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1st Air Cavalry Division

February 11, 1970

Promoted . .



Brigadier General George W. Casey, left, congratulates Colonel Morris J. Brady, commander of the 1st Cavalry Division Artillery (DIVARTY), on his recent promotion to Colonel. COL Morris is serving his second tour with the Cav's DIVARTY in Vietnam.

DivArty Commander Promoted to Colonel

PHUOC VINH — Colonel Morris J. Brady, commander of the 1st Air Cavalry's Division Artillery (DIVARTY), was promoted from Lieutenant Colonel in ceremonies here.

Brigadier General George W. Casey, Deputy Division Commander, pinned the eagle insignia of rank on Colonel Brady's collar at Division Headquarters.

Colonel Brady was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in Field Artillery in 1948. A graduate of the University of Omaha with a degree in business administration, he received a Master of Science degree in international affairs from George

Washington University and has attended several military schools, including the Command and General Staff College and the Aerial Warfare College.

Colonel Brady is also a senior Army aviator, qualified in both fixed wing and helicopter aircraft. He is serving his second tour with the Cav's DIVARTY in Vietnam, having previously been executive officer and battalion commander of 2nd Battalion, 20th Artillery (ARA) and DIVARTY S-3 after coming to Vietnam with the Cav in 1965.

He is married and the father of two children, Colonel Brady's family resides in Alexandria, Va.

In Buttons Tower

Bells Are Ringing

By SP4 Ron Wright

FSB BUTTONS—If you hear bells on Fire Support Base Buttons, it doesn't mean you're suffering from combat fatigue or shell shock.

It's the 1st Air Cav chaplain's reminder that Sunday is here again.

The 2nd Brigade chapel is the proud owner of a new bell and belfry, probably the only such structure on a forward firebase in Cav Country.

The bell, a donation from the men of the 2nd Brigade, is housed in a 10-foot belfry, built by carpenters of the 8th Engineers.

(See picture, page 2)

"The bell tower is an added touch of home here on the firebase," explained Major Eugene Allen, 2nd Brigade chaplain. "It brings the men closer to God with a touch of something familiar."

In a military atmosphere where every day is Monday and work continues seven days a week, the chapel bell is a reminder that there is a time to rest and reflect in church.

22 Shellings

War Tempo Rises

By PFC Charlie Petit

PHUOC VINH — A sudden flare-up of enemy activity, punctuated by a rash of heavy anti-aircraft and indirect fire attacks in War Zone C, provided most of the action in the 1st Air Cav area of operations during the week Jan. 17-23.

The high point of enemy activity occurred Jan. 21 with 22 separate indirect fire attacks and 11 incidents of ground-to-air firing.

Including both 1st Cav and other U.S. and ARVN units, there were 13 different locations brought under fire by various assortments of 60mm, 82mm and 120mm mortars, 107mm rockets and 75mm recoilless rifles.

Despite the widespread nature of the attacks, damage and casualties were generally light.

North of Loc Ninh, in the largest ground contact of the day, units of the 11th Armored Cav, under operational control of the 1st Cav, engaged NVA elements in a series of sweeps across enemy positions.

With artillery and helicopter gunships supporting, the tankers killed 35 NVA soldiers and captured several individual and crew-served weapons.

Heavy anti-aircraft fire greeted Skytroopers flying over War Zone C Jan. 21, including numerous incidents of .51 caliber machinegun fire.

At least 17 enemy positions opened up on helicopters late in

the afternoon north of Fire Support Base Ike. Two of the heavy caliber machineguns reached high into the sky, pursuing the twisting birds.

The choppers had been systematically searching the area after a morning of enemy harassing fire directed at Cav helicopters.

When the birds found themselves in heavy contact, artillery and Air Force jets joined in pounding the enemy positions.

Aerial rocket artillery (ARA) from Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 20th Artillery, joined eight gunships and LOHs (light observation helicopters) from Troop A, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry, in the action.

Fifteen NVA were killed and one .51 caliber machinegun destroyed.

During the morning and to the east of that action, a LOH from the 1st Brigade teamed with a Cobra from Company D, 229th Assault Helicopter Battalion, to kill seven NVA and destroy three .51 caliber machineguns whose crews had tried, unsuccessfully, to knock down the birds.

While on reconnaissance west northwest of FSB St. Barbara on the western edge of War Zone C Jan. 19, Cavalrymen from Company B, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry, were brought under fire from an NVA element in the bunkers which the Skytroopers had been sent out to find.

The resulting firefight lasted

only five minutes. After trading shots with Bravo Company and being pounded by an airstrike plus aerial and tube artillery, the enemy fled.

With darkness setting in, only three NVA were found dead but a first check in the morning revealed 18 more killed.

Two contacts by Troop B, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry, operating in the 3rd Brigade AO, killed 15 NVA Jan. 17 and 14 more Jan. 19.

The Jan. 17 action was actually a series of contacts 25 miles east of Song Be. The troop's pilots alternated gun runs and calling airstrikes and artillery on enemy locations through the afternoon.

