully authorized, was the truck. It now awaited the next day's full schedule of hard work and grinding gears.

In this manner and through numerous other activities, the Blackhorse Brigade motor pool performs its primary function — the maintenance of wheeled vehicles.

The motor pool is lovingly nicknamed the "engine pond," because "everyone knows motors run on electricity and engines on fuel," said Chief Warrant Officer Bruce Shaeffer.

According to Mr. Shaeffer, the motor pool supports satellites (those separated from their parent units by distances too great to make support feasible), and provides a back-up service to PA&E (Pacific Architects and Engineers) in the Lai Khe area. It acts as a laundry collection point and furnishes water for the 2nd Brigade showers, both of which are understandably popular services.

One of the motor pool's biggest jobs, however, is keeping the PLL (prescribed load list) of spare parts for teletypes, radio sets, weapons, protective masks, and any other supplies necessary to the well-being of the brigade.

All these duties are in addition to the normal work load performed by the motor pool — jobs like mechanical, body, and paint work, semi-annual preventive maintenance, and storage of

parts for wheeled vehicles. All records are neatly compiled in a portable van, which is manned at all times by a parts specialist. An average of one or two breakdowns a day adds to the backlog of work confronting the men of the motor pool.

The fun-loving but business-like attitude apparent in the unit can be attributed in part to what is called "the goat list." Any person not performing his assigned duty effectively, automatically becomes "Today's Goat," and wears the title to bed with him that night. It's the motor pool version of the schoolteacher's dunce cap, but it serves to motivate the men in the performance of their duties.

In addition to the "engine pond," the 2nd Brigade motor pool might also be referred to as a commonwealth power and service company. The back-up generators aid PA&E in time of need, and it is not uncommon for them to be called on to haul trash. Trucks available for dispatch are used by sections in the brigade that do not have organic vehicles.

The Cav's airmobile concept keeps men and supplies moving to and from the field — and the motor pool does the same job on the ground. Whether the man at the "engine pond" is a motor sergeant, equipment report clerk, powerman, repair parts specialist, wheeled vehicle mechanic, or a light truck driver, he is a cog in the wheel that keeps THE FIRST TEAM rolling.

Radio Telephone Operator Acts As Voice Of The Line Company

By SP4 Richard Craig, Jr.

TAY NINH — He may be a "grunt," who has volunteered for the job, or he may have been hand picked. He is the unit's only contact with higher command. He's the lifeline of the unit.

He doesn't have to be an Einstein, but he'd better be brief and concise when he calls in coordinates for an artillery fire mission. He'd better not make a mistake either, or it might cost the lives of his buddies, or even his own.

He has to "hump" 25 pounds of extra equipment, weight that could be used for extra food or clothing.

He may be a PFC or a Spec 4, but he walks with the company commander everywhere he goes.

He must have the ability to make quick decisions and the confidence to see them through. He might find himself making command decisions someday.

Who is he? What makes him so valuable to the unit? He's the RTO — radio telephone operator — the voice of the line company.

What does it take to be an RTO?

"I'll tell you what I look for," said First Lieutenant Charles K.

Marshburn, platoon leader of Company C, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry. "He has to be dependable, able to use his own initiative, and at times make important decisions. The riflemen are sometimes envious; they think he has a getting over job. But that isn't so. His job is probably just as dangerous as theirs. When a squad gets in contact, he's right up there with the platoon leader. And when it comes to easy targets, his antenna might as well be a strobe light."

RTOs have mixed emotions about their work.

"It's interesting work," according to Specialist Four Ronald E. Nielson, an RTO with the 3rd Platoon of Company B, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry. "You find out just what's happening. It helps to break the monotony, and it's nice to know the why to the company's tactical moves."

"I don't know," said Specialist Four Robert Chase, an RTO with Company A, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry. "People say we 'get over.' But that's not really true. Sure, it's interesting work. You know what's going on before anyone else in the company. But you also have to keep a lot of things straight. All you have to do is mess up once, and

you could put someone in a real hurt. You have to know what you're doing."

Perhaps Lieutenant Marshburn summed it up when he said, "I guess an RTO has to be an 'uptight' guy."

Fast John Is Plenty Quick

By PFC William K. Block, Jr.

TAY NINH — Ask anyone in the second platoon of Company A, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry, who's the first man into the hole at any sign of trouble. The reply will be "Fast John."

"Fast John" is PFC John Hoo-sock. John does not appear to be extraordinarily quick, nor does he generally act that way. "Just before my first firefight," he explains, "I was third in line and

humping the M-60 machinegun. All of a sudden, an AK started cracking. I could hear the rounds going by — zing, zing, zing. I hit the ground and found a hole." He admits to being out of sight and danger before the fourth zing. Apparently, John's speed is mostly instinctive.

