

2170 MG Roberts Takes Cav's Reins



Vol. 3, No. 20 1st Air Cavalry Division May 14, 1969

New Chief Of Staff, CSM Assume Posts

An 'Original' '46 Graduate Of West Point

PHUOC VINH — Command Sergeant Major Lawrence E. Kennedy, who served with the 1st Air Cavalry Division here in 1965, recently became the Cav's Command Sergeant Major.

Formerly the sergeant major of the 3rd Infantry Division in Germany and sergeant major of the Infantry School at Ft. Benning, Ga., CSM Kennedy joined the Army in October 1940 and was assigned to the 83rd Horse Drawn Artillery.

During the Second World War, he served with the 5th Armor Division and the 102nd Infantry Division. In 1950 he returned to Europe with the 4th Infantry Division.

After a tour of duty with the 25th Division in Hawaii, CSM



CSM L.E. KENNEDY

Kennedy returned to Ft. Benning in 1963, where he was assigned to the 2nd Infantry Division.

In 1964 he was assigned to the 11th Air Assault Division, later reorganized as the 1st Air Cavalry Division. Like General Roberts and Colonel Shoemaker, CSM Kennedy was among the first contingent of Skytroopers sent to Vietnam in 1965.

A graduate of four NCO academies and jungle school, CSM Kennedy has earned the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, Air Medal with seven Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Commendation Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, Airborne Wings, and Aircraft Crewman Wings.

His wife and daughter reside in Amory, Miss. His son is currently serving as a platoon sergeant with the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) in Vietnam.

Index

Cav Coverage	Pg. 2
Cobras	Pg. 3
Sgt. Rock	Pg. 3
Rotor Blast	Pgs. 4-5
NVA Psyops	Pg. 6
Claudia	Pg. 7
Cough Drop	Pg. 8
1/5th Cav	Pg. 8



COL. R.M. SHOEMAKER

sault Division, reorganized as the 1st Air Cavalry Division in July 1965. While G-3 of the 11th Air Assault Division, Major General E.B. Roberts was the division's chief of staff.

Colonel Shoemaker returned to Vietnam in mid-1965 and assumed command of the 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry. In December of that year, he became commanding officer of 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry, during which time CSM Lawrence E. Kennedy was his battalion sergeant major.

A graduate of the Command and General Staff College and the U.S. Army War College, Colonel Shoemaker's last assignment was that of Chief, Plans and Programs Division, Office of the Director of Army Aviation, Washington, D.C.

Colonel Shoemaker's family resides in Carlisle, Pa.

New CG Served With 11th Air Assault, Division's 1st Brigade In 1965, '66

PHUOC VINH—Major General E.B. Roberts, former USARV Deputy Chief of Staff (Plans and Operations), this week assumes command of the 1st Air Cavalry Division. He succeeds Major General George I. Forsythe, who will become commanding general of Ft. Benning, Ga.

Born in Manchester, Ky., in 1917, General Roberts is a graduate of Eastern Kentucky State College and the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, Class of 1943. During World War II, he served with the 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, as a company commander, regimental operations officer and battalion commander. During this time he made combat jumps into Normandy and Holland and participated in five major campaigns including the historic Battle of Bastogne.

A graduate of the Command and General Staff College (1950), the Armed Forces Staff College (1954) and the U.S. Army War College (1959), General Roberts has served as Assistant Secretary of General Staff, Office of the Chief of Staff, Washington; Chief, Plans, Organization and Military Assistance Program Division, Army Advisory Group, Teheran, Iran; and Commander, 1st Airborne Battle Group, 506th Infantry, Ft. Campbell, Ky.

From January 1963 to May 1965, General Roberts served as Chief of Staff of the 11th Air Assault Division at Ft. Benning, which tested the airmobile con-

cept that led to the creation of the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile).

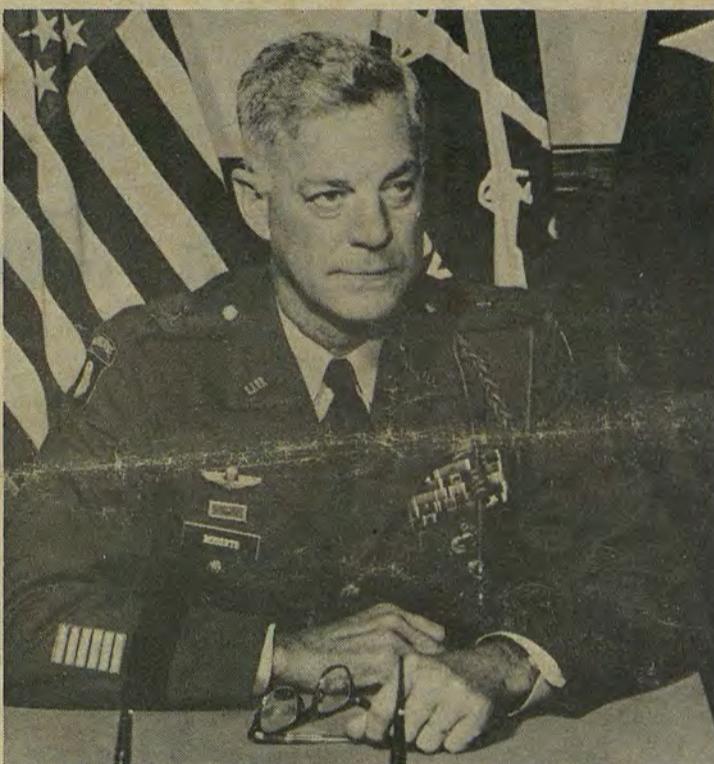
MG Roberts was assigned to Vietnam in 1965 with the 1st Cav

and commanded its 1st Airborne Brigade in the battles against the Viet Cong in the central highlands from June 1965 to March 1966.

