

# Allies Halt NVA Attack

AMERICAL DIV. (USA) -- The NVA recently lost 135 soldiers in its drive against the CIDG camp at Nghia Hanh. The emplacement—five miles southwest of Quang Ngai City—was the object of a regimental offensive. Had the attack been successful, Quang Ngai City would have been left open to assault.

The Americal Division's 174th and 176th Aviation Companies (Assault Helicopter) and the 4th ARVN Regiment combined forces to block the NVA, dictating a hasty enemy retreat back into the mountains.

Prior intelligence reports of the enemy's intentions did little to stem the fury of the NVA mortar and ground

attacks, however. "When we got on station it was hard to tell who was in possession of Nghia Hanh," reports Chief Warrant Officer Jarvis D. Gambrell of Port Arthur, Tex. of the 174th Aviation Company. "Soldiers of the 4th ARVN Regiment had been airlifted in earlier and were in heavy contact."

Heavy ground fighting by the 4th ARVN Regiment and solid support from the helicopter gunships finally neutralized the enemy assault on Nghia Hanh, and the NVA troops were forced to assume a defensive stance. They attempted to flee south to their sanctuary in the Song Ve River Valley, but were harried by the ARVN infantry reaction forces and the

American gunships.

The final blow was dealt to the enemy offensive on the western ridge of the river valley's corridor. Second Lieutenant John I. O'Sullivan of Brooklyn, N.Y., a 174th gunship pilot, explains that the gunship pilots' familiarity with the topography of the region was of great assistance in locating the enemy.

"A gunship passed over the ridge," he relates, "and the pilot noticed that it wasn't as bald of foliage as usual. There was a row of bushes in place that wasn't normally there. A second pass over the area revealed an AK-47 weapon attached to one of the 'limbs,' which lead the pilot to identify a camouflaged relief column

of enemy soldiers headed for Nghia Hanh."

Major Frederick G. Blackburn of Kansas City, Mo. commander of the 174th, turned the gunships loose on the trail. At the same time, Lieutenant Colonel Le Ba Khieu, commander of the 4th ARVN Regiment, realized the enemy situation and organized a reaction force strike on the then smoldering trail.

The South Vietnamese credited the 174th with the destruction of a command post and confirmed that 135 NVA soldiers had died in attempting to raze Nghia Hanh. Seventeen were credited to the 176th Aviation Company, and 38 to the 174th Aviation Company.



FIRST IN VIETNAM

## THE OBSERVER

Vol. 9, No. 6

Saigon, Vietnam

June 12, 1970

## AF Flies 'Hot' Cargo

BIEN HOA AB -- As American Forces entered the Fish Hook area in Cambodia, the need for increased logistics grew accordingly. The U.S. Air Force's Detachment 5, 8th Aerial Port Squadron, hot cargo section, responded immediately and in the first four days delivered more than 1,800,000 pounds of supplies.

The three primary work horses for hauling cargo have been the C-7 Caribou, C-123 Provider and C-130 Hercules. A view of the "hot cargo" ramp will generally show at least one or possibly a combination of all three of these aircraft in varying stages of readiness.

In addition to cargo requirements, combat essential personnel from the U.S. Army's 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) were airlifted into several forward operating locations near the Cambodian border throughout this period.

Aircraft scheduled for operation from this base were controlled by the 834th Air Division Control Element.



### Leaping Eagles

Members of the 101st Airborne Division disembark from a hovering helicopter during recent assault operations southeast of Hue. (USA PHOTO By: Sp4 Gordon Burton)

## Joint Forces Strike Enemy

101st ABN (USA) -- Strike Force troopers of the 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry, confirmed 79 NVA soldiers killed in action as the result of recent firefights, artillery barrages, F-4 Phantom attacks, and air rocket artillery (ARA) strikes. The Screaming Eagles also confiscated 13 AK-47 weapons and 40 satchel charges in sporadic actions spread over two weeks.

Much of the ground fighting occurred 10 to 15 meters from enemy positions in the thick jungle terrain on and near Hill 882, 20 miles southwest of Hue.

Howitzers of the 2nd Battalion, 11th Artillery supported the infantrymen by softening up the area. And when the Strike Force troopers approached an enemy bunker complex, rounds from Battery A, 1st Battalion, 83rd Artillery, pounded the suspected enemy locations.

Aerial support was provided by Cobras of the 4th Battalion, 77th Air Rocket Artillery, in addition to pink and white teams from the 1st Brigade Aviation Platoon. The pink and white teams, utilizing OH-6 Light Observation Helicopters (LOH), also performed visual

reconnaissance missions in the area.

During one of the major contacts, an element of Company C received rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) rounds and automatic weapons and small arms fire from an enemy force of unknown size located 20 meters to their front. The element returned the fire, holding its ground in the face of grenades and satchel charges being lobbed at them by enemy soldiers perched in trees. Pulling back finally, it allowed the employment of artillery, ARA, and F-4 airstrikes. Later, in a sweep of the area, 27 dead NVA

soldiers were found near the origin of the contact.

Two days later, about one mile south of Company C's position, another enemy force was encountered during a reconnaissance-in-force mission. Receiving fragmentation grenades, RPG and small arms fire from about 15 enemy soldiers entrenched in a bunker complex 20 meters away, the infantry again called for the ARA Cobras, artillery, and F-4 Phantom strikes. Eighteen NVA troops were killed during the contact, and one enemy machine gun was destroyed.

## AHC's Thrust Kills 79

1ST AVN BDE (USA) -- A recent thrust across the Cambodian border by 13th Combat Aviation Battalion gunships resulted 79 enemy killed and several enemy sanctuaries destroyed.

Gunships from the 336th Assault Helicopter Company (AHC) together with the 121st AHC, 16th Air Cav and the 3/5 Air Cav were involved in the assault.

The major action of the day occurred at Kampong Trach, approximately nine miles inside the border. A raid on an enemy basecamp there netted 70 enemy dead and freed 40 Cambodian Government troops being held by the Communists. A .51 caliber antiaircraft gun was also captured. "It was an old French contonement area," stated Major Thomas M. Kilpatrick, commander of the 336th. "I certainly would have hated to be in there during the raid. I landed there afterwards and it was really torn apart."

"They were apparently geared only for ground attacks," Kilpatrick continued. They weren't ready to face any kind of overhead fire. The .51 was all they had to fight helicopters with and that didn't last long."

Earlier in the action the 16th Air Cav killed another nine enemy soldiers in the Tuk Neas area, approximately 10 miles north of Kampong Trach.

"We spotted a platoon of at least 25 of them moving out of the foliage," said Captain Larry E. Cardell, pilot of one of the gunships. "After we rode in and hit the treeline with flechettes, the LOH went down and took fire. He moved out again and we made two more runs. This time the LOH went in and didn't take any fire. He saw nine bodies lying out in the open, not one of them made it out of the treeline."

Earlier in the day, Dark Horses destroyed a .51 caliber weapon and hit a motorpool, smashing two 45-passenger diesel busses and two tractor trailer trucks.

### Inside...

A Reminder	3
Flag Day	4
Education	8
MEDCAPS	9
Bunker Bunny	10





MSgt. Sherwood Gaddy and Sp5 Steve Hall probe the area around an unexploded 500 pound bomb, searching for possible boobytraps. The men are EOD experts working with the 196th Inf. Bde., Americal Div., near LZ Center. (USA PHOTO By: SSgt. Tim Palmer)

## EOD Team Reacts

AMERICAL DIV (USA) -- "I hope all we have today is a 250 pounder". So spoke Master Sergeant Sherwood F. Gaddy of Anniston, Ala., as he and Specialist 5 Steve Hall of Clear Lake, Iowa, left Chu Lai for another trip to the bush. This was a daily occurrence for at least one of the explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) teams working throughout the Americal Division's area of operations.

