

Election Day Highlights

18TH INF DIV (ARVN) -- The elderly bronze-skinned woman gave a wrinkled smile as she shuffled towards the large box resting upon a makeshift table in the middle of the hamlet chief's freshly painted office.

As the woman meticulously inserted the carefully folded ballot in the slit cut in the top of the locked box, other citizens who braved a mid-afternoon monsoon entered to vote in the first province-wide election since Tet of 1968.

By the time the polls closed

early that evening, 67 per cent of the 66,523 eligible voters in Long Khanh Province's three districts would have gone to the polls to select members for the eight chair province council.

Silently overshadowing the significance of the high voter turnout was the fact that election day was preceded with only minute incidents of VC harassment, even though allied intelligence reports indicated the enemy was primed to thwart the election.

"Two years ago the VC were

very strong in our province, but now the situation is such that they can't make a big step," said Lieutenant Colonel Bui Duc Diem, Long Khanh Province chief. "This is not to say, however, that we were overconfident. We had a protection plan worked out with regional and popular forces and the 18th ARVN Division."

On election eve, moods ranging from confidence to fear were portrayed throughout the province.

In Xuan Loc, the provincial

capital, children ate ice-cream while their fathers sipped beer at the dimly lit Yen Linh sidewalk cafe. At the 18th ARVN Division's officers' club, members danced to the varied sounds of the "Battle Field" band at a promotion party.

Some 20 miles away in Bau Ham, a village of some 6,000 residents and known enemy supply point, people locked their doors at dusk while an RF unit, called in from a four-day mission, provided a perimeter of security.

"Everyone is afraid, but we plan to vote," said a 50-year-old Bau Ham farmer who was married and the father of eight children. "I have lived here for eight years, and I do not feel much safer now than I did when I first came here."

Three months prior, the farmer's six family dwelling was hit by three B-40 rockets and has since been rebuilt with the aid from a U.S. civic action program.

"The VC tried to demoralize us last night by bringing a body to the outskirts of our hamlet and leaving it there," said a senior resident of nearby Bau Dien.

Religious influence was particularly notable in Kiem Tan district, 60 miles north of Xuan Loc. Out of the five candidates seeking three positions, the victors had the support of the Catholic priest in the area.

"During church services, the priest would take the candidate and announce his support to the congregation," said a Civil Operations and Rural Development Support (CORDS) official. "One of the candidates, for example, furnished more than 10 truckloads of soil for the church lawn."

"The Catholics are more politically active than the Buddhists, who mostly try to achieve goals of a humanitarian rather than a political nature," the official continued. "Out of the eight candidates elected, five were Catholic and three were Buddhist."

The four main political parties--Dai Viet Revolutionary Party, Viet Nam Quoc Dan Dang, Nhan Xa, and Cap Tien--exerted minor influence upon the campaign. The leading party, Dai Viet Revolutionary, did not present a candidate, although one who lost said he had the party's support.

"Most of the winners are young and independent," said Diem. "Three incumbent council members decided to run again and were beaten by the younger candidates. This was good because the old council had no purpose or talent."

Five of the new council members will be on leave from their military positions. One was a civil servant, another a farmer and the remaining one a professor at a Catholic school. All were between the 25 to 38 year-old age bracket.

Since the GVN has allotted Long Khanh Province 10 million piasters to spend during its fiscal year, the council member has considerable political power.

Even though the government restricted the 27 candidates to using leaflets, posters and public appearances as campaign tools and set the dollar value of the campaign, most of them readily admitted digging into their personal coffers for additional funds.

A typical campaign cost 40,000 piasters, but a losing candidate reported his bill would

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FIRST IN VIETNAM

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Find Piasters, Green

1ST MARINE DIV -- After completing a search and cordon operation 15 miles southwest of Da Nang, Leathernecks of the 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines, were more than surprised to find \$5,000 in American greenbacks after flushing six enemy soldiers from a spider hole.

The Marines had moved in at dawn and sealed off the area with two line companies from the 2nd Battalion, aided by tanks to help them move through the Northern Arizona Territory, known to have many surprise firing devices.

Completing the cordon, the Marines then moved in to thoroughly search the area, probing for spider holes where the enemy seeks cover. Corporal Paul Miller, of Tracy, Conn., found one and called for one of the "Luc Luong 66" Scouts (former enemy soldier that has rallied to the side of the RVN) that accompanied the Marines on the operation.

The KCS spoke to the occupants of the spider hole, calling for them to surrender as they were surrounded by Marines. Time and again he called for them to come out and surrender, with no results. Finally, as a last resort, a concussion grenade was thrown into the hole. It stunned the six enemy soldiers and enabled the Marines to go down and drag them out. They also recovered one AK-47 automatic rifle from the spider hole.

Searching through the gear discovered in the hole, they discovered a large roll of Vietnamese piasters totalling almost \$3,000. In the center of the roll was a wad of American greenbacks in \$50 denominations totalling \$5,000. The money was turned over to the 5th Marine Disbursing Office and then turned over to the 1st Marine Division Headquarters for disposition.

Friendly Persuasion

4TH INF DIV -- It's early morning after the initial contact. The Psychological Operations team is on the helipad getting ready to run a speaker mission over the contact area. Members of the 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry, have exchanged fire with a trapped enemy unit all night. Now the team is going to try to talk the enemy into surrendering.

Specialist 4 Jerry Lindstedt of Seattle readies his huge speaker

system which hangs out one side of the chopper. "What's wrong with this thing?" he complains. SCREECH goes the 1,000 watt unit. "It's okay now," says a satisfied Lindstedt, now that he has adjusted the powerful speaker unit so that it works properly.

The pilot is given the signal and the bird rises over Camp Radcliff and swings north toward the contact area.

Lindstedt carries along a small portable cassette tape recorder

with a tape made the previous night by a detainee. In the initial contact the Regulars had chased some NVA soldiers into some rocks and a "Luc Luong 66" had talked one of them into surrendering.

The man was taken back to Camp Radcliff where he agreed to make a tape recording, appealing to his buddies to join him. The man had come from North Vietnam only about a month ago.

Over the contact area where the target audience is held captive by several platoons of Regulars, Lindstedt holds the microphone to the cassette recorder and then plays the tape. From inside the moving helicopter it sounds no louder than a radio in a car. "When you're down on the ground it sounds like the voice is coming out of the ground and everywhere," Lindstedt said later.

The former NVA soldier talks to his trapped comrades by means of the tape recording. He tells them the facts, the tremendous odds against them and the casualty toll. He tells them that he is now a detainee and is being treated well. To prove that he is really one of them he makes personal references to his comrades adding a few bits of convincing intelligence. The message is broadcast for more than an hour above the contact area.

A few days later, two more NVA soldiers put down their arms and rallied to the GVN. They said they had heard messages from the powerful speakers. One of them agreed to do a live broadcast over the contact area. He was put on a chopper and given the microphone.

"Half way through the mission he got real emotional and spoke directly to his buddies using their first names," said Specialist Dave Marcum of Birmingham, Alabama. "He said things like 'I've been with you for three months now. Give up. It isn't worth it,'" Marcum concluded.