In March 1966, he was assigned as Secretary of the Joint Staff, MACV. After a tour of duty as Deputy Commanding General of the Training Center at Ft. Jackson, S.C., General Roberts returned to Vietnam in June 1968 as Assistant Commander of the 9th Infantry Division, in the Mekong Delta. He was then reassigned as Deputy Chief of Staff (Plans and Operations), USARV.

General Roberts has earned numerous awards and decorations, including the Silver Star for gallantry in the Bong Son Operation, the Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Purple Heart, Combat Infantryman Badge with Star, Vietnamese Distinguished Service Medal, and Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm. An aviator and parachutist, he also holds the Vietnamese Master Parachutist's Badge.

General Roberts' wife and their three children reside in Columbia, S.C.



MG E. B. Roberts



(U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY SP4 Harry R. McNulty)

A Time To Relax

Skytroopers from Battery C, 1st/77th Artillery get acquainted to a pair of lovely Red Cross 'Donut Dollies' during a relaxing game session on an isolated Cav LZ.



(Editor's Note: "Cav Coverage," a new department in the CAVALAIR, will feature excerpts from articles about the division which have appeared in news media back home. This week we are pleased to reprint a portion of "The Ice Cream Man Is Loaded for Cong," written by Associated Press correspondent John T. Wheeler.)

"As the intensity of the Vietnam war swirled higher and higher, more than one U.S. infantry commander predicted more powerful enemy firepower would push the glamorous but frail helicopter into a minor military role.

"The theory was that the extremely vulnerable choppers could never stand up to the enemy units equipped with massed heavy machine guns and flak cannons aimed by radar.

"But the helicopter proved itself more than capable of serving in the third or conventional stage of the insurgency here. Textbooks on tactics, U.S. senior officers say, must be rewritten to give the helicopter increasing importance in warfare.

"The U.S. Command estimates that the helicopters in Vietnam have given allied infantrymen such mobility that if they were withdrawn it would require one million added triggerpullers in Vietnam to do the same job.

"A major reason our negotiators in Paris have a strong hand in bargaining for peace with the Communists is because of the helicopter," a senior officer of the 1st Air Cavalry Division says. This division has more helicopter muscle than any other in Vietnam. It uses them with a precision and a backing of massive firepower that, in the opinion of several officers who have served here during both the 'little war' (of the early 1960s) and the 'big war' days, it is safer to be in helicopter units now than at any time in the past five years of war.

"The Air Cavalry was an experimental unit based around the helicopter and sent to Vietnam to prove experimental tactics. It often has been said that if the Spanish Civil War was the proving ground of modern air power and armor, Vietnam has provided the crucible for the helicopter.

"A major watershed for helicopter warfare came last spring when the 1st Cav assaulted into the A Shau Valley. . . .

"The chopper had proved it could survive in as hostile an environment as any it now seems likely to meet in Vietnam.

"Pioneered by the 1st Air Cavalry, the 'Cav of the Cav' concept has been expanded to cover all U.S. Army divisions. In the Cav the job is carried out by a mixed helicopter and infantry battalion that forms the eyes of the division. One outfit wears crossed sabers to show their military descent from the U.S. horse cavalry troops which once roamed the American West.

"The Cav has become far more sophisticated about its work. Scouting has enabled the division and others using the same techniques to cover vast areas. . . . Now 1st Cav pilots are as alert for drying clothes or stray chickens in the jungle vastness as they are for the sight of enemy soldiers. Many successful military operations have been launched on the basis of an incautious enemy trooper or two who washed out fatigues and set them to dry in the sun."



I don't want to grind a subject into the ground, but there are still a few more things which should be covered concerning discharge and reenlistment.

Remember, we have two types of discharge; Convenience of the Government (commonly referred to as COG or "short" discharge), and discharge on Expiration of Term of Service (ETS).

Let's talk a bit about discharge and reenlistment at ETS. In addition to the Regular Reenlistment Bonus, you are also entitled to the Variable Reenlistment Bonus, if this is your first reenlistment for bonus purposes and provided the VRB is otherwise payable.

Those of you who are discharged and reenlist at ETS are entitled to travel pay to your last place of enlistment or to home of record. Travel pay is payable for up to 60 days accrued leave.

If at the time of reenlistment you have 60 or less days of accrued leave, you may either elect to carry all the leave forward to your new enlistment, or to receive cash payment for the accrued leave.

On the other hand, if you have more than 60 days accrued leave, you have a different situation. All the leave may be carried forward to the new enlistment, or you may receive cash payment for up to 60 days leave and the remainder must be carried forward to your new enlistment.

On a short discharge, there is no entitlement to travel pay. An individual may not elect to be paid for accrued leave. The leave is not lost, but it must be carried forward to the new enlistment.

It is not possible to include in a newspaper article all details to fit every circumstance. I usually find, to some degree, that each individual has a different situation. Feel free to stop by and see me at any one of the Cav's reenlistment locations. You can get the information to figure out a plan for your situation!



The following awards were received by Skytroopers of the 1st Air Cavalry Division:

SILVER STAR
ARCHIBALD, CPT David J. Co D, 229th Avn Bn.

BUCHHEISTER, SGT
William Co B, 2nd Bn, 5th Cav.

DERDA, PFC James M. Co C, 1st Bn, 5th Cav.
GERHARDS, 1LT William F. Co C, 5th Bn, 7th Cav.

HAYNES, SGT Charles W. Co B, 1st Bn, 5th Cav.
HENDRIKSON, 1LT Jon O. Co B, 2nd Bn, 21st Cav.