To keep in practice John often jumps when there is no need to find cover. "Bronze niner-niner, bronze niner-niner," the radios barked recently. "Recon by fire." Everyone in the company

understood that one of the company's elements was about to conduct an area reconnaissance by firing on-line. Seconds later, the jungle sounds were obliterated by the echoing cracks of automatic rifles and machineguns. Plop! John was in a hole.

One hazard of leaping into holes with such dazzling speed is that the leaper does not always know much about the hole before landing in it. "So far," John smiles, "I've been lucky, I haven't jumped into a well yet."

A Helping Hand . . .



(U.S. Army Photo)
As one Skytrooper fights his way up a hill, another helps his buddy cross a stream during search and destroy operations in III Corps.

Blackhorse Brigade Aids ARVN Soldiers As Compound Receives Materials From Abandoned LZ

By SP4 George Vindedzis

LAI KHE — Empty ammo boxes, shell casings, and sand-bag crates beautify the compound of the 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 5th ARVN Division at Chon Thanh, through the assistance of the Blackhorse Brigade S-5 (Psychological Operations and Civil Affairs).

According to First Lieutenant Michael J. Malloy, Brigade S-5, "Major General E. B. Roberts, our commander, was visiting the 9th ARVN Regiment. Upon talking to the commander of the regiment, he learned that they were working on a project to improve and beautify their living conditions."

Since Landing Zone (LZ) Betty, base camp of the 5th Battal-

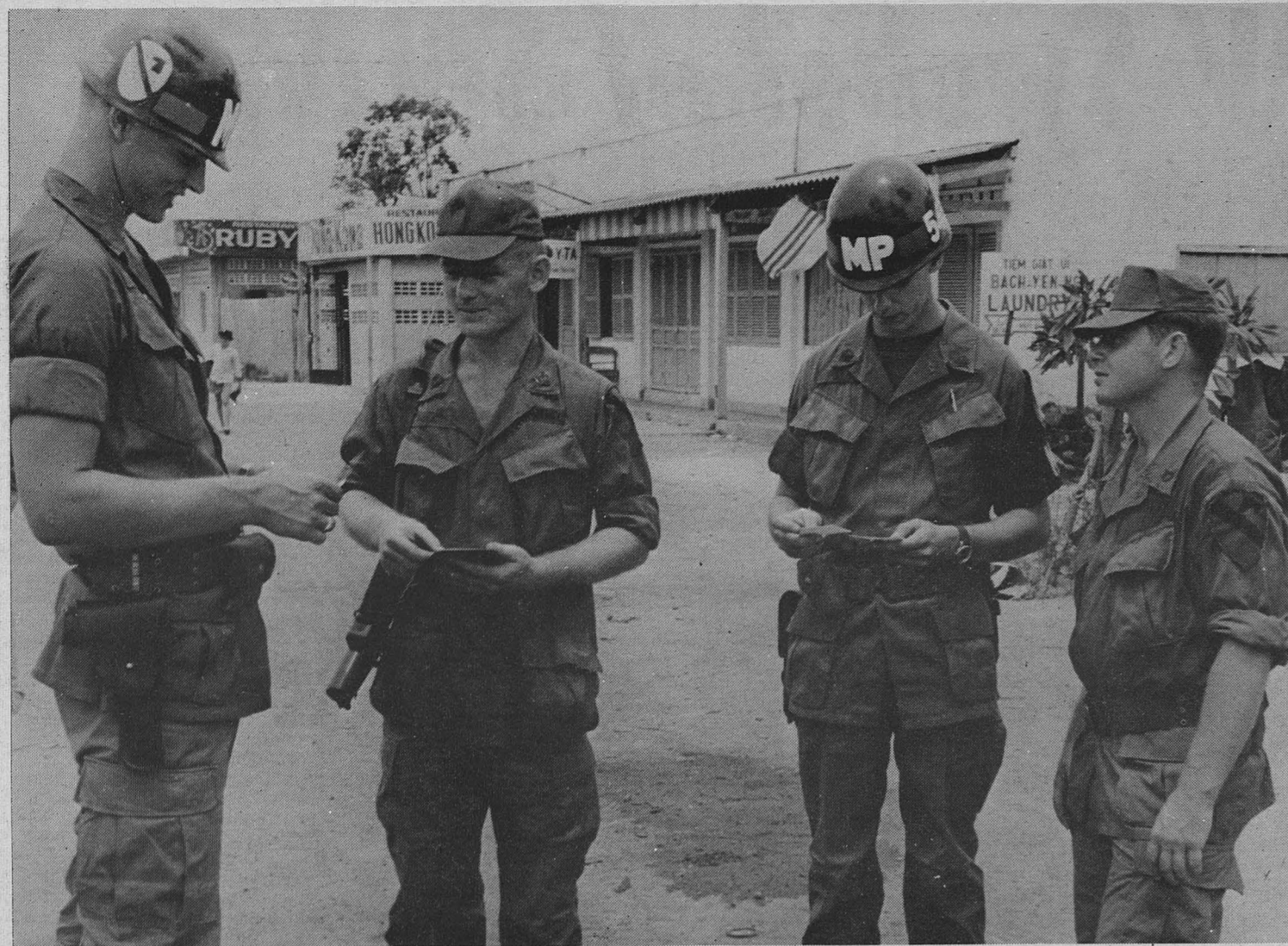
ion, 7th Cavalry, located near Chon Thanh, was in the process of being dismantled, arrangements were made to transfer the needed material to the ARVN compound.