Tough Walking

A pair of riflemen with the 1st Air Cavalry's Co B, 2nd Bn, 12th Cav, carefully climbs down a steep slope leading to a river bed. His company soon crossed the river, which took them back into the RVN after two months of fighting in Cambodia.

(USA PHOTO By: Sp5 James McCabe)



Keep Low

A member of the 25th Div's Co B, 2nd Bn, 12th Inf, keeps low while on an operation west of the Fish Hook region of Cambodia.

(USA PHOTO By: Sp4 Ed Toulouse)

138 CKC Rifles Captured

The following information is provided by the Press and Information Office, General Political Warfare Department, RVNAF, Saigon, for the period of July 26 through August 1.

RF/PF

During the reporting period, RF/PF Units reported killing 104 enemy soldiers throughout the RVN. The militiamen also captured four crew-served weapons and detained 16 enemy suspects.

During a search led by a returnee near Duc Duc district town, RF soldiers seized 138 CKC rifles and a quantity of assorted weapons.



9TH INFANTRY DIVISION

Involved in Operation Cuu Long 9/8, the 9th Infantry Division engaged an enemy force which had been putting pressure on the Khum Chakrei Ting cement plant near Kampot, Cambodia. The infantrymen killed 14 of the enemy, detained four persons, and captured three crew-served weapons.

RANGERS

Ranger units involved in Operation Cuu Long 44/18 made contact with enemy forces twice southeast of Kompong Trabek in Cambodia. Supported by artillery and tactical air strikes, the Rangers killed 82 of the enemy.

Rice Denial Program Works

Rice Bowl Is Bare

AMERICAL DIV -- Several lowland villages in northern Quang Tin Province have sold rice to the VC for two decades. Infantrymen on sweep from the 196th Infantry Brigade have dug up record books dating from 1958 and earlier. The illegal sales peak comes during the spring harvest in April and May. For one - and - a - half months villagers harvest the grain while VC infiltrators negotiate with those who will help them. They plead, they bully, they threaten. But it doesn't always work.

"We know the enemy is hungry," says Major Lee Tessmer of Colorado Springs, Colo., Civil Affairs head at the 196th. "Rallies to the GVN are increasing, and more and more have simply starved out. This may be the most effective thing we've seen in a long time."

What Tessmer alludes to is a combination infantry-Civil Affairs rice denial plan that closes in on the enemy's food, or more exactly, the people he deals with to obtain it.

"Our people handle the psychological end," adds First Lieutenant William Lyle of

Merritt Island, Fla., Tessmer's assistant. "We write, duplicate and direct the aerial distribution of leaflets aimed at sympathetic villagers, people we suspect are selling their rice."

Rice denial has become a curse to the VC. Indications are that the NVA soldiers exerted desperate pressure on the VC to obtain food for them this spring. But some of the old renegade villages just didn't come through. Disastrous floods late last year blotted out numerous crops and left shortages; plenty for storage but none to sell. Since a show of force would accomplish nothing, the VC had to bargain quietly. They came out badly.

Ground units sliced into the hidden storage areas at the same time. Company A, 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry, directed its platoons into recalcitrant towns in northern Tam Ky district, about 15 miles north of the city of Tam Ky. Sergeant Bob Nordyke of Ottawa, Kan., a former squad leader, details the cordon and search of a village known to conceal large deposits of enemy rice.

"We split two men out from each squad to search while the rest deployed around the hamlet. Small amounts of rice were found in tin buckets, but not as much as we expected," recalled Nordyke.

The Vietnamese interpreters then questioned an old woman. She took them to a patch of shrubs surrounding several loose stacks of hay. "The rice was held in huge woven baskets hidden in pits beneath each haystack. We loaded 15 sacks out of one pit." Nordyke remembered other hiding places. Like a small tropical plant with shallow roots that could be shuttled around to cover a bag of rice. He also found receipts given by VC for rice sold in 1958.

Civil Affairs takes pride in its role. Interpreters attached to the team help make up rice denial messages that they can present most appealingly to the enemy.

PSYOPS reads, "People of Quang Tin Province! Citizens loyal to the GVN keep their rice for their families to use. Support the GVN. Do not let the VC take your rice for themselves. The Viet Cong do not care if your family lives in hunger. Report all VC to the nearest GVN or allied force in your area." Blasted from a speaker on a brigade light observation helicopter it makes a pretty persuasive argument.

The best measure of their success, says Tessmer, cannot be calculated by a row of figures. "We've got 8,000 pounds of rice on Hawk Hill," Tessmer emphasized, "kept here for emergency use. Only one battalion has asked for any heavy amount of rice recently, and that was due to refugees drifting in to escape a major battle to the west. We used to supply a lot of rice but now it's piling up. I think we've reached a new plateau of accomplishment."

NVA Way Station Found

4TH INF DIV -- After two days of sporadic contact with a squad-size enemy force elements of Company D, 3rd Battalion, 8th Infantry, uncovered an NVA way station, including an ammunition cache and hospital complex.

While moving off a ridgeline 10 miles northwest of LZ Uplift, 2nd Platoon and the company command post found several ovens dug into the sloping ground along a high speed trail.

"Having found these Ho Chi Minh ovens, we knew there would be living and sleeping positions nearby," stated Company Commander Captain Gerald Lowry of Jacksonville, Florida.

Pointman Sergeant William Allman of Rockport, W. Va., led the element further down the slope to where he saw several openings in a large rock formation.

Staff Sergeant Roy Ferland of St. Albans, Vt., posted a security squad as Platoon Leader First

Lieutenant Mark Logan of Carmi, Ill., moved his other two squads into the area.

As the 2nd squad began searching the caves, the NVA ammunition cache was uncovered. Private First Class Luis Torres of Brooklyn, N.Y., crawled into a small opening and returned with a B-40 round in each hand saying that there were more inside.

Found in the cache were a B-40 rocket launcher, 24 B-40 rounds, 65 Chicom grenades, 2,000 AK-47 rounds, four 82mm mortar rounds, 75 pounds of fish, 1,300 pounds of

salt and an unknown quantity of rice.

While moving through the cave complex the Dragoons found a small hospital complete with operating room and small recuperation caves. Over 50 pounds of new medical supplies, including surgical instruments and first aid kits, were found by Sergeants Dan Pack of National City, Calif., and Richard Marolt of Ely, Minn., and Allman. The fish, rice and rock salt were turned over to the 173rd Airborne's Civil Affairs team for distribution to the hungry.

Youngster, Age 15, Flees VC

25TH INF DIV -- A young boy compelled to fight with the VC finally fought the fear built up in him by VC scare tactics and won his freedom at the 25th Division basecamp at Cu Chi.

A boy of 15, the Hoi Chanh - who preferred to remain

unidentified - told this story to the division's 3rd Brigade Civic Action NCOIC, Staff Sergeant Ronald Galluzzo.

"He told us the VC had forced him to join them last March (69) and that he hasn't seen his family since," said

Galluzzo, of Springfield, Ohio. "At first, he was assigned to an infantry unit. But he soon became frightened by the constant allied shelling. He was then redeployed to a medical outfit."