On Jan. 19, the troop operated over the boundary between II and III Corps east of Song Be and killed two NVA after receiving ground-to-air fire. A short time later, 20 to 30 NVA were spotted in the open and were engaged with artillery, rockets and minigun fire, killing 12.

Charlie Troop, 1st of the 9th, teamed several of its birds with ARA Cobras from Battery C, 2nd Battalion, 20th Artillery, and killed 17 enemy Jan. 20.

The birds were inspecting the site of previous ground-to-air firings 17 miles east northeast of Song Be when a group of enemy soldiers was spotted moving across an open area.

There were 232 enemy soldiers killed in Cav actions during the seven-day period Jan. 17-23.

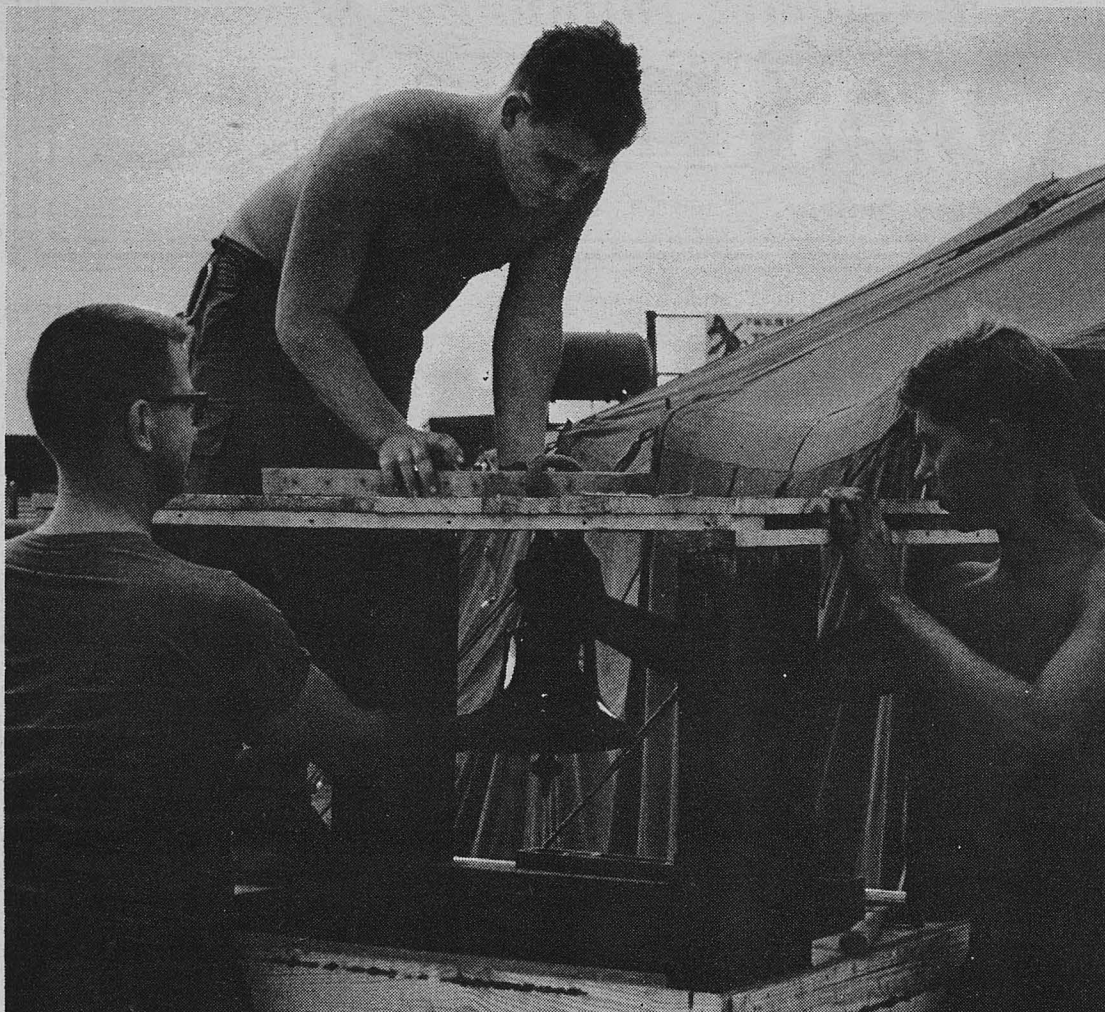
Cav's Valentine . . .



(U.S. Army Photo by SP4 Dean Sharp)

Four infantrymen and the crew of a UH-1H helicopter show off the 1st Air Cavalry's giant sized salute to the division's No. 1 Valentine, Mrs. Ben Dorcy of Washington, D.C. Dubbed the honorary mother of the division, Mother Dorcy, now 84, has been a member of the FIRST TEAM longer than anyone. In 1921, she and her late husband designed the bold golden yellow Cav patch, while he was stationed at Ft. Bliss, Tex.