The mission this morning was unclear. All they knew was that there was a large unexploded bomb lying near a slightly populated area in the vicinity of LZ Center. It turned out that Center was merely a reference point. The chopper finally inserted Gaddy and Hall on a hill

four clicks south of the mountain top firebase.

The location was known as "Butterfly Hill". Hours earlier Company B, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry, had cleared the area of an 81mm mortar round. The round had been boobytrapped with trip wire. The infantrymen had decided to leave the large round to the "professionals", the EOD team.

With a squad of infantrymen providing security, the EOD specialists made their way to the bomb.

After the Vietnamese families had been moved to a safe location, Gaddy and Hall went to work.

"The first job is to excavate the ordnance to the point where it can be determined whether or not the fuse is still intact, or if any boobytraps are evident," commented Gaddy. "Often the infantry helps with the digging to a certain point, especially the projectile is buried deep. But when the digging starts to get close to the bomb itself we take over."

In this case Gaddy and Hall chose to do all the digging around what turned out to be a 500 pound bomb.

After ascertaining that the bomb was not boobytrapped, the EOD team decided to move it to a small gully before detonation. If they detonated it in place, the nearby dwellings would be destroyed.

The heavy bomb was dragged 200 meters to the gully. Here it was charged, fused and detonated within ten minutes. Another enemy threat was eliminated.

Hall said that infantrymen are sometimes reluctant to call for help from an EOD team. This especially true if some of the alerts turn out to be false alarms. Gaddy summed up his feeling on this point, "I'd rather hump out to the bush a hundred times for false alarms, than not go once and see friendly casualties as a result."

In addition to providing the service described above, EOD units have less dramatic tasks to perform. They supervise the disposal of all types of ammunition in major basecamps, check for suspected boobytrap locations and provide around-the-clock service related to any kind of explosive ordnance problem.

## A Quick Breakfast.....

25TH INF DIV (USA) -- Reconnaissance in force -- a way of life for the men of Troop A, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry.

The day starts off with a quick breakfast and an inspection of weapons and ammunition. Officers and NCOs receive a final briefing on their mission.

The sun rises and the impending heat of the early day can already be felt. The tracks line up to move out. The signal is given. Sheridan armored vehicles and armored personnel carriers begin to move into the triple canopy jungle in the mountainous area south of the division's 2nd Brigade base camp at Bearcat.

Moving slowly, the lead

## Rangers Ax Enemy

The following information is provided by the Press and Information Office, General Political Warfare Department, RVNAF, Saigon, for the period of May 24 - 30.

### RANGERS

Ranger Headquarters terminated Operation Duong Son 3/70 recently in Quang Nam and Quang Tin Provinces. The rangers are credited with killing 681 enemy soldiers during the three month operation. Two Ranger battalions and two armored cavalry units participated in the operation. In addition to those enemy soldiers killed, friendly forces detained 347 enemy suspects, captured 15 crew-served weapons and 183 individual weapons.

### IV CORPS

Elements of the 9th Infantry Division, 21st Infantry Division, Rangers, Marines, CIDG, RF, armored cavalry elements and artillery recently completed an operation in IV Corps Tactical Zone in which 710 of the enemy were killed. Most of the action took place west of Chau Doc Provincial Capital. Besides those enemy soldiers killed during the seven day operation, ARVN soldiers captured 87 crew-served weapons, 100 tons of assorted ammunition, 11 tons of rice and destroyed 100 sampans.

vehicle, a Sheridan, breaks trail for the rest of the column. All eyes keep a sharp lookout on both sides of the trail. The jungle is so thick that the enemy could be standing three feet away and not be seen.

With the sudden breaking of squelch on the radio, a message comes over the air from the platoon leader. "On line!" Everyone knows that they have reached their objective. Now the search for the enemy intensifies.

The infantrymen know their job will soon begin. Again the radio blares out another message, "Dismounts down!" The men hit the ground, looking cautiously for the well concealed hiding places of the enemy.

After a number of thorough searches in the sweltering jungle heat, the long day slowly comes to a close. The vehicles form a column and head back to their night defensive position. The men, tired and dirty, look forward to getting some mail from home, some hot chow and a chance to clean up a little before the long night moves in.

Darkness now blankets the soldiers as they sit on top of their tracks, keeping a sharp eye to their front for any enemy movement.

Suddenly, a trip flare pops. A .50 caliber machine gun is the first to start blasting away at

suspected enemy movement. Within a split second, an arsenal of deadly weapons pour fire into the area around the flare. "Nothing coming back," the firing tapers off. All becomes quiet again. And the night drags on into the start of another day.

## It Could Happen To Anyone But

## AF Pilot Really Goofs

TAN SON NHUT (7AF) -- It seems as if Air Force Major Alva B. O'Brien gets into trouble every time he flies. Either his radio won't work or his compass goes out or he flies too low. To the untrained eye he seems to fly around looking for trouble.

But this is his job. O'Brien is operations evaluations officer for the 1964th Communications Group at Tan Son Nhut AB.

### FLY TO 17 BASES

O'Brien and the air traffic control operations evaluation team fly to 17 air bases in the RVN and Thailand. They check the performance of air traffic controllers at Air Force Communications Service control towers, radar approach control facilities and other flight facilities.

### NO ADVANCE NOTICE

"Without any advance notice," explained O'Brien, "we fly to a base just as any ordinary aircraft. From then on nothing is ordinary."

"We ask for landing instructions or maybe an instrument landing and see how the air traffic controllers respond. Then we simulate some emergencies, such as loss of the gyro compass or loss of the radio transmitter to see how the controllers handle emergencies."

### SIMULATE PILOT ERRORS

"Maybe we'll even simulate pilot error," continued O'Brien, "such as flying below the proper glide slope on an instrument landing just to see if the controller properly notifies us of our dangerous altitude."

All of the conversations between the aircraft and the controllers are recorded to allow the controller to review the tape for any areas of needed improvement.

### TOP NOTCH AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS

"Our job," stated O'Brien, "is to keep our air traffic controllers tops in the business and give the pilots in Southeast Asia the best possible air traffic control support."

## Cambodia Cache Box

The following is the impact of U.S./ARVN operations in Cambodia as of June 3. This is not inclusive of operations still in progress. Allied units have discovered:

Enough rice to feed 20,788 enemy soldiers for one year at full rations (1½ lbs per day).

Enough rice to feed 31,183 soldiers for one year at a reduced ration (1 lb per day).

Enough individual weapons to equip 43 full strength VC infantry battalions.

Enough crew-served weapons to equip 27 full strength VC infantry battalions.

Enough mortar, rocket and recoilless rifle rounds to give the enemy the capability to conduct 11,915 average attacks by fire each attack averaging 7.7 rounds per attack.



## Soggy Soup

This mess hall at FSB West II, north of the 25th Div. 1st Bde. Hq. at Katum, is getting its first taste of the upcoming rainy season. (USA PHOTO By: Sp4 Ed Toulouse)



## Herded North To Become Slaves

# Forced To Grow Food For NVA

**I FF VN (USA)** -- Hvem is a slight, frail, 40-year-old father of three, a Montagnard of the Sedang tribe. He has a shocking story to tell.

### NEEDED FOOD PRODUCERS

Eight years ago an element of NVA soldiers came to Hvem's hamlet in the Central Highlands of the RVN. Hvem and his entire community, including old people and children, were forced to leave their hamlet, to leave behind all of their life-invested belongings, their hopes, dreams and freedom and march north. The NVA soldiers needed food producers.