But the red unit turned out to be little better for the frightened teenager.

"He had to be up at four every morning to cook breakfast and the evening meal had to be prepared at 8:00 p.m. because observation planes might spot the smoke. Between the artillery and the many snakes brought out by recent rains, he was pretty miserable," Galluzzo added.

Although increasingly weary of this hazardous existence, the VC adolescent was nonetheless fearful of his treatment at allied hands if he should surrender.

"He was taken to meetings once a month for indoctrination and intimidation and told repeatedly not to listen to U.S. squawk ships or read Chieu Hoi leaflets," continued Galluzzo. "He was also warned that the allies would kill him as soon as he surrendered."

He finally overcame his apprehension, however, and at the first opportunity deserted his post, continuing until he reached the Ann Margaret gate here, and freedom from fear.



Munitions Training

CPT Thomas Stack of Groves, Tex., right, a U.S. Air Force advisor with the VNAF, watches intently as VNAF students are instructed in munitions handling. (USAF PHOTO By: Sgt John Gundersdorf)

Free Magazines

Troops Benefit

USAHAC -- Soldiers from 3,800 separate Army units in the RVN receive a bundle of mail every month from Evelyn Stevens, a woman most never heard of.

Although generally regarded by her co-workers as a modest lady, Miss Stevens doesn't personalize her mail to soldiers.

But her packages are anxiously awaited.

She is chief librarian for USARV's Field Distribution Center located at the Main Library operated by U.S. Army Headquarters Area Command in Saigon. Her responsibility is making sure thousands of men are supplied with free copies of the latest popular magazines.

Newsstands are located in dozens of military installations throughout the RVN she noted, but soldiers in remote jungles or firebases seldom have an opportunity to keep abreast on information supplied by magazines.

"Field troops appreciate our program the most," Miss Stevens said. "Magazine distribution is carefully planned and the subject material is vast—current news, military, science fiction, geography and travel, electronics, fiction, sports, mechanics, aviation, photography and even girls!"

She noted that 'Playboy' rates highest in popularity of some 40 different magazines mailed. "Everybody wants an extra copy of 'Playboy'," she said. "Nearly 6,000 copies are dispersed monthly, but that never seems enough."

Continuing, she stated, "We send some 70,000 copies of magazines a week. Our mailing lists are crammed with addresses from advisory teams through company-sized units. Free, current-dated magazines reach nearly every soldier in the RVN. If we missed anybody, we'll welcome their request to supply them with reading materials."

She cautioned, however, that close discretion is made concerning who gets what. "We try for the smallest unit level to insure that all troops have an opportunity to read the magazines. Only U.S. Army and Free World Soldiers are eligible under the USARV program. And no offices where men are assigned to a company can receive them. We would duplicate our efforts if we did."

Miss Stevens' staff consists of four Army personnel and 14 Vietnamese who do everything from sorting magazines to labeling and mailing packages. They expedite the distribution—hoping to maintain the magazine's timeliness. "We handle shipments amounting to more than 100,000 pounds a week," stated Sergeant First Class Jerome D. Bland, the NCOIC. "They are received here one day and usually are mailed the next. It doesn't do the troops in the field much good if they collect dust in Saigon."

Largest circulation is held by 'Army Times', a weekly newspaper. Miss Stevens estimates that 700,000 copies of 'Times' reach the RVN each year. Funds for it and the magazines come from USARV through non-appropriated funds totaling over one million dollars annually, she said.

"The quicker we get magazines into the mail, the more field units enjoy them," Miss Stevens quipped. "We think it is important everybody has a chance to share that enjoyment."



A group of Cambodian soldiers arrive at Nha Trang Air Base with their battle gear and personal belongings while enroute to refresher combat training. They are part of an estimated 8,000 Cambodian soldiers airlifted here in early July by U.S. Air Force C-130 Hercules and C-123 Providers of the 834th Air Division.

(USAF PHOTO By: SGT William F. Diebold)

Training Combat Soldiers

7TH AF -- A USAF aircrew of the 834th Air Division which airlifted Cambodian soldiers from Pleiku Air Base to Nha Trang Air Base were impressed with the manner and bearing of the troops.

"They impress you as being very military," recalled Air Force Captain Dale R. Smith of

Huntington Beach, Calif., the pilot of a C-123 Provider.

"They waited in line to get on the plane when we picked them up. They're very orderly, seem very proud and they guard their weapons with their lives."

Smith was one of several C-123 and C-130 Hercules crews who are airlifting an estimated 8,000 Cambodian soldiers for refresher combat training by the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) Rangers.

From here the soldiers are trucked to the Duc My training center, about 60 miles north.

"The Cambodians impress you as being tough little troops. Try to trade for one of their SKS rifles and they will tell you where to go," added Smith after his last mission in Vietnam.

Staff Sergeant Ronald Webb from St. Joseph, Mo., expressed a similar view. "They are all very polite and quiet. What is surprising is that very few of them get airsick. They haven't flown very much and take it very well."

Smith's plane brought two loads of 80 soldiers each on July 8 from Pleiku AB. Airlift operations started on July 4 and had been in operation until July 14, according to a Republic of Vietnam Air Force (VNAF) spokesman. All ground operations are being handled by the VNAF and the ARVN.

The experienced Cambodian troops are being brought here for what an ARVN spokesman termed "refresher training," over a four-week period.

Nomination; Heroine Award

WASH. D. C. -- Staff Sergeant Ermelinda Salazar, a Woman Marine, has been nominated for the 1970 Unsung Heroine Award.

The \$500.00 award is presented annually by the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars to a person who has performed some duty or task or who has initiated an action urgently required for the success or progress of a major program of the United States Forces overseas.

SSgt Salazar, of Uvalde, Texas, was nominated for her initiative and devotion to the children of the St. Vincent de Paul Orphanage. Sponsorship of the orphanage, a civic action project of the Headquarters Commandant, MACV, has been assumed by SSgt Salazar.

In her 15 months in Vietnam, she has given freely of her time and energy, giving up her off-duty time to work at the orphanage. In a command which works eleven hours a day, seven days a week, she spends her time off helping two Roman Catholic nuns bathe, feed and care for the youngsters.

In her efforts to assist these 50 otherwise forgotten children, she has single-handedly organized collections of clothing, medicines, toys and other gifts and arranged and directed a Christmas party.

The winner of the Unsung Heroine Award will be announced at the 1970 national convention of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars in Miami Beach, Florida, August 16-21.



Staff Sergeant Ermelinda Salazar, a Woman Marine, has been nominated for the 1970 Unsung Heroine Award presented annually by the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars. SSgt Salazar, determined to help the children of the St. Vincent de Paul Orphanage in Vietnam in her off-duty hours, plays with one of the youngsters.

(USMC PHOTO)

MEDCAP Program

FLC -- Two construction projects are currently underway at camp Jay K. Books by Civil Affairs personnel from Headquarters and Service Battalion, Force Logistic Command, and Vietnamese civilians who want to help themselves.