The Bell Tolls



(U.S. Army Photo by SP4 James McCabe)
Adding what he calls "a touch of home" to the 1st Air Cavalry chapel at Fire Support Base Buttons, Chaplain (Maj.) Eugene Allen holds the chapel's new bell in place as Private First Class Duane Millheam, center, and Specialist Five Fred Vernon put the finishing touches on the makeshift belfry. The men are members of Company B, 8th Engineers and helped in construction of the bell tower.

... For God And Country

By Chaplain (Cpt) Frederick R. Funches

15th TC Battalion Chaplain
God of our fathers, known of old,
Lord of our far-flung battle-line,
Beneath whose awful Hand we hold
Dominion over palm and pine —
Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet,
Lest we forget lest we forget.

The tumult and the shouting dies;
The captains and the kings depart;
Still stands Thine ancient sacrifice,
An humble and contrite heart.
Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet.
Lest we forget — lest we forget.

Taking things for granted is a common problem among men. We take all kinds of things for granted. From our families to our freedom, we assume that they will always exist.

As with all things taken for granted, we lose our appreciation for them. Because we do not appreciate something does not lessen its value to us. It is only when we lose an item of value that its worth is rediscovered.

So it is with God's blessings. We take them for granted and lose our appreciation and grat-

itude for them. Rudyard Kipling saw the problem of forgetfulness of God's blessings when he wrote the above poem. Take time to remember God's blessings to you and express your gratitude — lest we forget.

Leave Adds To DEROS

The 30 day leave which is offered to any individual who extends his Vietnam tour by six months or more does not count against accrued leave time but also does not count as time spent in Vietnam.

Lieutenant Colonel William H. Fitts, 1st Air Cavalry Adjutant General, clarified the regulations governing the special leaves granted for extension.

All the time spent on leave plus the travel time involved pushes the individual's DEROS date back to where he will serve the full six extra months, he said.

If a soldier has a normal DEROS date of June 25, 1970 and adds a six month extension, his adjusted DEROS would be December 25, 1970. However, with a 30 day special leave and 15 days travel time, his DEROS date would be February 9, 1971.

It is also the individual's responsibility to obtain a date stamp or endorsement to leave orders at the port of debarkation both before and after the leave. Immediately upon return to Vietnam, these stamped orders must be presented to finance to assist them in completing a travel voucher.

Red Cross Helps In Emergencies

By SP4 William K. Block Jr.

TAY NINH — Should Mrs. Daniel Johnson of Little Rock, Ark., be seriously injured in a car accident, Private First Class Daniel Johnson from his fire-base in Cav Country could be at her side within 50 hours to assist in her recovery.

The organization deserving most of the credit for making such a rapid reunion possible is the American Red Cross.

"A major obligation of the American Red Cross is to act as the medium of voluntary relief and communication between the American people and the members of the armed services," reads one of its pamphlets.

To accomplish this objective, the Red Cross has assigned eight representatives to serve the FIRST TEAM.

The representatives facilitate communication between the soldier and his family when something goes wrong at home. Often their work helps bring about an emergency or compassionate leave lasting 20 or 30 days.

Legitimate grounds for such a leave include death or serious illness in the immediate family, serious financial loss not due to mismanagement of funds and finalization of a divorce.