JOHNSON, SP4 James H. Co B, 1st Bn, 5th Cav.

LIZARRAGA, SGT Michael W. Co D, 1st Bn, 7th Cav.

MEAGER, CPT Robert C. Co C, 2nd Bn, 7th Cav.

MILLIRONS, MAJ James H. Co D, 229th Avn Bn.

RYAN, 1LT Ronald L. Co C, 2nd Bn, 7th Cav.

Awards



SNYDER, PFC Robert W. Co C, 1st Bn, 5th Cav.

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

ADAMS, LTC Pritchard G. JR. HHC, 1st Bn, 8th Cav.

CORNWELL, LTC William E. HHC, 15th T. C.

DYSINGER, COL William C. HHC & Band, Sup Com.

HOOVER, SGT Thomas Co C, 1st Bn, 5th Cav.

JAMES, WO1 Kenneth B. Troop B, 1st Sqdn, 9th Cav.

LOFTIN, SGT Teddy C. Troop B, 1st Sqdn, 9th Cav.

MACKIN, CW-2 Robert V. HHC, 2nd Bde.

MARTIN, WO-1 Ray E. Battery A, 2nd Bn, 20th Arty.

SCHULTZ, WO-1 Ronald H. Co B, 229th Avn Bn.

TUCKER, MAJ Jimmy G. 11th GS Avn Co., 11th Avn Gp.

WEIGIE, PFC Thomas H. Troop B, 1st Sqdn, 9th Cav.

WINFREY, SP5 Raymond M. HHC, 2nd Bde.

BRONZE STAR MEDAL

WITH "V"

BROVARSKIM, SGT Walter P. Co B, 2nd Bn, 12th Cav.

MCCALLUM, PFC Peter J. Co B, 1st Bn, 5th Cav.

MILLER, SP4 Keith N. Co A, 2nd Bn, 12th Cav.

OSTERHOUTE, SP4 James E. Co B, 2nd Bn, 12th Cav.

SILVANIC, SP4 Michael Co B, 2nd Bn, 12th Cav.

SIMMONS, SP4 Richard Co B, 5th Bn, 7th Cav.

SMITH, SP4 Barney S. Co B, 2nd Bn, 12th Cav.

ST. CLAIR, SGT Elisha R. Co B, 2nd Bn, 12th Cav.

WEST, SP5 Kieh Co B, 2nd Bn, 12th Cav.

WILSON, SSG William W. Co. B, 2nd 12th Cav.

WOOD, SP4 Edward L. Co B, 2nd Bn, 12th Cav.

Gen. Abrams Lauds 1st/8th

TAY NINH — As the sun beat down on an isolated fire support base 20 miles from here, the MACV Commander and Commanding General of USARV, General Creighton Abrams, took time to laud THE FIRST TEAM for its conduct in III Corps during the post-Tet offensive.

After presenting the 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry with a Presidential Unit Citation, General Abrams said, "While I'm here, I'd like to take a few minutes to tell General Forsythe, and through him, all the men of the 1st Cav, what an absolutely

Play Hard, Be Careful

PHUOC VINH — Many preventable injuries to military personnel are incurred while playing sports such as baseball, basketball, and volleyball.

Volleyball is not normally considered to be a contact sport, but volleyball, Cav-style, is an exception to this rule. Disabling injuries, particularly jammed fingers and sprains, are not uncommon. These injuries are usually caused by contact at the net, when players try to "spike" the ball down the throats of their opponents.

Game rules for volleyball call for a court measuring 30 by 60 feet, a net stretched between two posts so the top of the net is exactly eight feet high, and no more than six players on a team. Sometimes as many as twelve men play on a team at the same time. The court is often much smaller than standard size and, for the lack of a better playing area, the surface of the court is often uneven terrain with hazards right next to the out-of-bounds lines. The net is varied in height, increasing the number of spiked balls. These courts, conditions around the courts, and the large number of players set the stage for more contact, falls, and injuries.

Let's not make THE FIRST TEAM first in non-combat injuries!

magnificent job you have been and are doing since you came down here to III Corps in October and early November.

"Since your arrival, you've played a key role in this whole fight that's gone on here for the last few months.

"You worked the enemy over while he was preparing for this, you worked him over while he was working towards it, and then you jumped on him before he could kick it off.

"The 1st Cav, of course, has special characteristics. Its equipment, its helicopters, that

sort of thing. But the most impressive thing that this division's got is not the helicopters. It's the spirit of the division and the spirit of the men who are in it. I want to congratulate you all."

General Abrams' remarks were drowned out on several occasions by the pounding of 105mm howitzers firing in support of troops several miles from LZ White. As his helicopter faded over the horizon the firing seemed to grow in intensity. For the men of THE FIRST TEAM the war still raged on.

Keeps You In Touch

If you want to keep in touch with the guys you've met in Vietnam, the best way to do it is through a membership in the 1st Cavalry Division Association.

Founded in 1944 in the Admiralty Islands, the Association was incorporated in 1949 as a non-profit fraternal veterans organization. The Association seeks to preserve friendships formed in battle and perpetuate the Cav's tradition and esprit de corps. Moreover, it is dedicated to the honor of cavalrymen who have given their lives in the defense of our country.

The Cav Association also provides scholarships to dependents of men killed or disabled while serving with the division.

A lifetime membership costs only eleven dollars (a single membership fee with no subsequent dues) and includes a lifetime subscription to the Association's newsletter, a volume of the division's history and a membership directory, plus Cav decals, insignia cards and pins.