The first is a new Medical Civic Action Patrol (Medcap) station at Xuan Thieu. Civil Affairs personnel, with assistance from Mobile Construction Battalion 121, have recently completed pouring a concrete floor for the station and construction of the building will begin shortly.

The building will have two rooms, a waiting room and a treatment room, and will be the largest Medcap station in the Da Nang area.

"We are building the station because the rains prevented our corpsman, Hospitalman Third Class John W. Smith, from carrying on the Medcap out in the open," said Sergeant Glenn Picard of the Civil Affairs Office.

Picard explained that a large number of people come to the Medcap station at Xuan Thieu, and the people crowd around the corpsman as he treats each person. When it rains it is

difficult for the corpsman to treat people out in the open.

With all the people crowding around the corpsman, watching as they wait to be treated, a very trying situation developed for Smith who treats over 3,000 people each month.

The new station will remedy this difficult situation since it provides a room in which the people can wait prior to treatment.

Civil Affairs will provide construction materials and the inhabitants of Xuan Thieu will do the building.

The building project will be supervised by Picard and the hamlet chief and should be finished by the end of July, according to Picard.

The second project involves the building of a new hamlet headquarters in Nam O at the request of the hamlet chief.

Civil Affairs will furnish everything needed for construction except the labor and supervision.

The hamlet chief will supervise the construction which will be done by the hamlet inhabitants.

..TOP, THE PX WUZ OUT OF LIGHTER FLUID..
SO I FILLED YOURS WITH MOGAS!.

—Area Cleared Of VC—

Refugees Rebuild Island Home



Food Preparation

1ST MARINE DIV -- An island rich in fertile soil for farming and surrounded by rivers abundant in fish is the beginning of the long road back for refugees in Quang Nam Province in the Republic of Vietnam.

Go Noi Island is located some 14 miles south of Da Nang, the heart of Quang Nam Province, and has been selected by the GVN for resettlement by refugees and Vietnamese that have lived there for centuries. More than 35 per cent of all Vietnamese refugees live in this province.

Between 1965 and 1967, the VC and NVA soldiers had built a stronghold on the island forcing the government to relocate some 17,000 inhabitants from their ancestral homes.

During May 1969, the 1st Marine Division began Operation Pipestone Canyon, a land clearing operation to defeat the enemy on the island and close his infiltration routes to Da Nang.

Some 8,039 acres of land were cleared and an enemy

command post was destroyed, along with 113 bunker complexes, 113 tunnels, 2,680 other bunkers, 361 fighting holes, and 3,496 meters of enemy trench lines.

More than 124,000 pounds of rice were captured and nearly 2,300 pounds of corn and 60 pounds of salt were denied the enemy. Four hundred ninety-five surprise firing devices were found and another 161 were destroyed.

Enemy forces and weapons didn't fare much better as 349 NVA soldiers and 139 VC were killed, 1,462 persons were detained, 174 individual weapons and 19 crew served weapons were captured.

That was the beginning. When the operation was completed during November 1969, the GVN began plans for the resettlement of the island.

Six short months later the first of three villages is nearing completion. More than 800 people are living there. Land is being planted with crops and fishermen are returning to their way of life.



Building Materials

Story By: **GySgt Lyn Parnell**



Old Fishing Grounds

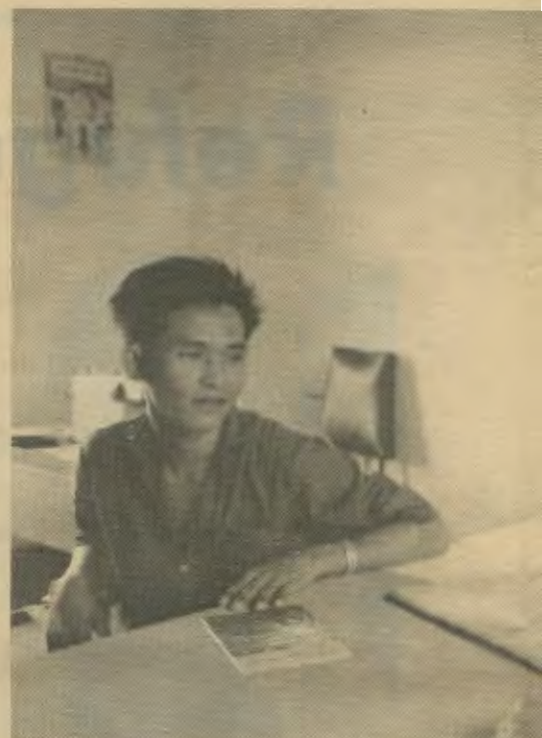


Construction



Ring For Well

Photos: **Cpl W.T. Barger**



HOI CHANH - A former Vietcong interrogator in the III Military Region. Before rallying to the GVN, he had been part of a propaganda team which used tape recording to villagers.

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STORY: SGT R
PHOTOS: SGT W

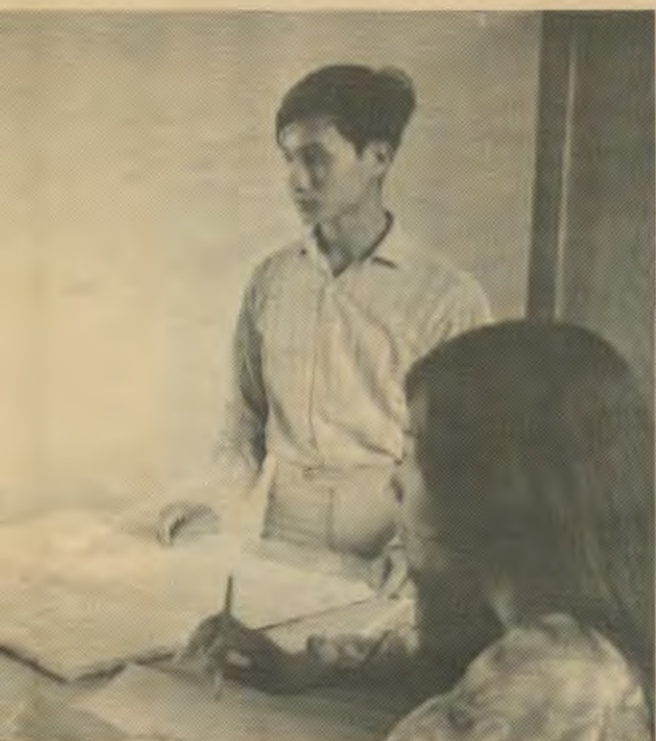
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TARGET CHECK - Wall maps are checked in advance to pinpoint the targets for leaflet drops and broadcasts conducted by the 9th Special Operations Squadron. Flying O-2 Super Skymasters and C-47 Skytrains, the Air Force unit disseminates Chieu Hoi (open arms) program messages in cooperation with the Army's 4th Psyops Group.