In late 1965, after the Gulf of Tonkin incident, the situation in the RVN became more crucial. Hvem's primitive community was herded back to the Central Highlands, northeast of the frequently besieged village of Dak To.

### ISOLATED IN JUNGLE

The Central Highlands has always been

a hotly contested area. But Hvem and his comrades knew little about the conflict. Isolated from the rest of the world by thick, triple canopy jungle, these mountain people could not even venture to the nearby village of Dak To. For years they lived under the oppressive hand of their captors.

### INTOLERABLE SITUATION

The situation was intolerable. Several of the people managed to escape. As punishment, and to impress upon those still enslaved the futility of hoping to improve their lot, the NVA soldiers separated families among the three encampments and imposed a heavy guard. Day after day the Montagnards dolefully labored for the NVA soldiers. They grew rice, corn, and cassava, which is used to make bread. They would rather suffer than leave their families, an act which would make their loved ones vulnerable to inhumane brutality. So they continued to give away their crops, leaving next to nothing for themselves.

### CONSIDERABLE MENTAL ANGUISH

The people were subjected to considerable mental anguish as well as harsh physical labor and punishment. Hard-core VC constantly pleaded with them to join the local VC forces. The people refused, despite promises of greater comfort. How could Hvem and his people possibly believe that their captors were struggling for liberation, for freedom, when they offered their captives nothing but slavery and deprivation?

### AGREED TO AID VC

But finally the people agreed to join the VC forces. They told a member of the VC cadre that they would agree on the condition that they be given a couple of days to

themselves so that they might make preparations before going to war. The VC granted their request. As soon as the cadre left, Hvem and his people made a desperate march to Dak To. Under cover of darkness, all 164 men, women and children miraculously slipped through the dense jungle and past a network of enemy and friendly force ambushes. They arrived in Dak To safe and free.

### CARRIED CHIEU HOI LEAFLETS

Several members of the group carried Chieu Hoi leaflets which were air-dropped over their area. The leaflets offered new and improved housing to ralliers, which was undoubtedly far from their minds, an item for later concern.

Right now, Hvem and his community of refugees are merely thankful to be free.



### Will It Hurt?

Hospital Corpsman Third Class Gregg Breitenstein of Austen, Texas, applies ointment to the lip of a small Vietnamese child from the village of Phuoc Thuan, located southwest of Da Nang.

(USMC PHOTO By: Sgt. R.R. Neuber)

## Roofing, Rice, Land

**II FFVN (USA)** -- For almost six years the Ap Chanh area in Binh Duong Province was deserted. But through a new program, the Province Refugee Service, the people are being induced to return.

The Province Refugee Service pays return-to-village allowances to families who return. Each family is entitled to 10 sheets of roofing and 7,500 piasters. Also, each person receives a six-month ration of rice.

It is estimated that about 1,000 hectares of land are capable of growing three crops of improved variety (miracle) rice each year. About 500 hectares will be mixed vegetables and 200 will be used for housing, roads and canals.

In order for the agriculture potential to be realized and before farming can begin in the Ap Chanh area, a water drainage system will have to be devised. Until this is done most of the rice planted will have to be local variety rice because of the water depth.

**1ST SGN BDE (USA)** -- "She fini life," said Father Voiriat, Jesuit Order of Thu Duc, of a young Vietnamese girl being rushed by jeep to a Long Binh Army hospital. The girl had been injured moments earlier in a grinding truck-motorcycle accident.

Riding in the back of the jeep with the priest and injured girl was Specialist 4 Gary Froggatte of the Long Binh Signal Support Agency. "I noticed that mouth to mouth respiration wouldn't work because of the obstructions in her air passage," explained Froggatte. "Without thinking I gave her a sharp blow to the chest. She moved her arm and started to breathe."

Froggatte vividly remembers the look of surprise on the face of Father Voiriat when the girl's arm moved.

Froggatte and three other members of the Agency -- Command Sergeant Major Robert Moor, Specialist 4

I don't know why. I don't know anything anymore. Go home, or the same thing will happen to you...."

Specialist 4 Jeff Farkeas and Jim Larouch, who operate the new weapon, call it their "wandering soul" tape. Essentially, it is a recording of the imaginary cries of a dead VC, or, more correctly, his soul. Farkeas and Larouch broadcast

the tape nightly from the perimeter of FSB Mat to any enemy soldiers who might be nearby.

"Of course, no VC soldier will actually think that this is a real ghost speaking to him," observed Larouch, "but the tape may make him think of possibilities he'd rather not even consider."

The recording plays on the traditional religious superstitions of the Vietnamese rural population. According to these beliefs, if a man dies in battle and his eldest son isn't there to bury his body, then his soul is condemned to wander eternally, never knowing peace.

"Just thinking about such things would be very unsettling to an enemy soldier," Larouch explained.

The effectiveness of the tape can perhaps be best measured by the fact that it has, on occasion, drawn enemy fire.

Another indication of its value might be the feelings of a young PF soldier who admitted that, were he a VC hearing the tape, he would probably immediately rally under the Chieu Hoi program.

In spite of this, the tape has not produced a line of trembling VC at the gate on the morning following a broadcast. Larouch explained that it is not really meant to be an inducement to rally.

"If nothing else, we are just trying to fray the enemy's nerve endings a little bit," he said.

## The Brink Of Death

Francisco Gonzales and Specialist 4 David White -- were returning from a visit to the Thu Duc National Orphanage when they came upon the accident. Two Vietnamese girls had been injured.

Moore described the scene: "Gonzales first recognized that the girls were in bad shape. I saw confusion and the two girls lying injured with no assistance being rendered by the onlookers."

Attempts to obtain medical help by radio failed. "I decided that medical help was vitally needed and sent the two girls on to a hospital by jeep," Moore said.

The girl is now recovering at the Bien Hoa Province Hospital. Each day Moore drops by the hospital to check on her improvement.

The other girl died later at the hospital.

Moore praised the way the soldiers reacted. "They reacted immediately, and their efforts were outstanding," he said.

## A Reminder

**1ST SGN BDE (USA)** -- The Southeast Asia Telephone Management Agency (SEA TELMA), currently in the midst of preparing a new Vietnam Telephone Directory, needs to update all telephone listings and subscriber locations.

Many subscribers erroneously believe that SEA TELMA is automatically notified when a telephone number is changed. However, input is provided solely by the telephone subscriber.

"It is important that during the month of June, every telephone subscriber in the RVN report his correct telephone number to this agency," said Major B.T. Fisher, chief, SEA TELMA Traffic Branch. "This will assure that the August edition will be the most accurate and comprehensive to date."



## Old And New

The old and the new combine along National Highway QL-13, where U.S. Army engineers are building a new road along an existing dirt one. When completed the new road will be paved and built to 60 mph specifications.

(USA PHOTO By: Sp4 Vincent Evans)



COMUSMACV ..... Gen. C.W. Abrams, USA  
Information Officer ..... Col. J.F.H. Cutrona, USA

\* \* \* \* \*

OIC ..... Capt. C.F. Burke, USA  
NCOIC ..... SMSgt. C.V. Slaven Jr., USAF  
Editor ..... SFC R.R. Thomas, USA  
Asst. Editor ..... TSgt. A.C. Stromwall, USAF  
Staff Writer ..... Sp5 D.E. Ellzey, USA  
Staff Writer ..... Sp4 H.J. Campbell Jr., USA  
Staff Writer ..... PFC Richard M. Volkmer, USA  
Composing ..... SSgt. C.M.L. Brisebois, USA

The OBSERVER is an authorized newspaper published weekly by the Command Information Division, Office of Information, Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, for United States Forces in Vietnam. Opinions expressed here do not necessarily reflect policies or positions of the Department of Defense or any of the Armed Forces. The OBSERVER, printed offset at Pacific Stars and Stripes in Tokyo, uses material from the American Forces Press Service and other Department of Defense agencies. Direct mail to: Editor, The OBSERVER, Hq MACV, (MACOI-C), APO 96222. The OBSERVER has a circulation of 80,000.