In addition, Skytroopers scheduled to DEROs between now and mid-August will want to attend the Association's annual reunion, to be held August 22 through 24 at Ft. Benning, Ga. Major General George I. Forsythe, former commanding general of the Cav and now commanding general of Ft. Benning, will host the upcoming convention.



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

Commanding General	MG Elvy B. Roberts
Information Officer	MAJ J.D. Coleman
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Production Editor	SP5 Al Garcia
Layout Editor	SP5 Allan Schlosser



(U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY SFC Peter DeGard)

Mother Hen

A Cobra gunship keeps a watchful eye on an LOH during a scout mission in the 1st Cav's area of operations. The gunships are also an integral part of the division's trademark—The Combat Assault.

Courtesy Patrol Present To Help Soldiers Enjoy Plaza

LAI KHE — They are not the Military Police whose job it is to enforce regulations and arrest those who do not obey. Neither are they there to find hostile agents or blackmarket activities. Simply, the job of the 2nd Brigade Courtesy Patrol is to help the troops enjoy themselves.

The Courtesy Patrol's area of operations is the Lai Khe Plaza, a Vietnamese village located in one corner of the 1st Infantry Division's base camp at Lai Khe. Open to the soldiers at Lai Khe from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., the Plaza offers some 25 restaurants, bars, massage parlors, and curio shops.

Employing over 550 Vietnamese civilians, the Plaza was established in 1967 for the morale of the troops. The Cav's Blackhorse Brigade moved into Lai Khe in March, 1969, and shortly

thereafter, Skytroopers began to join the soldiers of the BIG RED ONE in sampling the pleasures of the Plaza.

The Courtesy Patrol, composed of two senior NCO's, reports to the brigade S-1 at 11 a.m. each morning. There, they receive a short briefing from Captain Samuel R. Reinart.

"You are the eyes and ears of the unit commanders. Your job is to suggest—and to help. You are a Courtesy Patrol, which is just what the name implies."

The tour begins as the patrol moves from place to place in the Plaza, never stopping for long at any one location. They are available if a Skytrooper should need or want assistance.

"It is kind of a boring job," says Staff Sergeant William L. Miller, "but it does something for the soldiers in the Plaza. They know we are there if we are needed."

1st Brigade Aids Viet Kids

TAY NINH — "You have come here to rid our country of the Communist aggressors and you have helped us develop our country. I thank you, the people of Vietnam thank you." These words of Major Nguyen Van Mach, District Chief of Tay Ninh District, echoed throughout a small building as the Cav and the 1st Philippine Civic Action Group dedicated hygienic facilities at the Co Nghi Vien Orphanage.

The two month project was recently completed and dedicated at a formal ceremony on March 26.

The new sanitation facilities are part of an over-all plan to improve conditions at the orphanage.

In appreciation for the proj-

ect, gifts of wall plaques depicting Vietnamese life were bestowed upon officials participating in the ceremony.

Towards the close of the ceremony, the Vietnamese orphans dressed in gaily colored clothes and sang and danced for their audience. Refreshments were also served.

Present at the ceremony were Colonel Joseph P. Kingston, 1st Brigade commander; Colonel Ruben A. Jose, deputy commander of the 1st Philippine Civic Action Group; and Major Richard Browning, 1st Brigade Civil Affairs officer.

More civil affairs projects are planned for the orphanage, but this ceremony attested to the interest of the Cav in the well-being of Tay Ninh's orphans.

You Better Believe It!!!

Gunship Escorts Vital To Combat Assaults

By SP4 George Vindedzis

LAI KHE — The buzzer rings and someone shouts "Scramble!" The pilots and co-pilots of the Huey Cobras drop whatever they're doing and dash to their "Snakes." Within seconds the blades are whirling and the Cobras of Company D, 227th Assault Helicopter Battalion are off on another "Scramble Mission."

The pilots and co-pilots of Company D get up at 6 a.m. and eat chow. After chow the co-pilots go to their pad and make a pre-flight check of their Cobras while the pilots go to the S-3 (operations) to check on missions.

"We don't have a schedule to follow," said Warrant Officer William R. McQuilkin. "We're more or less on stand-by."

Company D's Cobras, stationed at Lai Khe, base camp of the "Blackhorse" Brigade, are

organized into three sections. One section flies from morning until noon and on occasion, longer. Section Two is on stand-by alert. Section Three is on evening alert and flies "last light recon."

"Sometimes we fly all day and eat C's while in flight, depending on the mission," said WO McQuilkin. "Earlier, during the current offensive, we flew from 3 a.m. to 6 p.m."

In the afternoon, the first or second section flies combat assault missions. "Our primary job is supporting 'slicks' (troop-carrying helicopters)," said Mr. McQuilkin. "In my opinion, it would be very hard for the slicks to operate without the support of our gunships."

Before a combat assault a Cobra recon the area by fire, checking for possible enemy positions, wind direction, and the

best approach routes. Then the Cobras establish communications with the slicks and relay the information. The combat assault is then made into the LZ (landing zone) while the Cobras place suppressive fire around the LZ.

Besides supporting combat assaults the Cobras escort Huey LOG (logistics) birds and the larger supply ships, CH-47 Chinooks. These are referred to as ASAP (as soon as possible) missions. The aircraft commander goes to the S-3, is briefed and makes communications with the Chinook already in the air.

The Cobra pilots often receive their mission through ground-to-air communication. When the buzzer rings for a scramble mission, the third section's pilots and co-pilots dash to their Cobras and, when in the air, their operations section makes ground-to-air communication and informs them of their mission. Scramble missions consist of technical emergencies such as downed aircraft, Medevac, mortar patrol and resupply missions.

The "last light recon," which the third section also covers, consists of a light observation helicopter, Scoutbird, that flies at treetop level seeking out the enemy while a Cobra flies at a higher altitude and backs the Scout.