SCANNING TARGET - Map in hand, the O-2 pilot scans his target for a Chieu Hoi broadcast. The aircraft is equipped with a loudspeaker system of 18,000 watts maximum output, which is powerful enough to audibly reach a wide area of listeners on the ground.



g converses with
Chieu Hoi Center.
een working with a
dings to bring news

Each day, the sky over the Republic of Vietnam rains words. The message: rally to the side of the Government. The media: leaflets and broadcasts from aircraft of the U.S. Air Force's 9th Special Operations Squadron (SOS), headquartered at Tuy Hoa.

Part of the 14th Special Operations Wing at Phan Rang Air Base, the 9th SOS is the only Air Force psychological operations (psyops) unit in Vietnam. With locations at Da Nang Airfield and Bien Hoa Airbase, it supports the Chieu Hoi (Open Arms) program by disseminating leaflets and tape-recorded messages. Enemy soldiers and sympathizers are thereby urged to throw their support behind the GVN.

Government sources indicate that over 150,000 Hoi Chanh have rallied under the Chieu Hoi program since its inception in 1963. The first five months of this year netted 15,000 compared with 47,029 for the entire year of 1969.

During the same five months, the 9th SOS dropped 1.647 trillion leaflets, and beamed 3,600 hours of tape-recorded loudspeaker broadcasts. The role they played in securing the ralliers is difficult to evaluate, but most Hoi Chanh report that they had read the leaflets or heard the broadcasts. The important function of the messages is to both give the enemy instructions on rallying and to promise him that the GVN will upgrade his status.

The 9th SOS uses O-2 Skymasters and C-47 Skytrains to perform its duties. Each type is equipped with a special chute for dispensing leaflets and a powerful loudspeaker system. An O-2 can carry about 300,000 leaflets, and it boasts an 18,000 watt speaker system; the C-47, on the other hand, can carry one and a half million leaflets and has a 1,000-watt speaker system.

The psyops flights are worked in close cooperation with four battalions of the Army's 4th Psyops Group. The Army identifies targets and determines the appropriate leaflet or tape recording to use. Each battalion has a propaganda development center operated by Vietnamese, Korean, and U.S. military personnel and staffed by Vietnamese writers, illustrators, and sociologists.

T Richard P. Liefer

William F. Diebold

00 Reds turn true blue

Most missions are planned well in advance. Any unit in a military region can request a leaflet drop or speaker broadcast on a certain theme through their area psyops battalion. Much of the support goes to Vietnamese and Korean forces.

Besides the usual Chieu Hoi messages, the 9th SOS aircraft also furnish timely information and appeals. Some 215 million special Tet leaflets were dropped in a two-week period preceding the holiday this year, and another recent campaign informed the people that VC infiltrators had been posing as Korean troops recently to generate bad relation between native Vietnamese and Koreans.

Another highly effective operation - dubbed "Earlybird" - enables a new detainee to pinpoint the location of his former colleagues and broadcast an appeal to them directly through an airborne aircraft's speaker system. This rapid action all takes place with the new Hoi Chanh still on the ground...rarely would he actually be taken on a flight to make a broadcast.

Night speaker missions have also been valuable, particularly a tape titled "Wandering Souls." The broadcast depicts a dead VC soldier lamenting his ill fate; he is doomed to wander through eternity, for he did not receive a proper burial after dying on the battlefield. Complete with funeral music and loud groaning, the recording was recently played for twenty-hour periods over camps at Dak Seang and Dak Pek which were under enemy threat.

About 95 percent of the 9th SOS's work centers upon the Chieu Hoi program, but a small portion of the squadron's job is a different nature. This sideline work includes instruction on how to grow crops, get medical attention, or get out of the way of bombers. A control aircraft also flies on insecticide spraying missions. Finally, information can be relayed to a downed flyer who has lost the use of his radio, employing the speaker system.

Although the men of the 9th SOS get little feedback on their work, they do have the consolation that it takes great risk and thousands of dollars to kill a man, but only a fraction of either to convince him to rally.



INTO THE CHUTE - A special leaflet-dropping chute in the tail of a C-47 is packed with Chieu Hoi pamphlets. The plane can carry a whopping one-and-a-half million of the leaflets.



THE DECISION - Since 1963, over 150,000 former enemy soldiers have rallied to the side of the GVN under the Chieu Hoi program. The first five months of this year alone witnessed some 15,000 new Hoi Chanh



The crane eases off the ground as it prepares to get positioned for the lift.

Super Hooks Bring 'Em In



Upside down, the downed Cobra rests beside the crane as pilot and crew chief decide how best to haul it to a rear area.

1ST AVN BDE -- "Three, two, one," the crew chief called at the pilot as the huge 273d Skycrane came over the downed Cobra.

"Okay, they've got it. They're away," barked the crew chief again, and the "super hook" began to ease the fallen aircraft off the ground.

Every move, every maneuver, by the crane's pilot during the operations, is dictated by the crew chief. From the pilot's position up front and with the responsibility of flying the plane, it's impossible to know exactly what's going on between the people fixing the sling and the project to be transported.

It's the crew chief's job to give him a constant and detailed description of what's happening below.

After the sling is lowered onto the top of the Cobra, it's fastened by the men on the ground, they clear the area and the signal is given by the crew

chief for the pilot to take off, slowly at first to make sure the hook is securely fastened.

Here, an extra 60 feet of sling had to be added to the regular length in order to hook up the Cobra.

Closeness and height of the trees prevented the crane from lowering itself nearer than 160 feet above ground. At that height, as at lesser ones, hovering while the hook is being attached is a delicate time for piloting and requires total concentration.

After each job portions of the wreckage are carried to the nearest area where they can be disposed of or repaired.

Men of the 273d Heavy Helicopter Company are responsible for III and IV Corps in Vietnam and a normal day includes 10-15 hours of hard work; from hauling a downed aircraft out of the swamps to moving a CONEX container of gravel across a river for a Vietnamese village.

**Story And Photos By:
1LT Thomas J Turner**



After carefully hooking the sling to both ends of the Cobra, it is picked up out of the grass and hauled away.



This is the end result of a 48-day pilot construction project here to improve the housing standards of Republic of Vietnam Air Force (VNAF) dependents. U.S. Air Force and Vietnamese airmen, and Vietnamese civilians teamed up to complete the project in spite of rain and rocket attacks.

(USAF PHOTO)

Villagers Stay; Rebuild

25TH INF DIV -- Typical of their Oriental philosophy, the residents of this small village on the Cambodian border, accepted the destruction of their property as a consequence of war.

They had however, planned to move away from their destroyed homes but plans changed by the intervention of the American 25th Infantry Division.

The division's 1st Brigade Civic Actions Office was determined to give the civilians a helping hand. Breaking their way through the bush on a convoy of trucks, the "Tropic Lightning" troopers were met by a much surprised gathering of villagers. A loudspeaker was set up and an interpreter announced why the GIs had come.

First item on the agenda was the MEDCAP (Medical Civic Action Project), during which the medics were constantly surrounded by a throng of women with crying babies.

Altogether the GIs treated 153 people for everything from cuts and bruises to stomach-aches.

The village chief then organized the men of the village according to household, so they could receive equal amounts of money, food and building supplies.