# Buyer Beware!

SUPT CMD (USA) -- Debt problems are some of the perennial bugaboos of young soldiers. This is not a problem limited to the military, of course. However, some commanders speculate that some of their soldiers could destroy the economy of North Vietnam and end the war if only they could be infiltrated into the North Vietnamese Government.

Installment buying is usually the root of the trouble. The payments seem very low, but the interest rates are high. When you combine a number of these low payments, you might find that you can indeed afford some new furniture -- if you give up eating and sell the kids.

One easy trap to fall into is the belief that you can easily

charge small amounts, knowing that you won't be too far in debt by doing so. Don't you believe it! This is how most people get into debt trouble -- by charging numerous small items and not worrying about them until they find they have created a monster they can't control. If the amount is small, there's no reason to charge it, since you can save enough to buy it in a short time. And if the amount is too large to pay cash, you probably can't afford it anyway.

The most prevalent forms of installment buying are the department store credit card and its idiot son, the all-purpose bank credit card. With either of these cards, you can sink hopelessly into debt without having any idea whatsoever how much you're spending or how much interest you'll have to pay.

Once you have debt problems, there are several pitfalls to avoid. One is entering into a contract with a "debt-pooling" company to handle your debts. These companies generally charge substantial fees to an overburdened debtor to do what he could do himself with the help of his commander or legal

assistance officer -- namely, make reduced payments to those creditors who agree to such a plan.

A second pitfall is taking out another loan to take care of those pressing past-due bills, and then having the payments on this loan to add to all other monthly payments.

You might be able to get out of trouble by obtaining a large loan to take care of all bills, and to eliminate all those annoying little payments by lumping them into one huge, back-breaking payment. Sometimes you can get a loan that will pay off all your bills and actually reduce your total monthly payment, but of course you'll be stretching your interest and your payments out endlessly. It'll be costly. Loan companies, as they advertise, are in business to end money worries -- their own. However, at this point any solution to your problems is going to be costly.

By this time, if you think the best idea might be not to buy things, you're catching on. Caution in buying, especially in installment contracts, is the only safe and sensible course.

## Race Relations Examined

WASHINGTON (ANF) -- The Department of Defense Inter-Service Task Force on Education in Race Relations is seeking written recommendations from armed service members which will improve race relations in the services. This request is one method of several the task force is using to develop a service-wide educational program in race relations.

Begun March 31 in response to a memorandum from Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird, the task force is charged with developing an educational program that will promote mutual understanding, cultivate respect for cultural differences and maintain harmonious

relationships among all members of the armed services.

The task force consists of three members (officer and enlisted) from each branch of the military services.

One of the methods the task force is using to gather data for preparation of the educational program are personal interviews and panel discussions. The task force also uses analysis of existing service school curricula on race relations and evaluation of information collected during visits to military installations.

The airing of grievances is not the function of the task force. Accordingly, written recommendations submitted by soldiers should be education-oriented.

Recommendations should be mailed to: Chairman, Inter-Service Task Force on Education in Race Relations, Office of Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower and Reserve Affairs), Washington D.C. 20301.

## VA Offers Medical Positions

WASHINGTON (VA) -- Veterans Administration hospitals are making a special effort to attract Vietnam veterans to fill hospital staff vacancies as doctors and nurses, and to work in thousands of subprofessional positions.

Administrator of Veterans Affairs Donald E. Johnson said that almost 6,000 veterans with medical skills were hired by VA hospitals during 1968 and 1969. Recruiting will be even more vigorous during 1970, he added, because VA's Department of Medicine and Surgery now has the largest personnel authorization in its history.

President Nixon's budget request for VA in fiscal year 1971 will increase the VA medical care staff by nearly six thousand employees, raising full

time employment to 137,856 -- the biggest work force in the department's history.

"Men and women who have learned new skills in military service are a valuable national resource," Johnson said, "and this is true especially of those who have been trained in the medical field. There are thousands of job vacancies in the health care field and jobs are being created faster than people are being trained."

Johnson also pointed out that for those who upgrade their skills in the health care field, VA offers excellent opportunities for advancement. The agency has a centralized personnel system covering all its 166 hospitals, so a wide choice of work locations and job-types is available.

## Considering Involvement

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- The modern man has a growing tendency to turn his head from the fallen stranger and to shut his ears to the cry for help. When the "bad Samaritan" is pressed for an explanation, he will usually say that he "didn't want to get involved." Frequently, he means that he didn't want to get sued.

The fear of lawsuits resulting from well-intentioned acts has gotten out of hand. Drivers will pass by persons injured in an automobile accident because of such fear, and many states have passed laws to encourage particularly physicians and medically trained personnel to stop and render assistance in such cases.

These laws, called "good Samaritan statutes," relieve one of liability for simple negligence when giving aid in emergency situations. They frequently apply to everybody, not just physicians or medically trained persons.

In terms of legal liability, a successful suit against the good Samaritan or the person who lends a helping hand is actually a rarity. The notion that he is responsible in case anything goes wrong is not true.

One can usually be held liable only for gross negligence. For instance, a motorist taking an injured person to the hospital may be held liable if, by driving recklessly, he causes a collision that worsens the injured man's condition.

Although one might not consider himself to be "his brother's keeper," the law should not be cited for such personal philosophy. An exaggerated fear of legal liability is not a good and sufficient reason for one's failure to act in an emergency situation.

A human life is no less valuable because it is a Vietnamese life, and a traffic accident in the Republic of Vietnam will cause no less grief and suffering because it occurs in a war zone. One should not, therefore, drive past an accident victim in Vietnam any more than one would drive past a similar accident in the United States. Even more important, the legal and moral obligation to stop, give aid and report an accident one is directly involved in also applies in the RVN.

Questions about legal liability in cases of emergency, or the applicability of "good Samaritan statutes" in the RVN should be referred to your unit's legal assistance officer.



## Flag Day-1970

*Don't Tread On Me," proclaimed the yellow flag, its white snake coiled menacingly. "Liberty," chimed the blue flag with a crescent in its corner. "Hope," chorused the white flag displaying a blue anchor.*

*Old banners, these . . . the stirring memories of our country's colonial infancy. And even grander designs followed as the republic emerged--the standards of a new people welded into nationhood.*

*Foremost was the Grand Union Flag, which carried the British Union Jack in the field and was the first to display the now familiar alternating red and white stripes. Following was the original Stars and Stripes, with thirteen stripes representing the founding states and thirteen stars representing a new constellation in the galaxy of nations.*

*One hundred and ninety-four years have since passed and 37 more states have joined the Union. June 14 is Flag Day. Remember our flag, and recall what it stands for.*





**RIGGING** -- Sergeants Dennis R. Lindell and Evariste J. Bisson of the 14th Aerial Port Sqdn., secure a 15,000 pound bomb on its delivery pallet before loading it on a C-130 Hercules.



**THREE FEET GOES A LONG WAY** -- Munitions specialist of the 483rd Munitions Maintenance Sqdn. install a 3-foot long fuse that will detonate the bomb above ground to maximize lateral blast effects and avoid causing a deep crater.

## Business Is 'Booming' At The 834th Air Div

**CAM RANH BAY (7TH AF)** -- When the 834th Air Division (AD) does something big, they do it with a "bang"! Lately the "bang" has been coming from the 15,000 pound bombs they are dropping in support of a unique project nicknamed "Commando Vault".