"The donation was to be labeled 'From the 1st Air Cavalry Division through the Blackhorse Brigade,'" said 1LT Malloy.

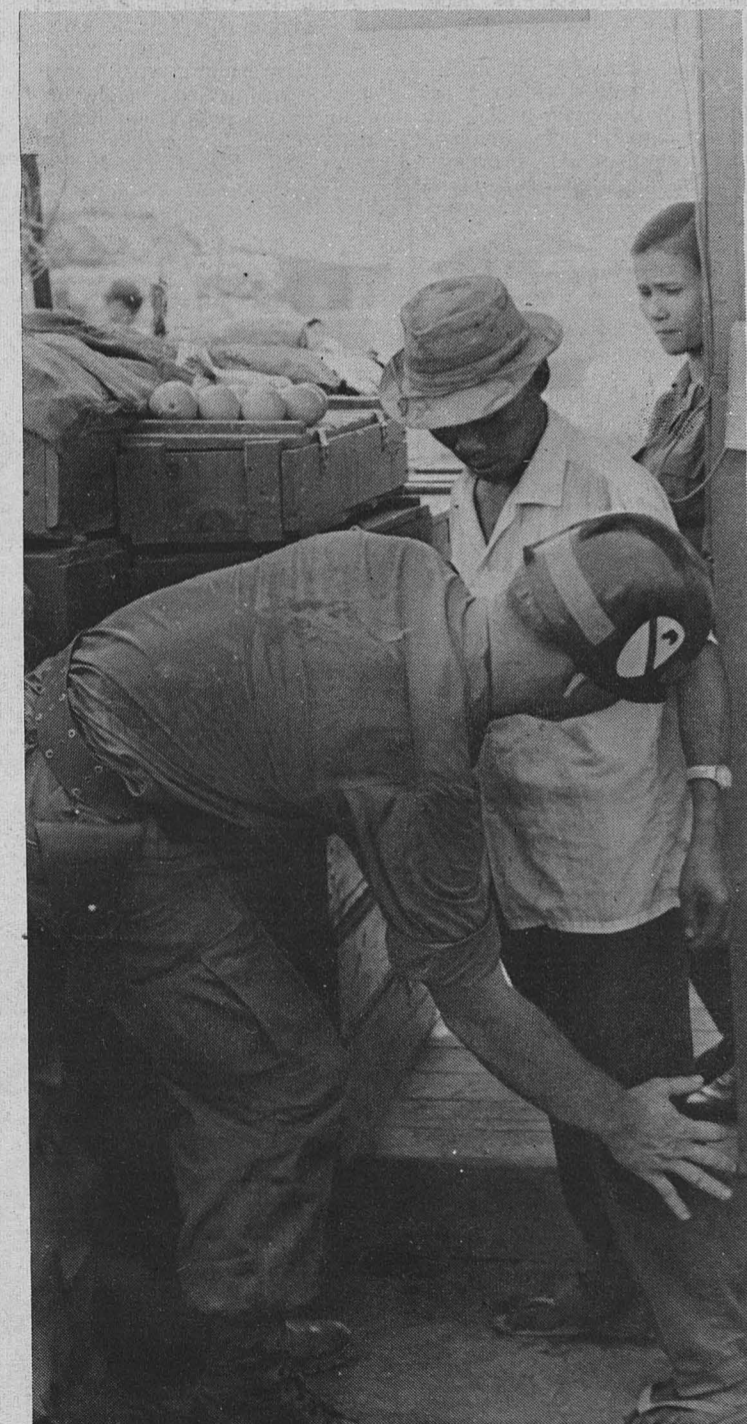
At Chon Thanh the ARVN soldiers, having made use of the materials they already had, were busy painting buildings and constructing additions to them.