By supporting slicks, CH-47 Chinooks, LOH Scouts, and grunts, the Huey Cobras have proven to be very valuable and very busy for the Cav.

"You might say our day is never complete," said the pilot.

Cav's SGT Rock Wins Second Silver Star

By 1LT Bill DiMascio

TAY NINH — Sergeant Rock is a stage name which conjures up images of John Wayne, Burt Lancaster, Lee Marvin and a few others. But in the 1st the pseudonym is aptly applied to Sergeant First Class Joseph Musial.

The 15-year Army veteran, now on his second voluntary tour with the 1st Cav, is the reconnaissance platoon sergeant for the 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry. He volunteered to come back to Vietnam because he thought the knowledge gained during his first tour would be a great asset to the new men.

"I wanted to help in whatever way possible," he said, "to get these men home safely."

Although initially assigned to Company D, the unit with which he served his first tour, SFC Musial was later transferred to Company E. Here the sergeant puts his combat experience to good use.

Valor awards, like the Oscars earned by his Hollywood counterparts, are another indication of SFC Musial's performance in combat. He has been awarded two Silver Stars, three Bronze Stars, the Army Commendation Medal (once for valor) and three Purple Hearts.

His second Silver Star was presented recently in recognition of his actions during a sapper attack at Landing Zone White, his battalion's forward base camp.

The 34-year-old Chicagoan risked his life several times during an intense mortar attack while assisting three wounded comrades. After taking care of them, SFC Musial made a check of his platoon's area, all the while exposing himself to the incoming rounds. As he was doing this, he spotted three NVA soldiers outside the perimeter berm throwing satchel charges and grenades at the bunkers. He jumped the berm and fired on the trio with his M-16, killing two instantly. The third managed to throw a grenade at the NCO. Always alert, SFC Musial dodged the explosion and fin-

ished off the aggressor with another burst of fire.

The six-foot-four sergeant was not always in the infantry. His first Army assignment was in the artillery and then he spent some time as a cook. Although his mess hall days did little to support the image of SGT Rock, they at least proved his versatility. After all, even John Wayne makes an occasional picture as a Marine.



SGT Rock

(U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY SP4 Bud McLean)
SFC Joseph Musial salutes BG Frank Meszar after the assistant division commander pinned the Silver Star on the NCO

Garry Owen Initiation Trial of Fun and Frolic

PHUOC VINH—A "Rotor Blast," the traditional initiation of officers assigned to the 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry, was held recently at Camp Gorvad.

Fourteen officers were inducted, including the battalion's commander, Lieutenant Colonel Guinn E. Unger. Brigadier General Frank Meszar, assistant division commander, was awarded an honorary membership.

Each initiate had to undergo rigorous "mental" and "physical" testing, ranging from impersonating an 8-inch howitzer to engaging an opponent with shaving cream and raw eggs.

The final phase of the ceremony was highlighted by the drinking of the "Exotic Elixir," a potent and infamous brew whose exact ingredients are a battalion secret. Each officer signed the official roster and then received the Garry Owen crest and the battalion's crossed sabers insignia.

The ceremony was concluded with the singing of "Sergeant Flynn," the traditional song of the 7th Cavalry, from whose chorus is derived the name "Garry Owen" Brigade.

Photos By SP4 Chris Dean



Part of the "physical" phase of the program was the ancient and highly-skilled art of egg-throwing.



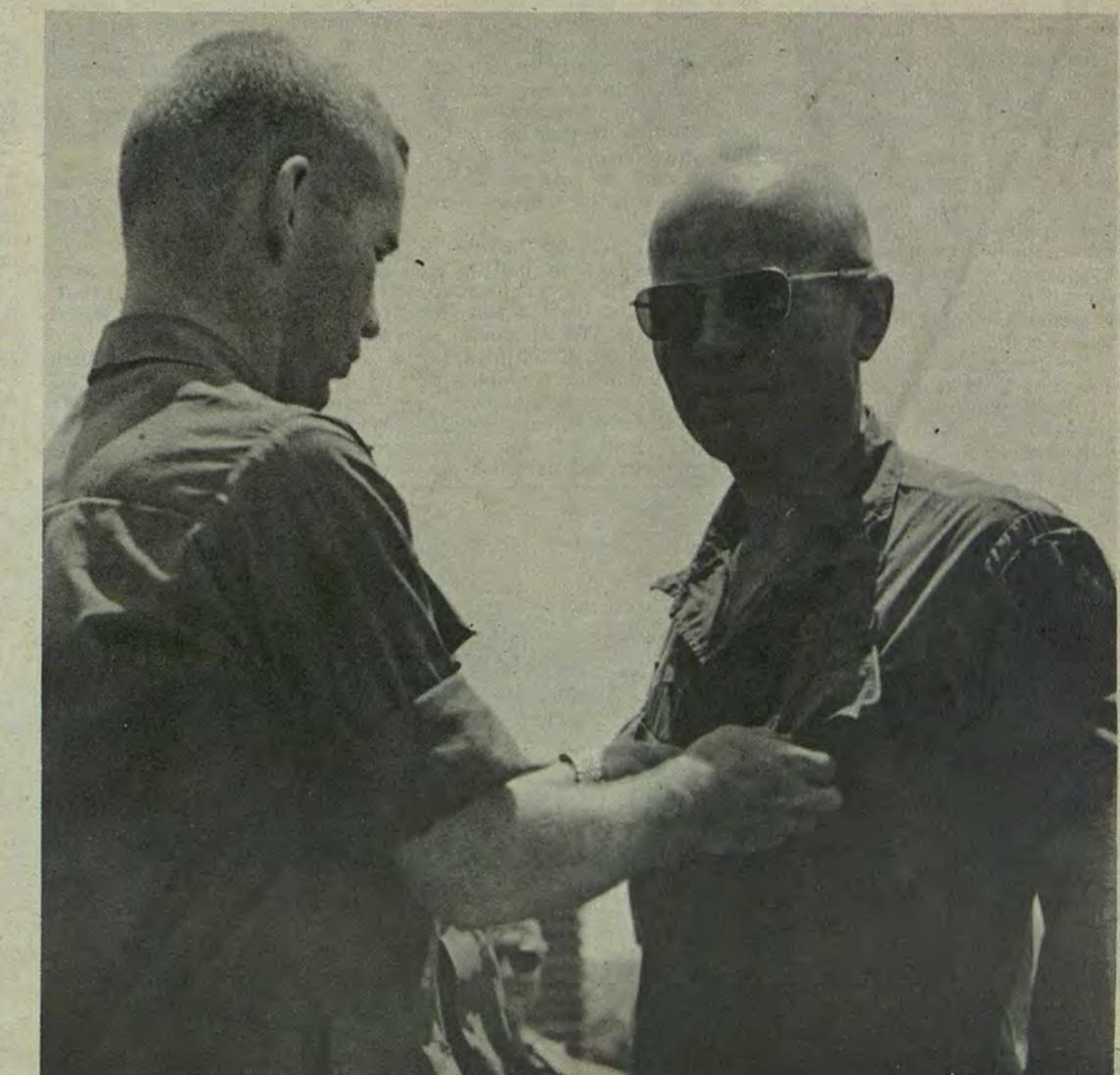
As part of the taxing "mental" phase of the initiation, 1st Lieutenant Vernon Elmore gives his hearty impersonation of an 8-inch howitzer firing maximum charge.