Noted more for its ability to haul vast amounts of cargo and passengers throughout the RVN than for dropping bombs, the 834th is nonetheless dropping the 15,000 pound bombs in support of Army field units.

Basically, the idea is to deliver a high-yield bomb into an area of dense jungle growth, clearing the area and creating an "instant" helicopter landing zone (HLZ).

When a field commander desires clearing of an HLZ by "Commando Vault" he sends his request through channels to MACV for approval. Upon validation and close coordination with the local province officials, MACV directs 7th AF to coordinate arrangements with the requesting field commander. After agreement on such basic planning factors as the exact target location and delivery date, 7th AF directs its tactical airlift agency, the 834th AD to conduct the drop operation.

To deliver the "Commando Vault" bombs requires using C-130 Hercules aircraft which are under the operational control of the 834th at Cam Ranh Bay. These aircraft and their crews rotate into the Republic on a temporary duty basis from the 463rd Tactical Airlift Wing at Clark AB, R.P.

Rigging the bomb for aerial delivery is the task of experts from the 14th Aerial Port Squadron, who secure the bomb to its delivery pallet and attach the extraction parachute that pulls the bomb from the rear of the aircraft. In addition, they also attach a stabilizing chute to the bomb which slows its descent and aids in the accuracy of the drop.

Once the bomb is loaded into the cargo compartment of the C-130 on the day of the drop, the next phase of the operation falls to another team of skilled professionals from the 483rd Munitions Maintenance Squadron. These men carefully install the primary and backup fuses on the bomb. In order to maximize the lateral blast effect and avoid causing a crater, the fuse is extended about three feet from the bomb causing the bomb to detonate above ground in the trees.

After the bomb has been secured and the C-130 is airborne, another series of maneuvers takes place prior to the "wet run" or actual drop. In the target area, a FAC exercises positive control over the aerial air support situation by maintaining contact with the drop aircraft, the direct air support center (DASC) and the "Combat Skyspot" precision radar controller.

On board the aircraft, the crew goes through a step-by-step checklist to insure all goes smoothly on the drop. Minute directional corrections are called to the crew by the "Skyspot" controller on the ground, and usually two or three "dry" runs are made prior to the actual release. Only the countdown of the radar controller is heard when the drop run is made. "5-4-3-2-1-MARK!" come his words over the air and the crew releases the bomb.

Seconds later, a huge fireball appears in the dense jungle below followed closely by a resounding "BOOM". In about five minutes the smoke has cleared and an opening appears on the jungle floor. The FAC flies in for a closer look at the HLZ that has been created and necessary information is passed back to the Army field commander who made the original request.

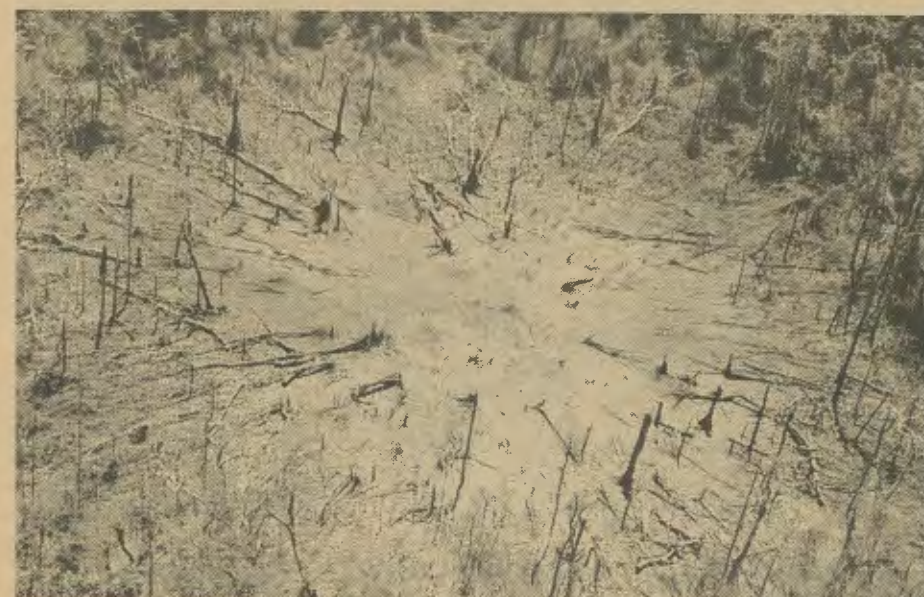
After the area has cleared and "cooled off," an Army helicopter lands in the clearing deploying an engineering team which clears any remaining debris. Within an hour or so, the area is capable of handling several more helicopters. Thus, the concept of an "instant" landing zone is realized.



**BOMB AWAY** -- A billowing extractor chute pulls the high-yield, low fragmentation bomb from the cargo deck of the C-130.



**FIREBALL** -- The initial explosion by the 15,000-pound bomb causes a huge fireball in the dense jungle followed closely by a resounding "BOOM".



**CLEARED HLZ** -- As a result of the blast, a landing zone is cleared for instant use by U.S. Army field units.





**BEAUTIFUL CHICKS** -- A Vietnamese sailor examines a newly arrived batch of chicks. Animal husbandry is one part of the joint U.S.-Vietnamese Navy project, designed to improve the life style of the Vietnamese navymen and their families.  
(U.S. NAVY PHOTO)



**THE PEN IS AT LEAST AS MIGHTY AS THE SWORD** -- In this case it is the pen that will protect the future occupants will grace the tables of Vietnamese sailors and their families.  
(U.S. NAVY PHOTO)



**CULTIVATING HIS FAMILY GARDEN** -- A Vietnamese sailor digs a garden irrigation ditch as part of the expanding effort by Vietnamese Navy families to obtain a balanced diet.  
(U.S. NAVY PHOTO)



**PIGS FOR PROTEIN** -- A Vietnamese sailor and an American advisor inspect new hogs donated to Vietnamese Navy Families for their self-help program.  
(U.S. NAVY PHOTO)

U  
In

CAN  
also fig  
rice, an  
trade to  
Why  
inferior  
promin  
nearly  
risen by  
200 per  
Pres  
for Vie  
but wit  
Parts  
"self-su  
Given a  
sell som  
breedin  
At t  
Naval  
trades  
typing.  
The  
from U  
concern  
Help  
needed  
raised  
U.S. bu





case it's a pig pen -- mighty because its  
eir families.  
(USN PHOTO By: PH2 D. L. Evans)



**FEATHERED FRIENDS** -- While four Vietnamese youngsters show their excitement, a U.S. Navy chief and two VNN shipmates display poultry specimens. The birds are part of a project designed to provide a higher protein diet for Vietnamese sailors and their families. The project -- a joint U.S.-Vietnamese Navy effort -- is being bolstered by the Operation Helping Hand Foundation, a nonprofit, Saigon-based fund raising organization.  
(U.S. NAVY PHOTO)

**CHICKS MAY NOT HAVE SHOT CARDS**, but they still need injections to keep healthy. Vietnamese navymen provide the poultry-saving shots as part of their program to upgrade the living standards of fellow servicemen and their families.  
(USN PHOTO By: PH2 D.L. Evans)

# JSN Joins VNN In Poverty War

**CAT LAI (USN)** -- The Vietnamese sailor -- while fighting communist aggression -- is fighting for a decent shelter for his family, for a diet that consists of more than just rice, and for a rehabilitation center where his wounded shipmates can recover and learn a trade to support themselves.

Why is the Vietnamese sailor forced to fight this additional battle against hunger and inferior housing? The answer to the question is not simple, but two facts stand out prominently as contributing to the situation. First, the size of the Vietnamese Navy has nearly doubled in the past year; and second, although the Vietnamese sailor's pay has risen by nearly 30 per cent in the last few years, the war-inflated cost of living has jumped 100 per cent.