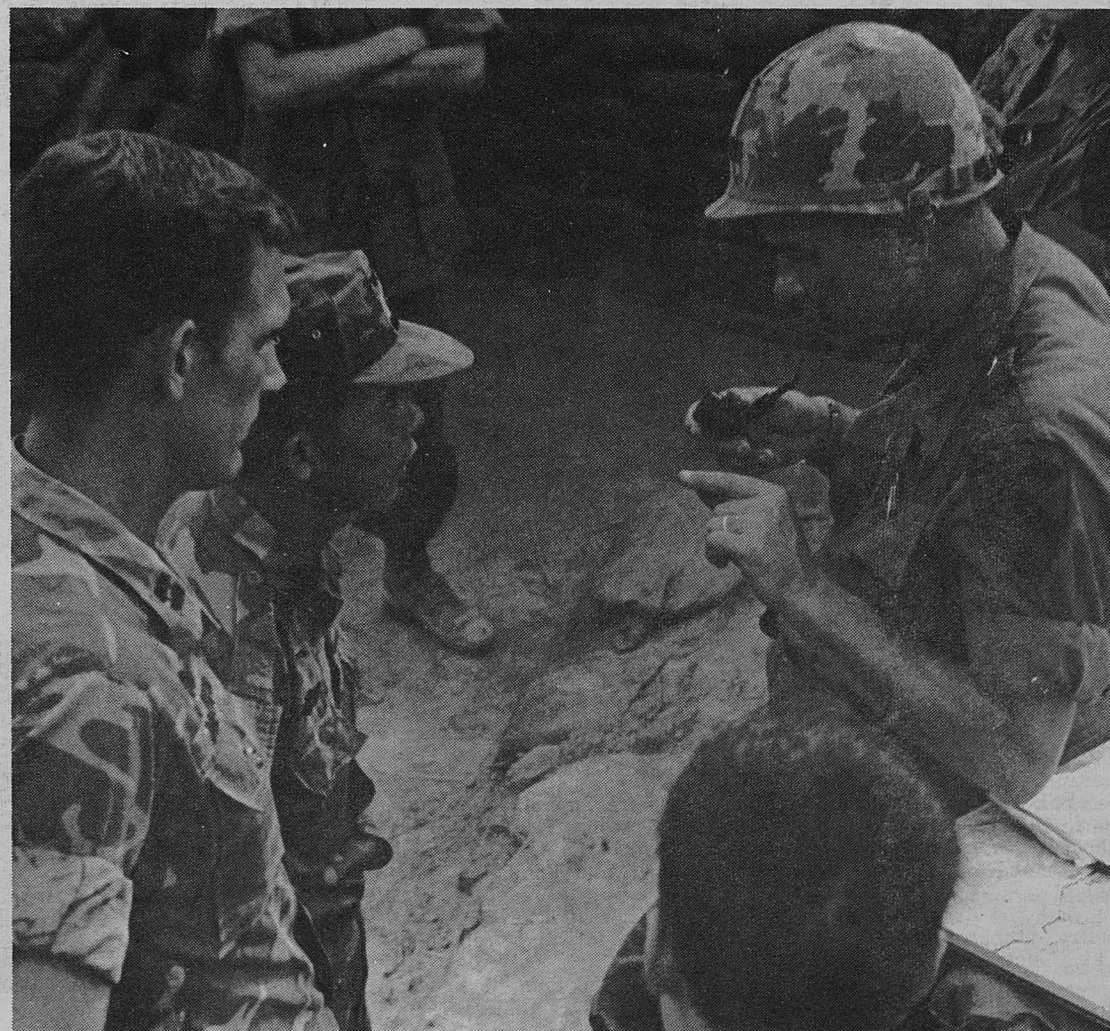
"To enlist our help, the family must notify its local Red Cross of the emergency," stressed Robert Jursnick, 1st Brigade representative. "Even then, the Red Cross can't grant a leave. We present the facts to the military authorities, and it's the company commander and the 15th Administration Company who make that decision."

If your Red Cross representative calls you, don't assume the

news is bad. Just ask Specialist Four Patrick McNever, of Company E, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cav-

alry, who was notified about the recent birth of his 7 pound, 4 ounce son.

Working Together



(U.S. Army Photo by SP4 Doug Fuller)
Colonel Joseph Collins (with pipe), commander of the 1st Air Cavalry's 1st Brigade, discusses strategy in the area of operations with Major Cinh of the 7th ARVN Airborne Brigade. Joint Vietnamese-1st Cav operations are becoming commonplace as Vietnamization progresses.



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Helping Hand...



(U.S. Army Photo by SP4 Bob Borchester)
Specialist Four Joe Caley, 1st Air Cav dog handler with the 25th Scout Dog Platoon, boosts his dog into the arms of an 11th Armored Cav soldier atop an armored personnel carrier for a welcome ride during combined operations.

Catch Charlie Napping

Mobile Bases Built

By 2LT Brian Phipps

FSB BUTTONS — Like streaks of silver, the flaming Air Force jets dive out of the sky toward the dense, triple-canopied jungle below.

Bombs slam into the foliage, tearing a big enough hole to land two or three helicopters and set up a 1st Air Cav "mini fire support base."

"Our purpose in establishing these mini fire support bases is to catch Charlie in areas where he feels most secure," said Sergeant First Class William Ikner, operations sergeant for the Cav's 2nd Brigade.

The raid is on. An infantry company secures the newly-blasted landing zone while Chinooks lower 105mm howitzers into position. Moments later the 105s are ready to start firing and their crews are beginning to build ammo bunkers.

"Once the areas has been cleared, we react as quickly as possible in putting men and equipment into the area to man the base and secure it," Sergeant Ikner explained.

The next step is inserting more infantry companies into the surrounding jungles to begin

patrolling the enemy-infested territory. Supported by devastating artillery firepower, Cavalrymen search and clear the area of enemy bunkers, trails and soldiers.

When the area has been thoroughly checked out, usually three or four days later, and found to have little enemy activity, the fire support base is closed, the infantry pulled out and everything moves to a different location where intelligence says the enemy is lurking.

"Using these mobile fire sup-

port bases has given us the ability to go outside the usual limits of our artillery support without the time it takes to set up a permanent firebase," said Captain Thomas J. Blue, 2nd Brigade operations officer.

"The concept of these mobile fire support bases is not new — we used them in the beginning of the war, but have since gotten away from them," Captain Blue said. "The Cav is once again using its air mobility with these mobile, fast-acting firebases to keep us just one step in front of the enemy."

'Grounded' Minigun Helps FSB Defense

By PFC David Roberts

FSB VIVIAN — One of the 1st Air Cav's most potent weapons has been taken out of the skies for use at a firebase.

A 7.62 minigun, which spits out more lead in a minute than six M-60 machineguns, is

mounted on a jeep at Fire Support Base (FSB) Vivian, so it can be moved quickly and easily to any position on the perimeter.