"The Vietnamese are very ingenious people when it comes to making use of what material they have," said Captain Bobby G. Whaley, senior member of (Continued on Back Page)

545th MP's: PV Symbol of Security



Patrolmen SGT Michael A. Siso and SP4 Richard Albert check the passes of two members of THE FIRST TEAM at Phuoc Vinh.



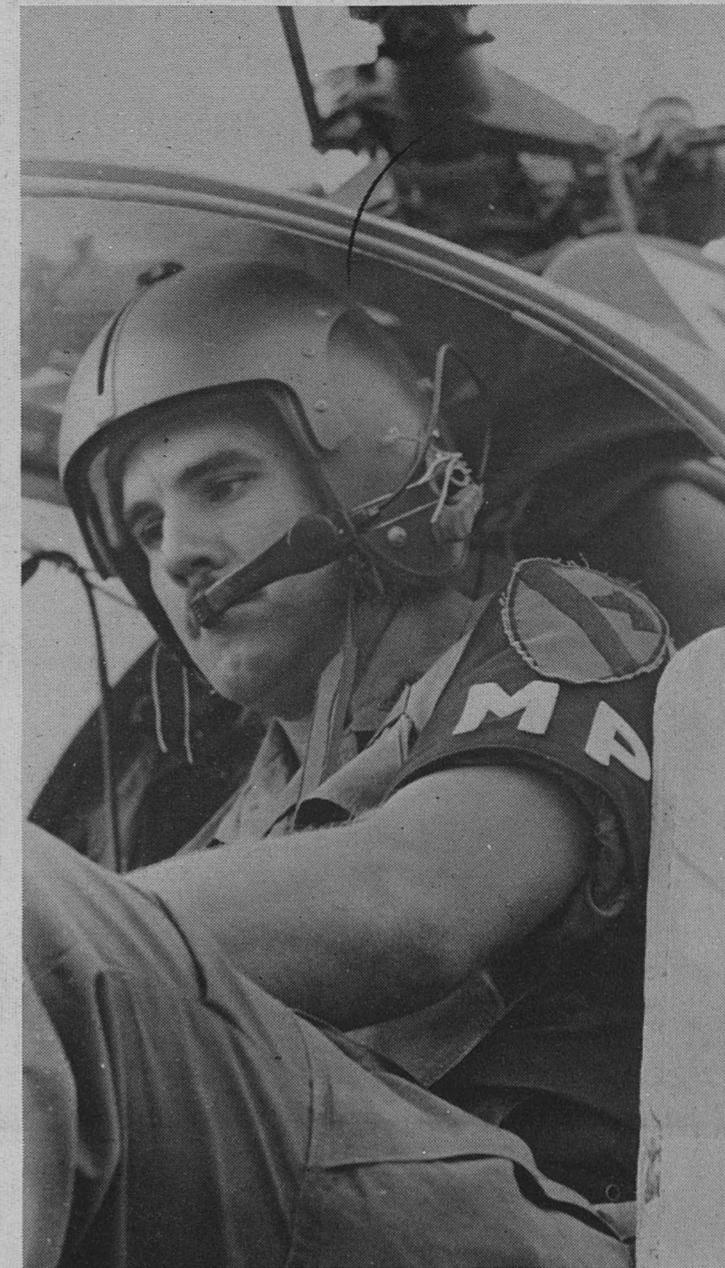
A Cav MP checks a civilian worker before the laborer is permitted to leave Camp Gorvad.