Presently, a joint Vietnamese - U.S. - "Self-Help" project to improve living conditions for Vietnamese Navy families is aiming to provide these people--not with paper money -- but with a direct, tangible improvement in their standard of living.

Parts of the program will enable the Vietnamese Navy family to become "self-sufficient" -- especially in the areas of dietary improvement and rehabilitation. Even an initial stock of pigs, chickens or goats, a family can consume part of the stock; some to buy feed, medication, and other necessities, and still maintain some for breeding.

At the proposed Vietnamese Navy Rehabilitation Center near the Cat Lai Vietnamese Naval Base, disabled veterans will be able to live with their families while learning such trades as carpentry, auto mechanics, electricity, refrigeration, welding, plumbing and painting.

The entire project is now being supplied with volunteer labor and technical assistance from U.S. navymen, money from both U.S. and Vietnamese Navies, and donations from concerned individuals in the United States and the Republic of Vietnam.

Helping the Vietnamese sailors help themselves is a continuing project. Money -- needed to buy chicks, pigs, goats, building materials, feed and other items -- is being raised by, among others, a foundation called "Operation Helping Hand," organized by U.S. businessmen in the Saigon area.



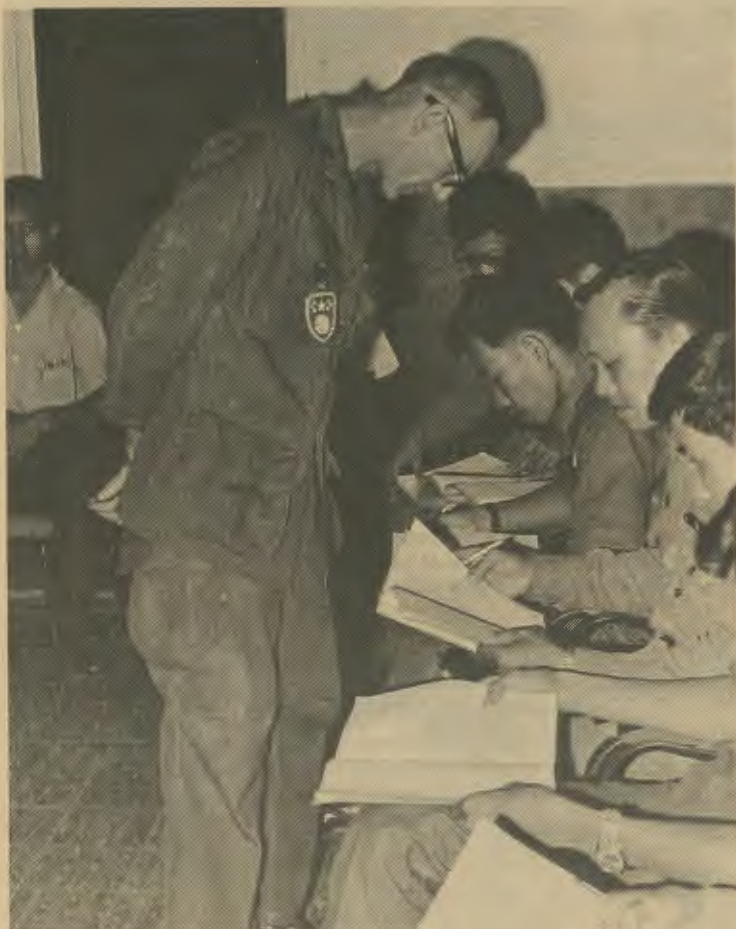




One use of tapes is to allow a student to hear himself speak English and correct his mistakes.



Different classes can use tape lab simultaneously. Man at console determines which recording will be played at each station.



Teachers establish close rapport with students.

## Language School Aids Victory

MACV -- Through the work of a unique school with headquarters at Tan Son Nhut, a major roadblock in the path of rapid Vietnamization -- the language barrier -- is being breached.

The Vietnamese Armed Forces' English Language School last year graduated 5,588 servicemen from all branches. Many of them went to the United States for advanced training in their career field, while others returned to commands throughout the country where they used their new language ability in conversations with their counterparts.

Speaking of the school's teaching methods, Mr. Edward A. Hahn, senior academic advisor, said, "Our classes are student oriented, there are no lectures and we speak only English in class."

The school makes extensive

use of tapes in its language labs. In some of the lab sessions, the student hears himself speak an American word or phrase after it is spoken by the instructor.

This Hahn pointed out, can be very embarrassing since the student's words may not sound anything like he intended them to. But it is also very instructive.

Most of the instructors are American servicemen who have seen combat in Vietnam. They are volunteers who have been trained extensively in the teaching methods of the Defense Language Institute at Lackland AFB, Tex.

Ninety percent of the instructors have degrees and five percent have graduate degrees.

The students are chosen by tests administered at induction and training centers. Dr. Norman N. Bonner, MACV test control officer, states that 70 to 75 percent of those taking the tests have shown a potentiality to

learn English. Depending on their ability, students complete the course in five to seven months.

Along with his training in conversational English (grammar is de-emphasized) a student may learn the terminology of his field. These include: medical orientation, basic electronics, military orientation, helicopters, explosive ordnance, flight training and maintenance and supply.

Summing up the school's role in Vietnamization, Colonel Bernard F. DeGil, senior advisor said: "The Vietnamese have a language school of which they are justly proud. Lieutenant Colonel Huyen Vinh Lai, the commandant, has brought the school to its present capacity of almost 6,300 students. He and the members of his staff have provided the required direction to teach English to Vietnamese of all military services."



Home Of RVNAF Language School At Tan Son Nhut





### Real Swingers

VNAF dependents at Tan Son Nhut enjoy new playground equipment with the help of TSgt. John Donahue and Sgt. Ralph Saenze, both of Headquarters, 7th Air Force.

(USAF PHOTO By: Sgt. William Diebold)

### Tapes Appeal To Ex-Comrades

## Rallier Helps PSYOPS

101ST ABN DIV -- Nguyen Quy Duong was a peaceful rice and vegetable farmer in Ha Bac City, just north of Hanoi, when he was drafted into the North Vietnamese Army just a year ago. Today he is a Hoi Chanh, undergoing medical treatment for malaria at the Thau Thien Province Chieu Hoi Center in Hue.

The 23-year-old former NVA has made several recordings for the 2nd Brigade's PSYOPS Section which broadcasts the tapes from helicopters circling

over suspected enemy locations. Through these recordings Duong tells his former comrades of the benefits they will receive if they rally to the GVN -- good treatment and wholesome food in addition to prompt medical care.

Duong underwent seven months of military training before starting the long march south early last year.

"We walked for nearly four months. The sun never broke through the jungle canopy and the only sounds we heard were

the birds and animals. Twice along the way we saw some Laotian and Montagnard people working in their fields. We did not stop to talk to them," he commented. During the march he carried 50 pounds of supplies on his back. It was on this journey that he contracted malaria.

"I became a Hoi Chanh because I am still young and do not want to spend the rest of my life under communism. They could not treat my sickness. I was hungry and tired," he said. Duong stated he had heard the PSYOPS aerial broadcasts while in the jungle, but added "The officers told us the broadcasts were all lies. They said the United States came to the RVN to take over the country and that we were here to liberate it. I could not talk to my friends about rallying for fear of punishment."

Nguyen expressed the desire to return to farming someday, but not in the north. As a more immediate goal, he would like to work with PSYOPS or as a Kit Carson Scout as soon as he leaves the Chieu Hoi center.