"This is one of the most organized operations with the villagers that I have ever seen," commented First Lieutenant David Johnson of Concord, Mass., Civic Actions Officer.

Each household received 220 pounds of rice, 50 pounds of bulgar wheat, 50 pounds of rolled oats, 50 pounds of corn meal, 50 pounds of powdered milk and two cans of cooking oil -- enough to feed a family of four for a month.

Captain Frank Smith, of Arlington, Tex., then distributed money, 1,000 Riels per household, to the orderly file of family heads.

Later that day, a Chinook (CH-47) dropped more than 400 sheets of tin roofing to help rebuild the homes.

By that time, an air of festivity had settled on the crowd, creating an atmosphere much like that of a picnic back in the States.

Children were running everywhere and the women were busy gossiping about their newly acquired possessions.

Before the civic action team arrived, the villagers had definite plans to move away from their destroyed homes.

"Thanks to the Americans,"

the village chief told the interpreter, "our plans have been changed. We're staying here and rebuilding our village."

Thus ended another day in which the very unusual war was fought, not with machine guns and air strikes, but with kindness and generosity.

Security For Families

CORDS -- One of the major goals in the pacification effort is providing security so that Vietnamese families can return to their home villages in peace.

Here in Dien Khanh district, villagers took an important step a year ago when they returned to their homes in Dien Tho and Dien Lam. They were forced out of their homes in 1965, when Viet Cong terrorist attacks were at their peak.

In the spring of 1969 however, Dien Khanh district was well on the road to pacification after the Republic of Korea and Regional and Popular Forces units had eliminate all but a few Viet Cong.

With territorial security established, the villagers felt confident they could return to their homes in safety. The great exodus took place last year and with the aid of Vietnamese government officials and U.S. advisors, the people have become well settled and are now leading peaceful, profitable lives.

One year after their rebirth, the two villages are scenes of bustling activity, prosperous beyond the dreams of an optimist a few years ago. Rice, corn and fruit grow well in the rich valley soil, while cattle raising provides a good income for many local ranchers.

Many construction projects have been completed, along with schools, dispensaries and roads. Other self-development projects are undertaken by the villagers, with assistance from the advisors.

U.S. advisors are assigned to a unique organization, Civil Operations and Rural

Development Support (CORDS). Both military and civilian personnel work on this pacification team, helping bring about economic and political stability, increased territorial security and better social and health conditions to the people of Vietnam.



New Toy

Orphanage children are not very hard to please. This Vietnamese boy at the Sao Mai orphanage enjoys a simple balloon which he considers to be a marvelous toy.

(USA PHOTO By: Sp4 Richard Struble)

New Housing

7TH AF -- Walking through the Republic of Vietnam Air Force's (VNAF's) housing area at Pleiku Air Base, one can get a vision of future things to come for the entire nation.

Despite rockets and rain, a combined force of 10 U.S. Airmen, 12 VNAF airmen and 14 Vietnamese civilians recently completed a pilot housing project.

Pleiku was one of six bases in Vietnam selected to build the new one-story 10-family units. The project, under the supervision of the 625th Air Base Squadron's civil engineering section, was completed in just 48 days. Previous to this, VNAF families were living in housing considered substandard.

The project engineer, USAF Captain James E. Cunningham, explained that this project

would be the first step in a nation-wide building program for military dependents.

"The programs," he said, "will enable those planning future projects to determine how long it takes to construct such housing units."

USAF Colonel Henry Scheingold, commander of Pleiku AB, and VNAF Lieutenant Colonel Do Trang Phuc, 92d Air Base Group commander, opened the doors to the housing unit in a joint ribbon cutting ceremony recently. That same day was moving day for many VNAF families.

"The project was a definite success, and not only are the units constructed well, but they also better the living conditions of the VNAF," Cunningham added.

Disease War

18TH MP BDE -- Two programs initiated by military police of the Xuan Loc detachment, Company C, 720th Military Police Battalion, and the Civic Actions Office of the 89th MP Group, are aiding Vietnamese civilians fighting disease and litter in their city.

Police have declared war on unseen bacteria, cutting the rate of communicable disease in the city by two-thirds. "The national police and MPs inform city dwellers of the weekly medical service at Husky Compound. We aid with transportation to and from the dispensary," commented Sergeant First Class Chester Baker, NCOIC of the Xuan Loc detachment.

MPs and Army doctors stayed to help fight the problem when it became apparent Vietnamese doctors couldn't handle the job. "They are busy with ARVN cases: too busy with the war to mount such an extensive program at this time," one national policeman commented.

Weekly, MPs also rounded up representatives from other units in the Xuan Loc area for a "Beautify your City" project.

"We started a month ago

driving and walking down the main street with trucks and roadgraders, picking up rubbish and smoothing the roadway," Baker added.

"Much of the road litter is American-made: beer and soda cans, bottles, and newspapers. The Vietnamese don't have this specialized equipment to spare, so Saturday mornings we help," commented Private First Class Robert Maron of East St. Louis, Ill.

While the bulk of Vietnamese manpower is tied up in the Vietnamization effort, MPs at Xuan Loc have given medical and physical aid to the city, cleaning up a war torn area for decent, peaceful living.

Elections

101ST ABN DIV -- Screaming Eagles from the 3d Battalion, 187th Infantry, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile), recently provided safety and peace of mind to a large segment of the inhabitants of Phong Dien and Huong Dien District during their recent provincial and district level elections.

Ten thousand residents of the area are former refugees that now have homes and land of their own thanks to "Rakkasan" resettlement and civic action programs.

Many of the villagers were apprehensive about the possibility of damage to their new homes from enemy patrols that might try to disrupt the elections.

The Rakkasans of Bravo and Charlie Companies, along with the Popular and Regional Forces, deployed around hamlets in the two districts northwest of Hue.

First Lieutenant Thomas Conner, of Atlanta, Ga., a platoon leader of Company C is proud of his unit's participation in the security of the area.

"Usually we leave the security of the villages to the RF and PF," he related. "And we, in turn, work in the unpopulated areas west of here. But, due to the possibility of the Viet Cong's attempts to disrupt the election procedures, the 187th helped seal off the area. Of course, this allowed the people to vote freely without pressure from the VC."

"The Rakkasans have spent long hours of hard work with the villagers and we didn't want it all ruined by having them intimidated during their election," added Conner.