The 4,000 round per minute gun is manned by Sergeants Howard W. McMichael and Lawrence Munne, members of Company E, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry, who are part of a quick reaction force for FSB Vivian's defense.

Sergeant First Class Lawrence Blankenship, a platoon sergeant with Echo Company, prefers the new weapon over the awesome "Quad 50" machinegun. "It puts out more firepower, and it can be moved faster," he said.

When the gun was first brought to the fire support base, the gunners had to be trained by "Blue Max" personnel from the 2nd Battalion, 20th Artillery (ARA), in Quan Loi.

Although Sergeant McMichael likes to fire the weapon, he says it has one disadvantage. "For every two minutes of shooting, it takes four hours of cleaning," he laughed.

Small Recon Unit Checks Enemy

By SP4 Ron Wright

FSB BUTTONS—Winding its slow way up the slopes of Nui Ba Ra, a 1st Air Cav team searches coves and trails, alert for any movement.

It might be a ranger team, but on Nui Ba Ra, the reconnaissance element of Company E, 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry, keeps the enemy in check.

Unlike other reconnaissance elements, Echo Company works almost constantly in small teams.

"We can move with secrecy and cover more territory in small units without being discovered," explained First Lieutenant Donald R. Jarrett, platoon leader for Echo Company.

The company constantly keeps an element on the mountain. "We go up for several days and work through the caves and other sites," said Staff Sergeant Sherman Tilly.

Working in small groups allows the platoon great versatility. So far, the recon element is proving its worth in uncovering cache sites and monitoring enemy movement.

"We've discovered everything from sampans to an F-100 fighter which had crashed some 18 months previous," recalled Sergeant Alvin Smith. "Recently, we uncovered one cache which yielded 16 B-40 rockets and 15 .30 caliber machineguns."

The small size of the recon units poses

a problem if contact is made with the enemy, but again the cue is taken from the ranger units.

"All our teams are prepared to move immediately to the nearest extraction zone in case of enemy contact," said Lieutenant Jarrett.

Monitoring the jungles around Fire Support Base Buttons, Echo Company recon is also a mainstay in defense of the firebase.

The company is usually immediately aware of any new enemy activity and can give ample warning of any enemy buildup, enabling support forces to knock it out and, if necessary, make preparations on the firebase if an attack is indicated.

Luxurious Mansions Add 'Touch of Home'

By SP4 Dennis Thornton

QUAN LOI — It may not appear in Better Homes and Gardens or be Hugh Hefner's Playboy Mansion for luxury and comfort but to the Skytrooper it's home sweet home and, in many cases, his castle, too.

Given Vietnam's basic building supplies — discarded ammo boxes, sandbags and an occasional scrounged four by four — soldiers in the 1st Air Cav can often create an architectural wonder that is comfortable as well as safe and durable.

To the man in the field, his rucksack is like a kangaroo's pouch, stuffed with all the necessities of life. But once the grunt is "sprung" from the field to the company or battalion rear area, he finds that he doesn't have to sleep in a different place every night and begins to construct a more permanent and luxurious "hootch."

"I'm a typical grunt, just out of the field, and I want to live in something comfortable for a change," explained Staff Sergeant Cotrell Rowe of Company E, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry, as he showed off his place. "This is my crib where I lay my head for a few more days. I want to make it as liveable as possible."

Basic equipment for furnishing the usual five by nine foot space or less allotted to an individual is a bed with mosquito net and walls of ammo boxes or just the screen of the building.

Specialist Five Alwyn Lee, a cook with 3rd Brigade Headquarters, added to the basic olive drab green and ammo box brown color scheme by applying a wood stain of his own manufacture to the walls, giving a knotty pine effect.

Among the do-it-yourself improvements in some of the structures are desks, chairs and even homemade double bunk beds.

Besides a wide variety of pin-ups, the decor often includes stateside posters and pictures sent here, graffiti and even a few original paintings by nameless combat "artists."

One is walled with black mortar shell casings inside and decorated with several psychedelic posters which glow in the dark.

While most dwellings have a double wall of sandbags around the building for protection, some men like even more security.

"My little castle," is what Specialist Five Charles Johansen of Company D, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry, called his comfortable home made of culvert and sandbags.

Castles...



(U.S. Army Photo by SP4 Bill Ahrbeck)
Comfort and luxury are often hard to find in Vietnam, but when a 1st Air Cavalryman gets a rear job, he tries to make his home "as liveable as possible" as Staff Sergeant Cotrell Rowe of Company E, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry, has done here. Sergeant Cotrell decorated his "apartment" in Quan Loi with ammo box paneling, tape recorders, chairs and other comforts.



Drum Beat

Adding some Christmas spirit to the "firebase too tough too die," Fire Support Base Ike, is the Skytrooper Band. Sergeants Charles Dixon (left) and Francis J. Shelton provide percussion for the band, playing for the 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry.