"Are you there, Moriarity?" Captain Richard Stilwell, battalion adjutant, smashes a forearm blow to the head of Captain Bobby Jackson. One player asks the question, his opponent answers "Yes, right here," and the curious participant tries to smack his adversary with a rolled newspaper.



Giving each other haircuts was part of the rigid schedule for 1st Lieutenant Douglas Brusseau and 2nd Lieutenant Joseph Hogan, Jr.



Lieutenant Colonel Guinn E. Unger, commander of 1/7th Cav, receives the Garry Owen Crest at the conclusion of the Rotor Blast.

Charlie's Propaganda Teams Aiming Leaflets at Skytroops

QUAN LOI — The 1st Cav, after only a few months of fighting in its new area of operations, has won special recognition from the enemy in the form of its own "personalized" propaganda leaflet.

Skytroopers in the 2nd Brigade area have been finding enemy propaganda scattered across the countryside. At least one leaflet is addressed to the division and encourages wholesale defection to North Vietnam. The leaflet further propagandizes that the division's move to the South was motivated by a "plot" against the individual soldiers and the entire division by General Creighton Abrams and the members of the 1st and 25th Infantry Divisions.

It further assures readers that almost every one of the division's more than 400 aircraft have been destroyed and most of the division's 20,000 men have been annihilated.

Other leaflets found are equally farfetched. "When you are in a cross fire, lay down your arms and give yourself up . . . your life will be spared," intones one. Another leaflet, supposedly written by a captured serviceman, is extremely ungrammatical in construction. The writer claims to be a corporal, which he can't spell; and later in the letter he uses phrases such as "puppet clique," "struggle for freedom and equality," and "Liberation Zone." In still another leaflet, a "captured" propagandist claims

to have survived an attack in which his rear area, noncombatant unit was "wiped out."

All of the leaflets encourage the Americans to "Chieu Hoi" to the other side.

Why has the division been singled out for this dubious honor? According to the 2nd Brigade's Assistant S-2, Captain Herbert E. Barnes, it is "because we in the Cav have inflicted tremendous losses upon the enemy's men, materials, and morale. The number of combat troops they have lost in battles against us ranges into the thousands . . . and they continue to lose more. We have taken his food, his weapons too, by the ton. And we have left him a poorly equipped soldier with a badly mauled morale. The NVA have to do something to counter this. Unable to cope with our airmobility, they have tried to get at the ultimate weapon — the individual soldier.

"What they are apparently trying to do is create dissension here based upon what a few pacifist groups — peaceniks — have been doing back in the world. Often times, Charlie is pretty smart, but in this case his stupidity is showing. It is evident to me that the so-called 'captured soldiers' didn't write the letters. At least one of the alleged letter writers I understand to be dead, and the others may or may not actually exist. Furthermore, the handwriting is basically the same in all of the letters, and the language is alien to what an average soldier would use.

"I doubt though that the man in the field — the 'grunt' or anyone else for that matter, could be taken in by this type of propaganda because we are a people that think for themselves. After all . . . what could the backward country of North Vietnam possibly offer me? I'm an American."

1st/9th 'Blues' Give Enemy Troops Blisters

By SP4 Richard Craig

TAY NINH — Many North Vietnamese soldiers will soon be wearing holes in their Ho Chi Minh sandals thanks to the "Blues" of Troop A, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry.

When First Lieutenant Robert B. Alexander and his infantry platoon were inserted, they had no knowledge they were walking through an NVA regimental base camp.

When they discovered a fully equipped bicycle factory, complete with 75 bicycles in various stages of assembly, they knew they had found something big.

Shortly after arriving, the lead element began finding bunkers showing signs of recent occupation. Moving further down the trail, they found three enemy mess halls, a rest area, ten hootches, and the bicycle factory.