"For me, everything has changed since I left the north. I must change also, he concluded.



### Shy One

The shy smile on the face of this little lady shows she is having a good time on a Saigon Zoo tour conducted for a group of children by the USAHAC CA office. (USA PHOTO By: Sp4 Philip J. Jacobs)

# PF Troops Are Battle Ready

101ST ABN DIV (USA) -- As a teacher rather than a fighter, Sergeant Richard Medina of the 2nd Battalion, 501st Infantry feels he is playing an important role in preserving freedom in the Republic of Vietnam.

Medina, who is from Los Angeles, is NCOIC of the An Lo Mobile Training Team (MTT). Previously he had been a squad leader with the "Geronimos" Company C for seven months.

"You really feel like you're doing something to help the Vietnamese people," he remarked. "I find it very rewarding to work with the PF in the area. They are trying to learn how to protect their villages and crops.

"They want to learn...you can see it in their classroom work. If they didn't show much interest this program would be cancelled and considered a failure. We are far from that in the An Lo area.

"The PFs can hold their own in a firefight, but we've worked with them until they have small unit tactics, ambushing techniques and related areas understood. "We are giving them confidence."

About 10 meters away, Specialist 4 Joseph Colon of New York City, was cooking lunch and the scent of barbecued meat drifted down to the gathering of MTT members.

Colon is the team's medic in addition to his duties as a chef. "Each of us has a job to do; mine is teaching the PFs how to utilize the basic first aid steps most GIs learn in basic training back in the States," he said.

"I was a platoon medic with Company C and was asked to come to the MTT. I found this work rewarding. It's interesting to watch the PFs apply the classroom work, something you don't think about when you're in a combat area," continued Colon.

"I'm interested in teaching the units personal hygiene in an attempt to control the various simple ailments that can plague a unit in the field."

The team's medic was joined by a third member, Specialist 4 Ken Meils of Cypress, Calif. Meils emphasized that a major benefit of the program was that it affords Americans time to understand the Vietnamese culture and in turn gives the Vietnamese a chance to know us better.

He believes that by living in such close proximity with the villagers, the Vietnamese have built their trust in the Geronimo troopers.

He concluded, "The villagers have lived with war most of their lives, and now they are beginning to learn about it."

## Division MEDCAPs Treating Cambodians

25TH INF DIV -- Men of the 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry's Civil Affairs Section (S-5) have been conducting MEDCAPs for Cambodian villagers near Fire Support Base Sharon about two miles northeast of the border region known as the "Dog's Face."

Since arriving at Sharon May 11, the Tropic Lightning "Wolfhounds" have been conducting two MEDCAPs and treating about 120 persons a day.

Initially, the villagers were afraid of the GIs and reluctant to come forward. This hesitancy was overcome by a Cambodian interpreter, who at each MEDCAP singles out a spokesman from the village to explain the intentions of the Americans.

"When we first drove into the village, the people shied away," said First Lieutenant Tom Maynor of Birmingham, Ala., head of the Wolfhound's S-5 section.

"But within 20 minutes after using the speaker, there was a big crowd around the jeep. After seeing we didn't have any tricks up our sleeves, the people became very friendly," Maynor added.

The Cambodians were soon offering the Americans pineapples, coconuts and other kinds of fruit -- some of which the GIs had never seen before.

To return the favor, the GIs offered American cigarettes, apparently a rare treat for these people on the other side of the border.

### Movies Speak For Themselves

## Language Barrier Broken

196TH LIB -- Civil Affairs (CA) workers from the 2nd Brigade, 1st Infantry, have found a way to penetrate the language barrier between Americans and local Vietnamese. The Americal Division soldiers travel from village to village showing movies ranging from Vietnamese documentaries to cartoons.

"Our main purpose is to pass on information to the villagers about their government's efforts both in the war and the pacification program," explained First Lieutenant William Bacon of Roswell, N.M., Civil Affairs officer for the 2nd Battalion.

Language is no barrier. The Vietnamese especially enjoy

American cartoon films even though they cannot understand the narrative.

A typical evening begins as two CA jeeps roll into the courtyard of a Binh An village elementary school. A crowd of children has gathered and rushes to greet the soldiers.

It is too early for the movie, so an impromptu game of catch begins the evening's activities. The "Frisbee" -- a circular plastic disc -- soars in flying saucer fashion from hand to hand. The game finally turns into a general free for all after which Bacon retreats and signals for the movie to begin.

The crowd has now grown to several hundred, ranging from

the eldest villager to the smallest infant. As the film begins to roll, people maneuver for position on the sandy courtyard. There is complete silence as color shots of Saigon are projected on the screen and the narrator explains the current government policies and objectives.

"This kind of program is good because there is a lot of personal contact between Vietnamese and Americans," says Bacon.

"They really enjoy it because it is something different for them," adds Bacon. "Young and old can get together and enjoy themselves."

The Observer  
June 12, 1970





**BUNKER**  
**BUNNY**  
**SEZ,**

"Planning to take your R&R real soon? Well, effective 1 July 1970, personnel will not be processed at the R&R departure points unless they possess a completed set of MACV Form 439R orders. Also, all personnel must have a current and valid ID card and up to date immunization record in their possession. All personnel not meeting the requirements of MACV Directive 28-2, will be returned to their unit of assignment. So, play it smart, check with your unit R&R coordinator to insure that all your documents are correct and up to date. Sure would hate to see you miss out on all the fun."

(PHOTO COURTESY OF PETER GOWLAND)



## Beetle Bailey

By Mort Walker



## Peanuts

By Charles M. Schulz

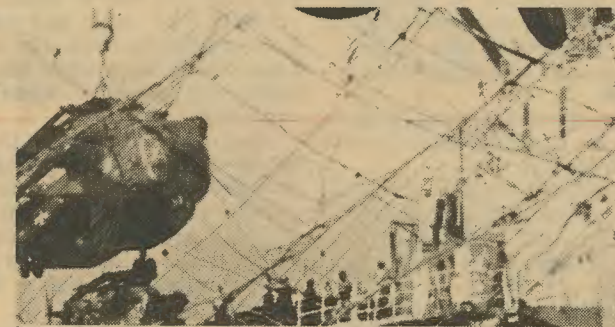


## 'Photo Quiz'

Staying alert can keep you alive. It can also keep you informed. Being informed makes your job that much easier -- and safer. Take an active interest in your unit's Command Information program. It's there to help keep you informed. It can save you money, help you plan your R&R, and even keep you alive and healthy. Stay on the alert for information. Now let's see how alert you are in identifying what's pictured in these photos.



A. How many different types of enemy ammunition can you identify here? (Be specific).



B. What's taking place here?



C. What's this?

ANSWERS: (A) Here's an easy one. Most of you guessed the 75mm recoilless rifle rounds. Those on the ground are HE (high explosive) rounds, and those being handled are HEAT (high explosive antitank) rounds. Note the B-40 rocket propelled grenades (RPGs) lying on the ground to the rear. That thing that looks like a dish is a Chicom directional AP mine, similar to our Claymore. These were just some of the rounds found by 25th Inf. Div. soldiers near Tay Ninh city recently. (B) Anyone can recognize that it's a CH-53 helicopter being hoisted aboard an amphibious transport ship (background). Because it was so obvious, PH3 Homer H. Paddock III, USN, photographed the action through a fractured windshield. (Note switch housing and pressure hose at top, foreground). Anybody recognize the ship? (C) Would you believe a close-up shot of an engineer road construction lug roller? Sorry about that! Better luck next time.



# Engineers Change Radcliff

18TH ENGR BDE (USA) -- A team of Army engineers has drastically altered the perimeter and heliport of Camp Radcliff in the Central Highlands.