Skytrooper Band Entertains GIs



Oomp-pa-pa

(U.S. Army Photos by SP4 Barry Bjornson)

Specialist Five Lou Erwin provides the oomp-pa-pa background with his sousaphone for the Skytrooper Band during a concert for the men of the 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry, at Fire Support Base Grant. Staff Sergeant Timothy McWright (below) solos on the saxophone at FSB Ike.



Reflections

Specialist Four John Kenner plays his French horn, as the reflections of other Skytroopers can be seen in the bell of his partner's horn.



Marching Band

Marching in tight formation, the 1st Air Cav Skytrooper Band enters the compound at 3rd Field Hospital, Saigon, ready to entertain patients and staff with a concert. The band makes frequent trips throughout Vietnam, visiting such places as Saigon and Cam Ranh Bay.



Happy Audience

Crowds gather quickly when the Skytrooper Band starts playing. While performing at the 3rd Field Hospital in Saigon, patients filed out of their rooms, standing on balconies to hear the concert.



ROTOR WASH

Engineers Sell Out Tickets

1st Air Cav's 8th Engineer Battalion has distinguished itself by becoming the division's first battalion to sell all its "Project Maverick" tickets.

Project Maverick, sponsored by FIRST TEAM Scholarships, is designed to raise money for educational scholarships for the children of fallen Skytroopers.

"It was just a matter of informing the men," said Lieutenant Colonel Scott B. Smith, 8th Engineer Battalion commander. "When they realized what a good cause their donations would go for, they gave willingly."

In addition to their outstanding reception of Project Maverick, the 8th Engineers recently held a membership drive for the 1st Cavalry Division Association.

During a one-week period in January, battalion membership increased more than 700 per cent with 84 per cent of the battalion now members. Company A led the way with 100 per cent membership.

Taping Service Offered

Bien Hoa Special Services is providing a taping service for 1st Air Cavalrymen who can't record their own tapes.

The tape center collection includes 130 recorded albums. Each unit has been given a list of available tapes.

To take advantage of this service, send a 1,200 or 1,800-foot tape or \$2.15 (MPC only) for each tape desired to: Special Services Tape Center, 15th Administration Company, 1st Air Cavalry Division, APO In-Country 96490.

Include a return address and a list of selection codes desired. Five albums will be recorded at 3¾ inches per second on each tape, and the limit of orders is four tapes per month.

For those able to visit the tape center, it's open daily (except Wednesdays) from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and on Sundays from 1-9 p.m.

"We have 12 tape recorders for reel to reel use right now," said Sergeant Ernie Gilies, the center's non-commissioned officer in charge. "Soon the center will offer reel to cassette and reel to cartridge taping."

MARS Station Near Finish

Skytroopers from the 2nd Brigade will be able to call stateside from Fire Support Base (FSB) Buttons through an almost-finished MARS (Military Affiliate Radio System) Station.

"We have the hardest part accomplished now," said Sergeant Glenn Gustasson. "Sinking the 85-foot pole took quite a while."

Sergeant Gustasson will be one of two hand operators helping run the station.

"We've had a lot of cooperation from the various units in the brigade in erecting the station," said Major John R. Berti, MARS director at FSB Buttons. "They contributed to its construction and volunteered men to run the station."

Due to the location and conditions at FSB Buttons, troubles in establishing a MARS network have doubled.

The MARS station should be functional sometime this month.

Radar Unit Operator Plays Important Role

By SP4 Ron Merrill

FSB IKE — What did you do in the war, Daddy?

Operating a radar unit doesn't sound too glamorous but to those who must rely on one for their eyes during the hours of darkness on an isolated and jungle-surrounded 1st Air Cav firebase, the job is extremely important.

Staff Sergeant Excell E. Berryhill, Jr., runs the radar unit at Fire Support Base Ike and to the people who depend upon this jungle real estate for their existence, he plays a big role.

Monitoring his radar unit, Sergeant Berryhill can pick up any movement around the firebase whether it be an enemy recon unit or sapper team.

"With experience you learn what exactly is out there," the sergeant said. "And when I pick up something, it usually disappears after a few artillery rounds."

When the firebase came under an enemy mortar and ground at-

tack the night of Nov. 3, 1969, the radar proved its worth, detecting the main enemy infantry units while they were still in the treeline.

"As the radar came around to the north side of the berm where the initial sappers had penetrated, it picked up other sappers who were just clearing the first strand of wire," said Captain Michael Edgar, intelligence officer for the 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry.

"The radar unit later picked up the main enemy force while it still massed in the treeline," he added. "From then on, it was up to the artillery and gunships, but only after the radar had pinpointed them (enemy)."

An additional duty for Sergeant Berryhill has been to train the ARVNs working with the 1st Brigade in the operation and maintenance of the radar units.

"Basically, they learn very quickly because, well, I guess they are anxious to learn," said Sergeant Berryhill.

Jumping for Joy . . .



Beauty queen Marsha Bennett is overjoyed by the warm sun and sand of a California beach. Marsha has accompanied Johnny Grant on two tours of Vietnam to entertain the troops between winning 17 beauty contests and soaking up the warm rays in L.A.