BUNKER

BUNNY

SEZ,

"You've probably gotten the news by now, but if you haven't, let me tell you that the mail you're sending home is being slowed down a bit these days. Yes, it no longer goes by air once it hits stateside...instead, it goes by first class handling. Now if this puts a kink in your style -- or you have something that just has to get through in a hurry -- just stick an airmail stamp on it and you're in like Flynn. And while you're at it, why not drop me a line sometime?" (Photo courtesy 20th Century-Fox)

Beetle Bailey

By Mort Walker



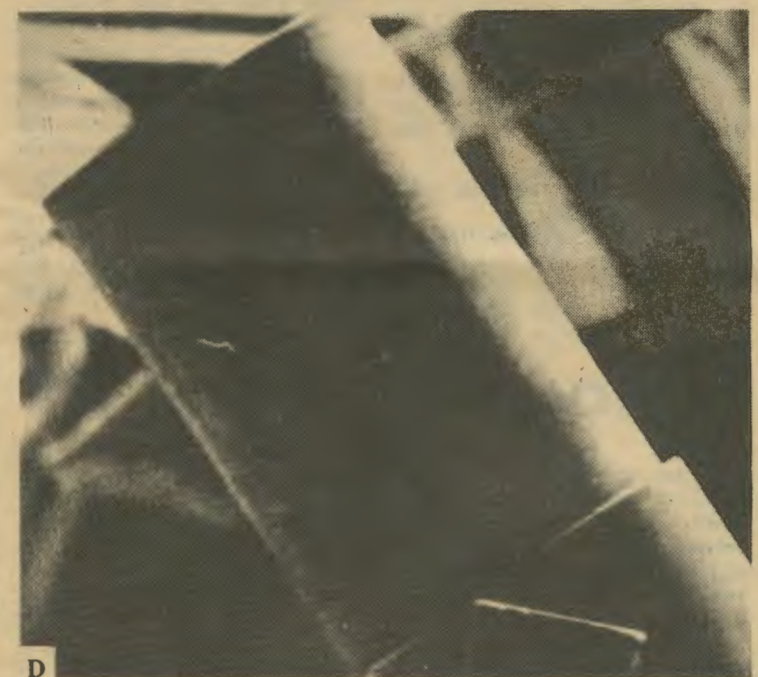
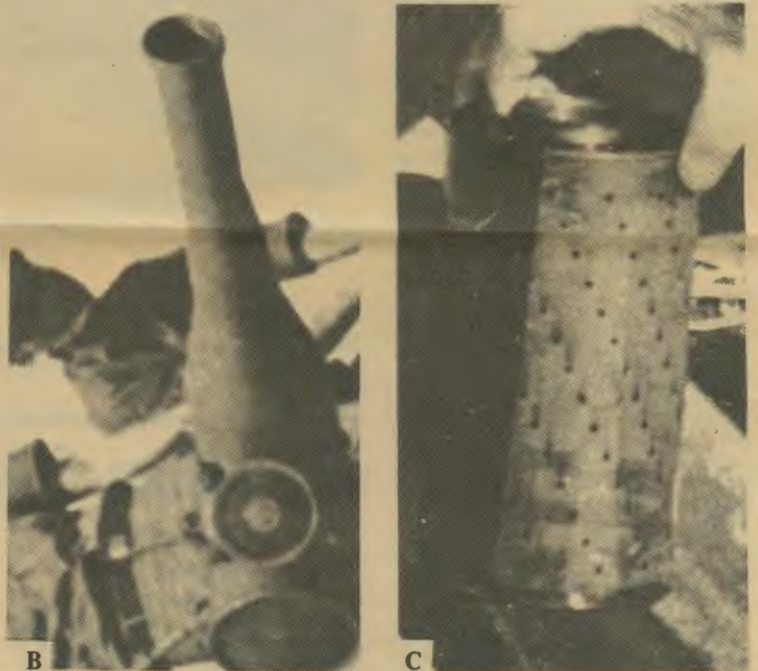
Peanuts

By Charles M. Schulz



'Photo Quiz'

Warning! Walking into rotor blades may be hazardous. This warning may seem unnecessary, and it should be, but helicopter pilots are constantly worried by passengers who seem unaware that churning helicopter blades are potentially lethal. When boarding a helicopter remember this and stay low. Now see if you can identify the photos below.



(A) These two men are seen as they rappel from a helicopter into a landing zone site being cleared by Leathernecks of the Third Marine Regt. (B) This tube is really a piece of firefighting equipment being used to train VNAF firemen. (C) Changing oil filters is part of every engine maintenance job to assure proper engine operation. (D) You're right, it's a captured 61mm mortar.

Small LZ Presents Problem

LOH Makes Rescue

'Doc' Will Treat Man Or Beast

AMERICAL DIV -- It was an occasion for field expediency, turning a Light Observation Helicopter (LOH) into a "dust-off" chopper.

During a series of heavy firefights in Hiep Duc Valley, two Americal Division pilots flew their small craft into landing zones too small for MEDEVACs and evacuated more than 15 American soldiers.

Chief Warrant Officer Carlos Quintero of Tampa, Fla., was flying the command and control helicopter for Lieutenant Colonel Richard Carvell of Virginia Beach, Va., commanding officer of 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry, 196th Infantry Brigade off LZ West, overlooking Hiep Duc Valley.

In the valley an infantry company needed help. Private First Class Kenneth Lyon of Tulsa, Okla., a crew chief flying his first mission, explained the situation. "We went in seven or eight times to the company. They were set up on a small hill covered with waist-high grass and huge boulders. We picked up three heat casualties and ran some resupply -- ammo, cigarettes and food."

In mid-afternoon, the company came under heavy fire from an NVA unit. Two Americans were wounded and a "dust-off" medical evacuation helicopter was called.

"The dust-off couldn't get in," explained Quintero. "The landing zone was too small for the Huey to maneuver into and it was not -- the bird took at least three hits."

Quintero thought the smaller, more maneuverable LOH could get in. It did.

"We went in and they were shooting everything," said Quintero, ".30 caliber, automatic and small arms fire, but no hits."

Hovering three to four feet above the high grass and rocks, Quintero held the chopper steady while Carvell and Lyon helped the wounded get on board.

"I don't know how he held it," recalled Lyon. "People jumping on and throwing packs, it's hard."

Safely gaining altitude, Quintero extracted the patients to LZ West, and was soon back to the action, this time for another wounded, an NVA soldier.

Again he hovered precariously over the tiny LZ, secured the load and returned to the fire support base.

Quintero then took the craft up for a final time.

"When we finished getting the people out, we went out to spot NVA soldiers and mark their positions for Blue Ghost and Firebird gunships to fire up."

Village Is Model Of Sanitation

IFFV -- Sanitation in the RVN has always been a serious problem because many people don't know the difference between unhealthy conditions and any others. Prospects for a healthier Vietnam through sanitation have increased since U.S. and Vietnamese public health experts constructed a model sanitation hamlet near Tay Ninh City.

"The hamlet of Long Qui has been quite successful," says Colonel Clyde C. Currier, executive officer of the III Corps Public Health Division in Civil

Three days later, another LOH pilot, First Lieutenant Patrick Hadfield of Honolulu, also turned his craft into a medical evacuation chopper in Hiep Duc Valley. Hadfield explained: "I was going out to LZ West to fly the command and control chopper for Carvell, but when I got out there I heard there were some wounded where a dust-off couldn't get in."

Hadfield and another LOH flying as an artillery observer volunteered to fly the MEDAVAC mission.

A string of Blue Ghost Cobra

gunships, Troop F, 8th Cavalry, flew along to provide overhead security.

Alone in his craft, Hadfield flew into the tiny LZ five times to pick up the wounded.

"There was some incoming," recalled Hadfield with considerable understatement. "They'd put on two or three wounded at a time while I was hovering. I guess I picked up 10 or 15 men altogether."