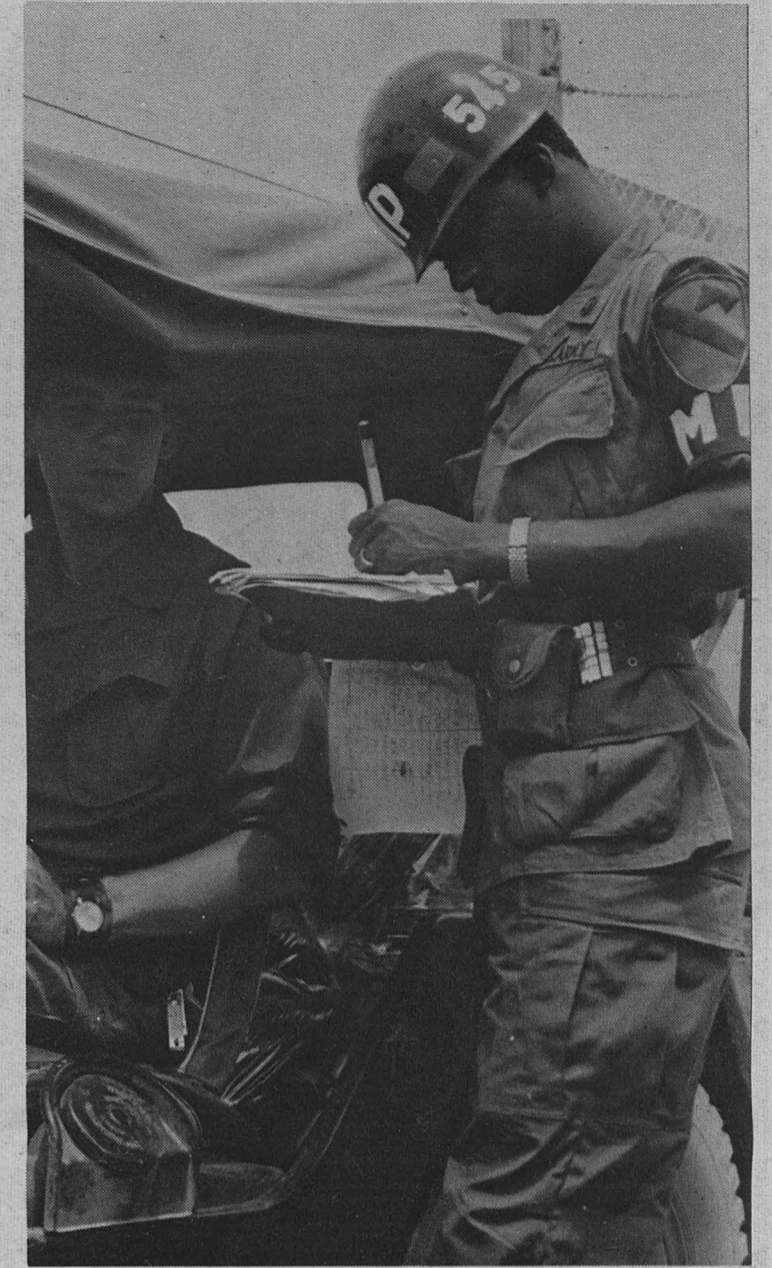
A member of the 545th MP Company makes sure Vietnamese laborers at Phuoc Vinh leave behind unauthorized items before going home to their village.



Stop! PFC Craig Albertson signals for an oncoming driver to stop. Albertson is a military policeman with the 545th MP Co.



1LT Lewis E. Elliott, a platoon leader with the 545th, gets settled into the seat of a LOH before flying aerial support for a Cav convoy.



A military policeman keeps track of vehicles and personnel leaving the main gate.



SGT Clarence Harold, a squad leader with the 545th, patrols Phuoc Vinh with an interpreter (left front), a member of the regional forces (left rear) and a civilian. This team can arrest or apprehend any suspect—American, ARVN or civilian.



We're pleased to present once again that WOMAN who needs no introduction, whose latest film is entitled, appropriately enough, "The Biggest Bundle of Them All." (MGM)

Aviation's Motto: Always Prepared When Called Upon

LAI KHE — "FR" on the chart at the 2nd Brigade's evening briefing means "flight ready" and refers to the helicopters of the Aviation Platoon. One hundred percent flight ready is the constant goal of the men who must repair and maintain these choppers.

In charge of the 24-hour-a-day job is Sergeant First Class Simon Caban, platoon sergeant of the Aviation Platoon, who has returned to Vietnam on three separate occasions and has extended his third tour an extra 12 months with the 1st Cav.

"I like the Cav," said SFC Caban, "and I'd stay with the division, if and when I return to Vietnam again. I like it because of its method of operation, and because one can really take pride in belonging to this division. Besides," he added, "duty here makes me feel useful."

SFC Caban served in the Marine Corps for six years before he entered the National Guard for two years. He joined the Army in 1961 and takes pride in the uniform he now wears.

As a platoon sergeant, he says, "I'm more or less an overseer, one who makes sure that the job gets done." He added, "I have some good people here who can handle most situations easily. This makes my job much more pleasant."

He cited all the men in the platoon for their contributions to the fulfillment of their mission — the support maintenance of the 2nd Brigade's OH-6A (light observation helicopters) and

UH-1H (Hueys). "We have a good six to seven hours of maintenance for every one hour of flying time," SFC Caban said. "This puts a strain on the maintenance crew. They really do a tremendous job."

When a helicopter belonging to the 2nd Brigade Aviation Platoon is forced to land unexpectedly and cannot be flown out after repair, the ship must be rigged for removal back to the maintenance pad — and SFC Caban takes the rigging crew out to the location.

While working in I Corps, the sergeant received a call that a downed chopper had to be retrieved. He and his crew picked up a rigger and went to Khe Sanh, reached the bird and told the pilot to pick them up — and the helicopter—in 45 minutes.