(U.S. Army Photos by SP4 Len Fallscheer)
The 1st Air Cav's 1st Battery, 30th Artillery, reached a landmark by firing its one millionth round in Vietnam. The performance represents the firing of 95 million pounds of steel and high explosives. One of only two airmobile 155mm Howitzer battalions in the Army, the unit was permanently assigned to the 1st Air Cav in June, 1968.

1/30 Artillery Fires One Millionth Round

FSB JUDIE—The breach was opened and the round slammed home. The powder positioned, the breach was closed and the primer inserted.

Meanwhile, the men of the 1st Air Cav's 1st Battalion, 30th Artillery, stood proudly at attention awaiting the firing of the unit's one millionth round in Vietnam.

The hesitation was brief, just enough to add drama to the event. Then, with the unit's commander Lieutenant Colonel Jack G. Gallaway standing by, Division Artillery commander Colonel Morris Brady and Lieutenant Colonel Hoang Co Luong, of the 1st ARVN Airborne Brigade yanked the lanyard to send the landmark round spiraling on its way.

Mathematical equivalents to the one millionth firing are interesting. The performance

represents the firing of 95 million pounds or 47,500 tons of steel and high explosives.

The unit, one of only two airmobile 155mm Howitzer battalions in the Army, covered a lot of ground since its arrival in Vietnam in November, 1965.

Highest points include the firing of 51,000 round in 6,748 missions of direct support in a single month, February of 1968, as Cav forces recaptured the enemy held city of Hue.

The battalion was permanently assigned to the Cav in June, 1968, but had worked extensively with the FIRST TEAM prior to that date. Names in the 1st of the 30th past include Operations Paul Revere IV, Jeb Stuart I, Pegasus and Delaware.



Inventive GI...



(U.S. Army Photo by SP4 James McCabe)

With his left arm extended, Specialist Five Christopher Miller seems to be using his machine-gun as a balancing pole as he prepares to walk the tightrope across a log in a swampy area of the 1st Air Cav's area of operation. Specialist Miller and Sergeant Richard Brasteter, who follows in the formation, are members of the Cav's Troop C, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry.

Former Clerk

Rifleman Likes His Job

By PFC Robert Hackney

FSB JAMIE — It took an eight month tour in Germany and four months as a clerk in Vietnam before Specialist Five Richard Gralik decided what he really wanted to be — a ground-pounding infantryman.

"Everybody questions me about it," said the Company A, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry, rifleman, "but I'm doing what I think is right."

It began more than a year ago when the infantry-trained specialist was sent to Germany because his brother was serving in Vietnam.

While in Germany, he became a clerk and his MOS (military occupation specialty) was changed. But after eight months in Europe, he became dissatisfied with his job and requested duty in Vietnam.

Spending four months as a clerk with the 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized), he found himself getting restless again, so he got his MOS changed back to 11B (light weapons infantryman) and requested reassignment to the Cav.

"I didn't dig pencil pushing," said Specialist Gralik, "but it still took me two months to make up my mind. Why do you

climb a mountain? Because it's there. I just had to do it."

Joining Company A, he was reunited with an old friend from grade school days in Chicago, Private First Class Casey Macyk, who was happy to see what his pal had done.

Specialist Gralik has not been disappointed by what he's found in the field.

"I have a healthier respect for the grunt now," he said. "I know that he doesn't get the full credit he's due. I'll be able to get along with people better because of my experience in the field. And I'll appreciate a lot of the things I had taken for granted."

*2/19 Observer
Aids Infantrymen*

By SP4 William K. Block Jr.

TAY NINH — First Lieutenant Joe O'Connor is assigned to the 1st Air Cav's 2nd Battalion, 19th Artillery, but his job is in the jungle where he looks, sweats and reacts like any infantryman.

His mission is that of forward observer, to call for and adjust the fire of tube artillery and aerial rocket artillery in support of Company D, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry.

Lieutenant O'Connor told his position simply: "I'm with a good company. They give everything they've got, and I give them all the artillery support they need."

On the job, his language was even more concise and effective: "Fire mission. TZ 406771. Small arms. Give me a piece in adjustment. Battery in effect."

"Roger that," came the reply from the nearby fire direction center. "Ordnance on the way."

"Knowing where you are at all times is sometimes the hardest

part of the job," commented the forward observer. "In thick bamboo, where everything looks the same, we have to rely on our pace count and occasionally on a marking round to determine our position."

The contribution of the forward observer and the support he makes possible is rarely underestimated by the infantryman.

"In our last two heavy contacts," recalled Second Lieutenant Darrell E. Dudley, a Delta Company platoon leader, "36 NVA were killed, but not one of our men died, largely due to the and effective artillery support."

"In the second of those contacts," added Lieutenant O'Connor, "we were bouncing off the ground from the concussion of the rounds, but they chased the NVA out of their bunkers."

"When it was all over, one of the squad leaders came up to me and said, 'Thanks, you did great job.' That makes my job very rewarding."