"When we blew up the bicycle factory, we knew we had tipped the enemy off as to our location, so we decided we'd better get out fast," said 1LT Alexander.

As they moved out of the area, the Cav unit made contact with an estimated enemy platoon.

"We returned a heavy volume of fire," said LT Alexander, "and maneuvered our four ma-

chine guns around to catch the enemy in a cross-fire. When they saw us coming, they broke contact and ran, leaving one of their dead behind."

The cavalrymen then flanked each side of the trail and began moving towards a clearing, from which they hoped to be extracted.

As they walked down the sides of the trail, they could see what appeared to be a reinforced enemy platoon setting up an ambush.

"This time," said the young lieutenant, "we got the jump on them. We called in ARA (aerial rocket artillery) and air strikes, which both proved to be highly effective. We killed three of them and the air strikes were right on top of them."

The enemy then withdrew and must have felt somewhat more secure as the 1st Air Cavalrymen were extracted.

But later that night, the enemy's sense of security was shattered as B-52 bombs plastered their position.

As 1LT Alexander said later, "I attribute our success to overwhelming fire superiority. We really did a job on them. All in all, I'd say it was a very successful mission."



(U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY SP4 Terry Moon)

Pleasant Surprise

AFVN-TV Weather Girl Bobbie Keith chats with SGT Ralph J. Lieb while the Bubbling Bundle of Barometric Brilliance was touring Cav Country.

Cav Medevac Unit Reaches Milestone In Evacuation

PHUOC VINH — Since September of 1965, when the 1st Cav first arrived in Vietnam, over two full divisions of wounded American soldiers, 40,000 men, have been lifted to safety by 1st Cav Medevac teams.

The 40,000th patient to be Medevaced, Sergeant Ralph Lieb, a mechanic with Headquarters Company, 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, was picked up on April 23rd and carried to one of the wards of the 15th Medical Battalion at Camp Gorvad. Sergeant Lieb was cleaning a generator when he received a flash burn on his right leg. In no time at all, a Medevac bird was there and on its way back carrying the patient.

"I had no idea I would be treated like some sort of celebrity by getting hurt," said Sergeant Lieb. "One of the biggest surprises was when Bobbie, the AFVN-TV Weather Girl came to visit me. That doesn't happen everyday in Vietnam."

Medevac teams are a part of

the 1st Cav's 15th Medical Battalion, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Guthrie L. Turner. The main purpose of the battalion is the evacuation of wounded patients.

Captain Robert T. Wood, the air ambulance platoon leader said, "We have 12 helicopters operating from Camp Gorvad, Tay Ninh and Quan Loi. We send choppers from whatever installation is closest. We do not limit our services to soldiers in the 1st Cav either; we help out any unit who needs it."

"To be certain that everyone is sure to get proper medical treatment when it is needed, our pilots are all qualified medics. Sixty per cent of them are expert medics. This way we always have people in reserve in case the regular medics who fly along in the aircraft need assistance. In any case the Medevac teams are just another added feature in the 1st Cav's concept of airmobility."



(U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY SSG John Wilson)

Weeding Out Charlie

Company C, 2/5th Cav prepares to sweep suspected enemy positions during an operation near LZ Jess, a new firebase north of Tay Ninh.

When it was over, SSG Mills was as surprised as everybody else. "I don't think I'll ever know why I did it," he said. "I'm usually a lot more cautious than that. I just don't know what got into me."



Why Don't You Take Me Out?

The reason is very simple, Claudia honey. I have to have a minimum of 25 combat assaults to get my air medal and I'm still lacking 5. As soon as I get the rest, we'll paint the town red. OK? Oh, by the way. If any of you Skytroopers have the necessary CA's for the award, give Miss Car-dinale a call. She can't wait around forever, you know.

Cough Drop, Frag Proves Fatal To Communist Cold Patient

TAY NINH — A cough drop and a grenade have very little in common. But recently a Skytrooper proved that when you mix the two it can cure anything that ails an enemy soldier.

"We were on a five-man observation post," stated Sergeant Warren Hurst, a platoon sergeant with Company C, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry. "We were set up on a trail and the remainder of the company was about 200 meters to our rear."

After an hour or so the company spotted about 10 NVA soldiers walking along the river bank heading the direction of the observation post. One of the enemy soldiers was carrying a 60mm mortar. The enemy quickly cut back into the thick brush before the company could react.

A few minutes passed and the company began to receive small arms fire and they quickly called for a gunship and di-

rected its fire toward the bamboo thickets where the enemy soldiers were dug in.

"We low crawled about 50 meters," stated SGT Hurst. "We were trying to get as much distance between us and the enemy as possible and at the same time make it back to the company."

They finally made it back to the area where the company had its forward operations base for the night. But then the observation team was faced with a small problem — how to make it back in without getting shot by their own people.

No sooner did they think about it than Specialist Four Patrick Cuffery, better known as "Irish" to his friends, came up with the idea of singing their way back. "We made it back to the night position without any casualties," stated SP4 Cuffery. "We just made it back inside the perimeter when we heard the advance of the enemy out to our front and a trip flare went off. We immediately opened up and got four of the enemy soldiers."

Everything quieted down for a while and then suddenly a satchel charge was thrown in the area where the Skytroopers had a machine gun position.

"The charge was way off," stated Specialist Four Frieto Oquendo, a machine gunner with the company. "We could not see where it came from so we just held our 'cool' for awhile."

A few minutes passed and the cavalrymen heard some coughing out to their front. Being the complete gentlemen that they are known for, SP4 Oquendo quickly tossed a cough drop out to the front for the individual that was suffering. But he also tossed a fragmentation grenade to make sure that it would take care of the NVA's health problems.