As the helicopter disappeared over the horizon, they began rigging the downed ship. Suddenly, mortars started dropping in on them but they finished rigging the helicopter before they were picked up and taken out of the area. Later, the downed chopper was lifted out without trouble.

The 100 per cent flight ready goal of SFC Caban and the men of the aviation platoon is not easily attained; the stresses on a helicopter in the Blackhorse Brigade are great and constant. However, due to a determined effort and long hours, the platoon has been maintaining 90 per cent availability over the past several weeks, and, on two occasions they have reached the magic mark of 100 per cent flight ready.

At LZ Joy

1/7 Teamwork Shows Results

By SP4 Dave Wolfe

LZ JOY — Dirty fatigues, empty mail bags, newspapers from home, shaving gear and ruck-sacks dropped on the spot covered a 30-foot square area.

It wasn't the scene of a catastrophe, a junkyard, or a poorly kept area. It was the remnants of "an instant VIP Center" for the men of Company E, 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry at Landing Zone (LZ) Joy.

Just returned from a five-day reconnaissance-in-force mission, the soldiers were given "a brief, but nice, return to the LZ for hot chow, a shave, shower, clean clothes and mail," according to First Lieutenant Karl C. Swenson, a platoon leader with the company.

Smiles on faces, exuberant chatter, and endless teasing were everywhere, as the Skytroopers enjoyed themselves here.

"These visits to the LZ improve morale tremendously," said 1LT Swenson, "because out in the field there just isn't enough water to keep clean, enough mail or hot chow."

As the soldiers refilled their canteens, prepared their pistol belts and reloaded their ammunition supplies, the platoon leader continued, "Fifteen straight meals of C-rations can get a little bad, so a hot meal really hits home when we get one."

Somewhat small when com-

pared to other line companies, Company E is a quick reaction force, noted for its maneuverability and effectiveness against enemy forces.

"Being a small outfit like we are makes the guys very closely knit," said 1LT Swenson. "New guys just seem to fit into a groove and become members of the company very quickly." He attributed this to a "kind of tradition passed down by the veterans that says, 'You'll do a good job here.'"

Specialist Four Harold W. Cox, company commander RTO, explained that the men like the company very much, and would not desire a transfer to a different unit.

"We all know one another," said SP4 Cox, "and I'd say we definitely work as a team out there in the woods."

The RTO feels the advantages of a small company outweigh the disadvantages, "because we can move quietly and cover a lot more ground than some units."

With a hint of pride in his voice, the young specialist added, "We're pretty successful in our assigned duties, too, and people in other companies have praised the job we do."

An officer standing nearby was heard to say, "That's a tough little company, right there, and they're doing a hel-luva job."

Dogs' Keen Sense Tested As Infantry Works Out In Field

TAY NINH — To the folks back home, a dog is a pet. For the men of the 25th Infantry Platoon (Scout Dog), dogs are a serious business — often the difference between life and death.

The platoon's 26 men and 20 dogs have the mission of detecting and locating the enemy and his supplies within the division's area of operations.

Dog-handler teams go through rigorous training before they are sent to the field.

The animals are trained to detect the enemy by smell, but they will react to anything out of the ordinary, stimulated by either sight, hearing, or smell.

When they observe something unusual, they warn their handlers by either stopping in place, blocking the trail with their bodies, or crouching.

"I always get nervous when my dog walks with his head low and his nose close to the ground," said Sergeant Peter A. Nelson, a section leader. "That usually indicates that we're on to something and it's not very far away."

The infantry then checks it out, most often with favorable results.

"We've uncovered bunker

complexes, caches, and lots of stuff Chuck isn't anxious to lose," said Private First Class Dwayne E. Morley. "There's no question that we have helped put him in a bind."

The dogs do more than uncover enemy hardware, however. Last November, for instance, SGT Nelson was walking point with his dog, Sheba, on a patrol with Company C, 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry.

Suddenly the dog dropped to a low crouch and froze in place, sensing danger.

"The 'grunts' checked out the area," said SGT Nelson. "It was an NVA ambush."

After a brief skirmish, the enemy fled, leaving behind several blood-trails, and one frightened Hoi Chanh.

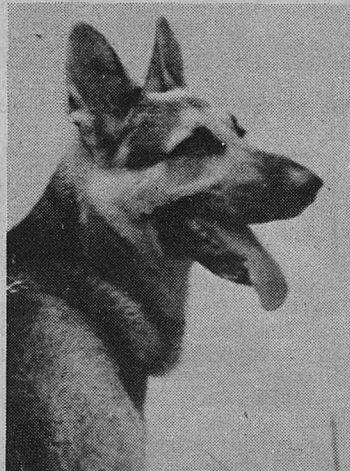
The scout dog has proven his worth repeatedly in the Vietnam conflict, and infantry units are employing the scout teams with ever greater frequency.