Some soldiers on the LZ pimpinied the incoming. Each time a chopper came in, it had 14 seconds before a mortar round followed.

173RD ABN BDE -- Specialist 4 Wallace E. Ziegler knew he'd have his hands full as a combat medic in Vietnam, but he got more than he bargained for when he joined the 4th Battalion, 503rd Infantry. Ziegler has a entire rifle platoon to treat, and being "on call" when the team is on operations can be a 24 hour a day job. In addition he treats many Vietnamese while on MEDCAPs or on patrol with his unit, for anything from a fevered Mamasan to a wounded enemy soldier.

But unusual to most medics, the villagers also call on the "Doc" to care for their sick or wounded animals. "Once a Brama bull charged at the point man of our patrol," Ziegler recalled. "The pointman shot the bull in the leg during the charge, and since the bull was the only means for plowing the fields that the concerned owner had I faced the task of removing the bullet."

Putting his experience to work, Doc successfully extracted the round and brought the beast of burden back to a useful condition.

Trained at an early age by his father, educated at Washington State University, and the experience gained as a combat medic, Ziegler plans to return to his home at Pasadena, Calif., and continue his medical career. The question remains though as to whether he will return to treat animals or their masters.

A Brief Meeting

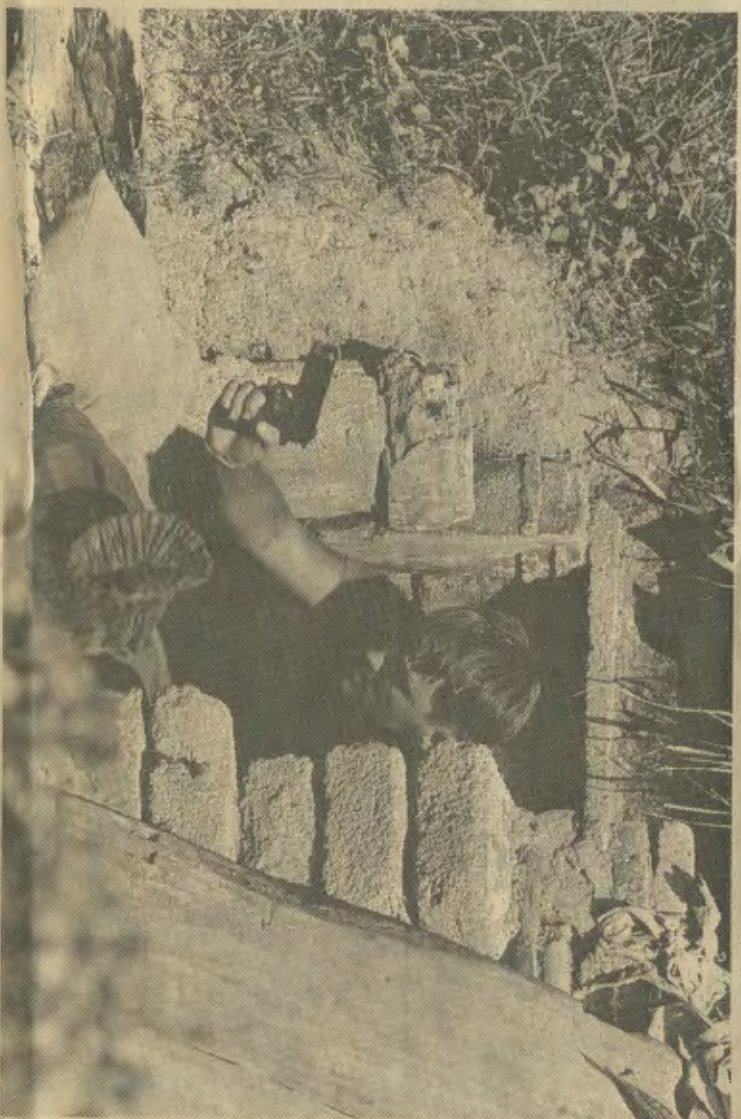
AMERICAL DIV -- The friendly smiles and waves of a three-man NVA squad to an ARVN Ranger turned into a mad scramble which left two NVA soldiers dead, one detained and a 9mm pistol and six Chicom grenades confiscated. The melee occurred 16 miles west of Duc Pho in the 11th Infantry area of operations.

"I sent out a recon team to check the north side of a trail," explained Captain Anthony Avgoulis, company commander of Company G, 75th Infantry (Ranger). "The rest of us were acting as a security team to keep the south side of the trail under surveillance. The recon team had just returned when we spotted three NVA soldiers coming down the trail," he continued.

"When the NVA soldiers saw the ARVN Ranger they waved and started to act friendly," said Sergeant Tom Meir of La Crosse, Wisconsin. "But when they noticed Avgoulis and me they were tripping all over themselves to get back up the trail. That's when we opened up, killing two and stopping the third," Meir stated.

It was a short mission. The team had moved only about a mile from their insertion point and were extricated before noon. In the same length of time three NVA soldiers discovered that all who lurk in the jungle are not friendly--and only one lived to tell about it.

LCpl Gene L. Jackson of Houston, a member of Company F, 2nd Bn, 7th Marine Rgt, seaches a suspected enemy bunker the company found while conducting operations in Happy Valley, southwest of Da Nang. (USMC PHOTO By: Cpl R. L. Pearson)



Tight Squeeze

Election Highlights...

Continued from Page 1

run 600,000 piasters. "I borrow money from my daughter and some of my relatives," the losing candidate, a former public servant, said. "Now I lose and have nothing."

Captain Siong Chiong Chan, a 38-year-old Army veteran of 15 years, said 30 of his friends helped him campaign throughout the province and that most of his money went for "transportation and canvassing."

"When the votes were first counted, they told me I had lost," Chan said. "I got up the next morning and found out there was a recount and I had won."

During the two month Operations and Rural Development Support (CORDS). "When I last visited, people were sweeping leaves from the ground. It's the cleanest hamlet I've ever seen."

American advisors take credit for initiating the project, but feel it is the responsibility of the Vietnamese to see that it is nurtured and grows into something that will cover the entire III Corps area district by district.

Colonel Currier said there was no statistical evidence of less disease, but district authorities claim that the hamlet's residents

campaign, the candidates were escorted in a group by province officials to nearly every village and hamlet in the province. All the candidate's names were placed in a hat, and the name drawn out first was that of the candidate first to speak.

"Always promise, promise, promise, we don't know if they will realize or forget," said a hamlet resident after hearing the candidates speak. "If they promise to do something too big or too difficult to reach, then we know they are lying."

Issues included more schools, better security in rural areas, keeping the farm laborer from being "oppressed" by large scale

are generally healthier than prior to the program's inception one year ago.

Visual and olfactory results have been the primary motivating factor. Adequate garbage disposal has eliminated an acute rodent and insect problem. Water seal latrines eliminate obnoxious odors. Aprons protecting wells have kept the water sources cleaner. Combined, these things have made a lasting impression on the hamlet's people, and they are now making a personal effort to continue the sanitation.

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