Needless to say there was no more coughing for the rest of the night. Next morning the Skytroopers sent out a patrol and found five NVA soldiers, three AK-47's, one SKS rifle, and one light machine gun.

Chuck's Life Miserable Thanks To Skytroopers

By SP4 George Vindedzis

LAI KHE — Suddenly the eerie jungle sounds were silenced by the loud "Whump! Whump! Whump!" of enemy mortars. Men scrambled into their bunkers and peered to the front, expecting a ground attack. An ambush element from the 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry spotted movement, blew their claymores, and went to their company fire base.

The jungle once again quieted except for the occasional artillery rounds beating the outskirts of the perimeter. The soldiers of the 1st Cav slept little. Their tension made the night seem endless. When movement was heard, frags (fragmentation grenades) would pound the area.

As the sun rose, the jungle once again came to life and whispered sighs of relief could be heard. At first light, a "trick or treat" (reconnaissance) patrol moved out to search the contact area. The artillery and small arms fire which poured from the men of the company

during the night had not entirely discouraged the enemy. An enemy ambush opened up on the patrol. AK-47's slightly wounded two Skytroopers, the patrol regrouped, and artillery pounded the area. Later in the morning, tactical air strikes hit the area.

After the air strikes, the company of the Cav's 2nd Brigade packed up and continued their reconnaissance-in-force mission through the jungle. The company was divided in half as two columns with two point squads moved parallel to each other through the impact area.

One of the point squads was stopped when it came upon an unconscious NVA soldier. Wounded in the leg by flying shrapnel, the enemy had been deserted by his company when the air strikes hit the area. Five Skytroopers encircled the NVA. When he came to, he was staring into five M-16 muzzles. The frightened soldier immediately began moaning "Chieu Hoi! Chieu Hoi!"

A Cav medic dressed the enemy soldier's leg and then made a poncho litter. The wounded man was carried 300 meters through the jungle until a pickup zone was found from which he could be medevaced.

Meanwhile, the remainder of the company found a total of four NVA casualties. Three had been killed by small arms fire during the night's contact and one died from the air strikes. A further search revealed three enemy bunkers, seven bicycles, one B-40 rocket launcher, and two AK-47's.

The Cav was once again making itself felt.

Cav Ass'n Pix Contest

Having noted that approximately one out of two Skytroopers has a camera and takes snapshots—many of them WHERE THE ACTION IS—the 1st Cavalry Division Association is announcing a photo contest within THE FIRST TEAM, with prizes of \$100, \$50, and \$25 for amateur snapshots submitted in print form.

Each print should be accompanied (do not write on the print or on the back of the print) by a caption sheet to include:

Name and military address of the owner.

Date and place where the picture was taken.

Brief description of the action pictured.

Selection for prizes will be made by a Committee of the Association based on snapshots best exemplifying the spirit and mobility of THE FIRST TEAM.

All submissions become the property of the Association. Each will be acknowledged. Awards will be forwarded through the SKYTROOPER CHAPTER of the Association in Vietnam. Winning entries will be published in the 1st Cavalry Association newspaper SABER and in the CAVALAIR.

The initial contest closes July 31, 1969, at Albuquerque. Prints should be mailed not later than 15 July to allow for mailing time.

Address: 1st CAV DIV ASSN, Box 11201, Albuquerque, NM 87112.



(U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

Welcome to the Cav

Congressional Representatives Catherine D. May (R-Wash.) and Graham Purcell (D-Tex.) arrive at Phuoc Vinh for a tour of the 1st Air Cavalry Division. Greeting the government constituents is 1st Lieutenant S.E. Lawrence, division protocol officer.

2/8th Skytrooper Nearly Loses Head Over Underwater Bridge

By SP4 Bob Smith

TAY NINH — Bridges are normally used to span stretches of water. But recently, Skytroopers found another type of bridge, an underwater bridge.

The men from Company B, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry were conducting recon patrols along a river bank when they discovered a small enemy bunker complex on the other side of the river.

The point man for the patrol found a likely place where they might cross the river. As he looked at the river's edge, he noticed a length of communication wire running out of the water. When he pulled on it he discovered it was being used as a marker for an underwater bridge. He immediately contacted the command post of his discovery.

"As the main party of the company made it up to the water's edge, a sniper opened up on us," stated Specialist Four Cleveland Bryant. "We opened

up on the suspected sniper position but failed to get him. We pulled back about 200 meters, put out our security and started to set up our night defense."

The following morning the Skytroopers sent out another patrol about 300 or 400 meters east of the first bridge and found a second underwater bridge. The patrol quickly alerted the company of this additional find.

"We were going to cross the bridge under the cover of smoke," recalled SP4 Bryant. "I was halfway across the bridge where there was no smoke and I started drawing sniper fire. I was running to cover on the other side of the river when one of our machine gunners opened up, firing about a foot over my head. That must have been enough to keep the sniper down until I reached the other side. One thing I have to say for the machine gunner is that he had to have his 'stuff in order' when he fired like that."

The enemy sniper left the area as the rest of the company crossed the river. After they moved about 100 meters along the river bank they were hit again by sniper fire. The Skytroopers quickly ran for the cover of the river's edge.

"We finally made it to yesterday's position but were still drawing sniper fire," stated Sergeant Leeirly Libby. "We circled behind the snipers and watched for any movement in the area. We spotted four enemy soldiers and, at the same time, they detected us. We opened up and dropped them in their positions."

Looking back on his experience, SP4 Bryant added, "If I ever have to cross another bridge I hope I have the same machine gunner covering me. But truthfully, it won't bother me in the least if I never have to do it again. All I remember at the time are the tracers going over my head."