How do the men feel about their work?

"I like it," said SGT Nelson. "I feel safe with my dog. I know exactly what she'll do, and I have a lot of confidence in her. I don't think there's a man in the platoon who doesn't feel the same way."



A Skytrooper and his loyal teammate are a profile of vigilance.



Cav's Best Friend...



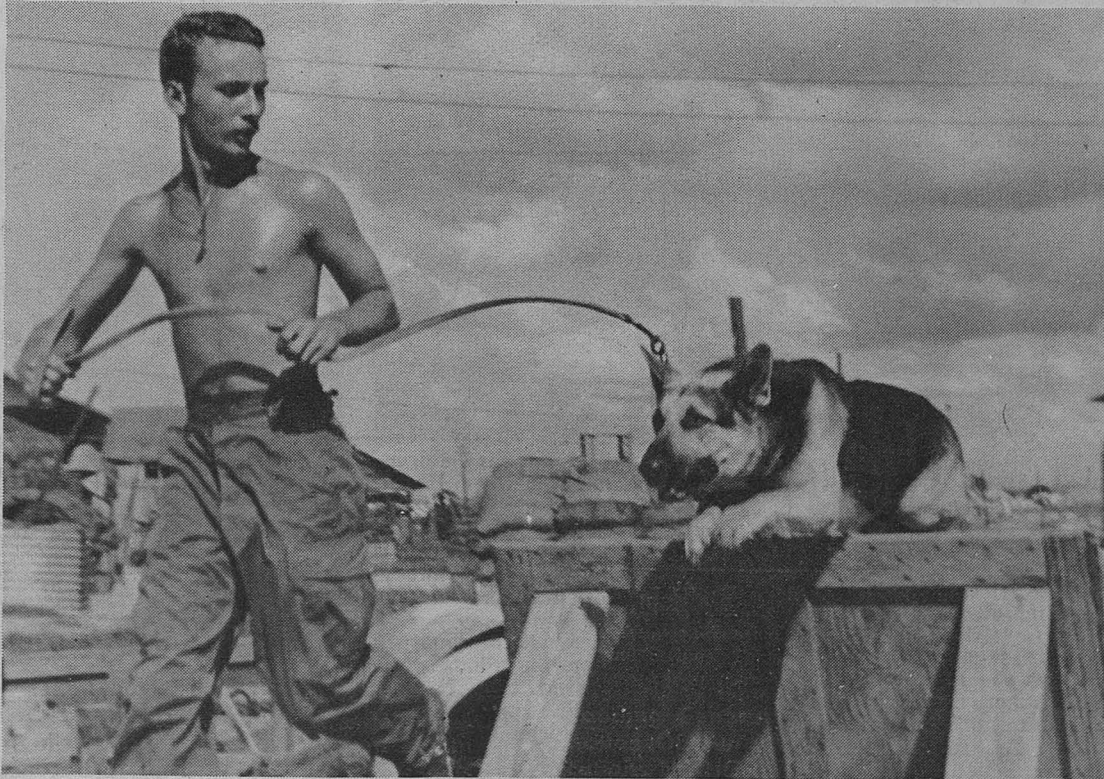
PFC Dwayne Morley, a dog handler with the 25th Infantry Scout Dog Platoon, and his German Shepherd, "Duke," give a Cav photographer an all-too-realistic taste of what it's like to face their teamwork.

Story By
SP4 Rich Craig

Photos By
SP4 Eric White



Trainer and dog take the point well ahead of the patrol platoon. Duke's sense of smell will warn the grunts of an enemy position long before the enemy can detect them.



When not in the field, PFC Morley and Duke try to keep in top shape. Here he puts his "best friend" through the paces at their training center.

Garry Owen Skipper . . .



Colonel John P. Barker has the highly prized Garry Owen crests of the 3rd Brigade pinned on his epaulets at change of command ceremonies at Quan Loi.

10,000 Pounds Creates Instant Assault Position

BLACKHORSE — "Squire 899, you are left of track," said the voice over the plane's radio. "Come right two degrees to a new heading of 108 degrees."

After the words came into the ears of the crew, the gigantic Air Force C-130 made the change and continued on its way to the target area, a heavily wooded strip about 30 miles north of here.

The plane made several additional corrections in its course, and then the voice on the radio blurted out, "4...3...2...1...now!" At that moment a parachute opened at the rear of the giant aircraft, and an enormous bomb slid out the tail of the C-130, drifting toward its target below.

A few feet above the triple-canopied jungle floor, the 10,000 pounds of destruction exploded, sending a huge red and yellow fireball approximately 200 feet into the air.