*Need Help in Hurry?
Call 1/9 Blue Platoon*

By SP4 William K. Block Jr.

TAY NINH—When the 1st Air Cav needs men in a tight spot in a hurry, the call goes out to its quickest reaction force—the 1st of the 9th Blues.

The Blues form the reconnaissance platoon of the 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry, but their missions often encompass far more than reconnaissance.

Taking full advantage of the scout birds and Cobra gunships organic to each of the three troops, they follow up on the birds' findings with airmobile swiftness.

"When the Blues scramble," said Specialist Four Paul McCord of Troop A, "we're on the lift helicopters before they've even warmed up."

Though the platoon rarely spends a night in the jungle, it averages about 25 missions a month.

Often the Blues go out to find Charlie in a suspected enemy location and start a fight. If they run into a large enemy element, they call for help from a larger reaction force. They also are dropped into suspected cache sites and assist in rescuing downed helicopters.

The Blues don't walk as far as most infantrymen, but they know that they may be inserted anywhere at anytime. Once on the ground, they rely on small numbers, teamwork, good communications and close support from the troop's fleet of helicopters.

*Former Missionaries
Serve with 2nd Bde*

By SP4 Ron Wright

FSS BUTTONS—Two 2nd Brigade 1st Air Cavalrymen spent nearly two years helping the people of the world and spreading their faith before entering the Army.

Now with the 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry, aid station, Specialist Four Paul R. Bergstrom spent five months in the Virgin Islands as a member of a group called "Youth with a Mission."

During the first half of his tour in Vietnam, Specialist Bergstrom beat the bush with Company C, 2nd of the 12th.

"The work I did in the Virgin Islands prepared me to become a sounding board of sorts for the men in the field," he said. "I used to help out with a number of personal problems and the men just felt they could talk to me."

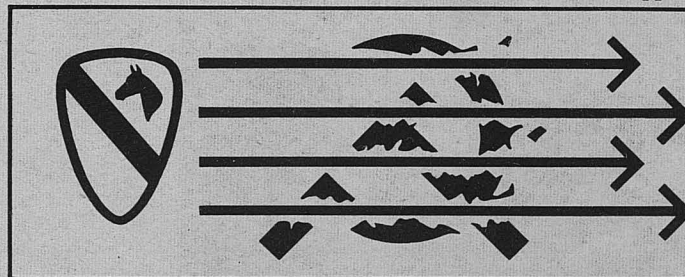
Sergeant James Webb, now working in the 2nd Brigade S-2 (intelligence) shop had similar experiences working as a Mormon missionary for two years in New Zealand.

"It was hard work, leaving very little free time," recalled Sergeant Webb, "but it was rewarding. Missionary work gave me a great opportunity to travel."

The missionary experience affected both men. Sergeant Webb is planning to take his R and R in Australia and hopefully may have a chance to return to New Zealand.

Specialist Bergstrom is still involved with the work. After five months in the Virgin Islands, he moved to New York and began working with the people trying to conquer the problem of dope addiction.

"It's possible that I will go back to it when I'm out of the service," said Specialist Bergstrom.



By PFC Charlie Petit

FSS BUTTONS — Without revealing its position, the reconnaissance platoon, Company E, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry, staged a night ambush that left 24 North Vietnamese soldiers dead Jan. 16.

An estimated enemy company was caught moving down a supply and infiltration route coursing through the jungle near the eastern edge of III Corps Tactical Zone in the 1st Air Cav's area of operations.

"After we were inserted, we found a heavily used trail lined with reinforced wayside bunkers," said Sergeant Carl L. Zaar, "so it seemed a perfect area to set up our ambush."

The Cavalrymen stretched their ambush position along a section of trail by setting up automatically detonated ambushes at some distance in each direction from their position.

"The area was beautiful as far as providing camouflage for us was concerned," said Sergeant Zaar.

As darkness set in, the Skytroopers began waiting for movement.

"Boom, one of our ambushes went off," exclaimed Sergeant Zaar. "We heard small arms fire for about five minutes but they didn't even know where we were."

The surprised enemy then moved further down the trail. Again the heavy undergrowth was ripped by explosions.

Keeping its position concealed, the platoon had artillery, aerial rocket artillery and a Shadow gunship rake the enemy position while the Skytroopers tossed grenades among the confused enemy soldiers.

After 20 minutes, the enemy attempted to evade the area and were hit by a third ambush.

The Cavalrymen weren't able

to assess the enemy losses until the following morning.

Another of the platoon's non-commissioned officers, Sergeant David L. Marshall, reflected, "What's great about the automatic ambushes is that they provide defensive security for the platoon without giving its position away."

"It's a good way to engage a numerically superior enemy force with minimum risk," said Master Sergeant Edward J. Hickey.

A check the following morning found 12 enemy killed by the platoon, seven by artillery and five by helicopter. Five AK-47s, a light machinegun, plus miscellaneous equipment and grenades were captured.

"It was a weird night — luckily we didn't take any casualties," recalled Sergeant Zaar. "It was one of those experiences you'll never forget."