The blast cleared an area big enough for two helicopters to land safely. Another instant landing zone (LZ) had been constructed through the teamwork of the Army and Air Force, this one for the members of the 3rd Brigade.

The dense trees which had covered the area five minutes earlier were strewn about symmetrically in a large circle with their trunks pointing toward the center of the blast.

When all was in readiness, the first UH-1H Huey of the 227th Aviation Battalion dropped into the small landing zone, evading remnants of the previous day's bomb drop.

Gnarled trees, burning stumps fanned by the wind blast of the helicopter, crumpled rocks and tropical vegetation bent out of shape created an awesome sight for the soldiers as they entered. Approximately 75 meters in

diameter, the area was nearly circular.

Skimming the trees surrounding the perimeter, the helicopters dropped sharply into the ready made pad. Only one spot was clear enough to accept the assaulting soldiers. Each ship nearly touched down as the experienced Skytroopers of the 1st Bn, 8th Cav rode the skids, or awaited quick exit near the ship's doors.

Immediately jumping to the ground while the ship hovered, each soldier assumed a combat ready position around the perimeter. Any enemy soldiers in the area would have their work cut out for them if they chose to attack, as a tight defense was asserted once the first ship was on the ground. Buffered further with each landing troop, the new landing zone was quickly secured.

Radios, heavy packs and equipment such as chain saws clammered off the ships on the backs, or across the hips of the assaulting troops. A 90mm recoilless rifle was shouldered by a young soldier, who faltered slightly as he jumped from the ship. He recovered and moved to his position on the perimeter.

A tall, charred tree remained standing near the center of the blast, somehow having withstood the impact of the bomb. Nearby were trees lying on the ground, their roots yanked from the ground by the ferocious explosion. A slight indentation in the ground, surrounded by shattered rocks, marked the center of the explosion site.

The last Skytrooper was on the ground, and it was time to move toward their objective. A long trek through the heavy jungle awaited them, but now that they were on the ground in what had become their natural habitat in Vietnam, the soldiers grimaced and smiled at the same time.

Brothers Stay Close During 'Nam Duties

PHUOC VINH — If you see one you'll see all three. They travel together, and they're known as "White Power."

No, it's not a new hippie movement, just three brothers of the Henderson County, S.C., White family, serving with the Cav.

often been guided to a safe landing at an LZ by his brother, Sergeant Carl White, 24, a Blackhat air controller with the 11th Pathfinders, 11th Aviation Group.

Their families, admits SSG White, do not particularly like having all three of them in the Vietnam war. Each of the broth-

White Power . . .



The brothers, Carl, Jerry and Marion White, rely on each other while serving in the war just as they did as kids "back in the world."

Staff Sergeant Marion White, 28, a maintenance section leader with the 11th General Support Group, regularly repairs and coddles the helicopter in which his brother, Specialist Five Jerry White, 26, serves as a crew chief for the 11th Aviation Group.

And on flights through the combat zone, Jerry's Huey has

ers is married and has children. SSG White, who's been in the Army for 12 years, said: "But for us, over here, it's kind of like having a family reunion. This is the first time we three brothers have been together in ten years."

The reunion will be enlarged in July when the Phuoc Vinh White trio journey to Da Nang to visit their half-brother, Charles R. Etheridge, who serves with the U.S. Navy.

Back home in Iva, N.C., they and their families live within a few blocks of each other.

Beauty—

(Continued From Page 3) Advisory Team No. 70, located at Chon Thanh. "They can really improve the conditions when they get the needed material."

At LZ Betty, Skytroopers of Company A, 5th Bn, 7th Cav, and engineers from Company B, 8th Engineer Battalion, busily scurried around the LZ gathering ammo boxes, sandbag crates and shell casings. They piled them near the logpad in preparation for slinging to Chon Thanh.

As the Chinooks sat down at Chon Thanh, ARVN soldiers happily collected their new building material, loaded it on a two-and-a-half-ton truck, and took it to the compound.

"Although the building materials may not seem like much to us," said First Lieutenant Edward R. Torres, assistant Brigade S-5, "they mean a lot when you can see what is being done with them."

Cav Association Membership . . .



Major General E.B. Roberts, division commander, receives his lifetime membership in the Skytrooper Chapter, 1st Cavalry Division Association. Making the presentation is PFC Albert Casey, Battery B, 2/19th Artillery. The battery is the first company/battery-sized unit in THE FIRST TEAM to become 100 per cent Cav Association members. General Roberts reminds all Skytrooper Chapter members of the forthcoming 22nd annual 1st Cavalry Division Association reunion, August 22-24, at Columbus, Ga.

(U.S. Army Photo)