Elements of the 299th Engineer Battalion and the 687th Engineer Company recently completed the task that began last December.

The 299th worked throughout the entire upgrade project under stringent deadlines as time moved closer for the 4th Infantry Division Headquarters to occupy the area. A need was evident to develop maximum perimeter defenses and fields of fire after enemy sappers successfully penetrated the defenses last Fall.

The land clearing portion of the operation presented the most dramatic phase of the perimeter upgrade project. Headed by Captain Ted Bauer of Springfield, Va., the 687th cleared the steep, rocky slopes of Hong Kong Mountain with Rome plows.

The plow operators often found themselves hard pressed

to maintain control of equipment while operating in the rough terrain some 2,300 feet above sea level. To compound the problem, the mountain proved to be full of the plow's worst enemy -- large, loose rocks.

When the engineers finished, they had cleared about 2,300 acres of land inside Radcliff, including Hong Kong mountain, and another 1,100 acres around the outside of the perimeter.

When the engineers had finished the perimeter upgrading and land clearing, they began expanding the "Golf Course" helicopter facility. This project added more than 150 helicopter revetments and landing pads to the already immense facility.

Metal matting and dirt fill were used to make the revetments. By the time the project was completed, vast areas of the heliport, which stretches almost a mile long and more than half a mile wide, had been leveled and large swampy sections drained.



Rome plows of the 687th Engineer Company cut through jungle entanglement while upgrading the perimeter area of nearby Camp Radcliff. (USA PHOTO By: Sp4 Robert G. Patterson)

## A Hefty VC

AMERICAN DIV (USA) -- Recon's Kit Carson Scout, Huynh Bong, serving with the 1st Battalion 20th Infantry, crawled into a tunnel in the "Gaza Strip" area one day recently to check for possible enemy equipment or weapons. Once inside, he was grabbed by a hefty, six-foot VC who pulled a hand grenade and blew it inside the hole.

Bong emerged, though, with a slight case of shock and a lot of mud on his face.

Recon had been patrolling the southern end of the Gaza Strip near the mouth of the Song Tra Cau river when Bong spotted the entrance to the tunnel, well concealed in the brush. He blew the cover off with a claymore to clear it of possible boobytraps. Then he borrowed a .45 caliber pistol from Lieutenant Warren Waterbury of Ashland Ky., and

entered the hole.

"As soon as he went in, the VC grabbed him by the arm. The next thing we heard was an explosion, and I thought for sure Bong was dead. Then he popped out of the hole. He hadn't taken any frag, but was in shock and covered with mud and grime. He'd apparently been able to get behind something when the VC pulled the grenade," Waterbury explained.

The men then caved in the tunnel with a claymore and hand grenades and proceeded to dig out the debris. They found two VC who had been killed in the action, hand grenades, two bags full of uniforms, and a fully chromed AK47.

"The one VC was enormous. He was at least six-feet tall and had a big build. He was the biggest Vietnamese I've ever seen," said Waterbury.

## A Step In The Right Direction

18th MP BRIGADE (USARV) -- A project preparing USARV's Installation Stockade parolees for return to honorable duty status has proven a success at the Long Binh Post.

Major Donald R. Vanderford, assistant correctional officer, commented, "Our main purpose at the USARV Installation Stockade is to return the men we receive to normal duty. The parolee project is a step in this direction."

Unoccupied land and housing were made available to the parolees: the empty homes having once housed HHD, 18th Military Police Brigade personnel. The parolees improved the area, added new

electric wiring, built a water tower and tank for showers and modernized a dayroom.

Major Vanderford continued, "The object of the parolee program is rehabilitation of personnel who display a sincere desire to return to duty. Trust is the medium; there is as little supervision as possible."

The parolees live in an unguarded area outside the stockade and, during duty hours, are employed in jobs as MOS-related as possible. There are men working on the massive Long Binh Post, in Bien Hoa, at the 1st Log Command and at the Saigon Support Command in varied jobs ranging from cook, clerk and mechanic to lab technician and medic at the local dispensary.

Sergeant James Miller of the 284th Military Police Company and NCOIC of the program said, "We've had success in this respect. There is support from the people who take in the parolees. They sometimes request more men than we can now provide. The parolees have proved to be hard workers when they are outside the wire and on their honor."

After duty hours, the parolees

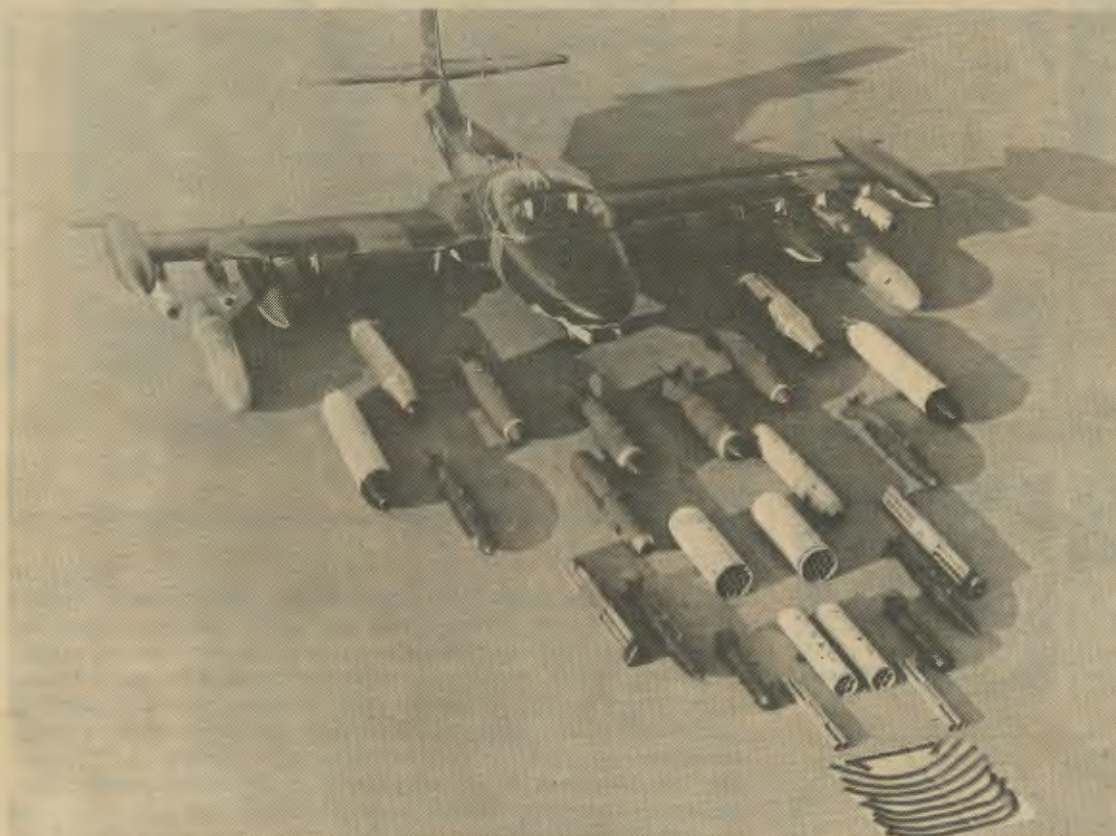
live, clean, play and sleep in their own area, taking pride in their new status. Vanderford added, "The parolee program has given the men inside the Stockade something to work for. The parolees have earned more privileges than other confined personnel."

In addition to dayroom facilities the parolees have movies, television and athletics. The men, however, must return to the stockade for their meals.

Miller commented, "The USARV Installation Stockade has moved over 170 men through the parolee project and on to regular duty. We would like to increase the number."

Men housed in the stockade are considered for the parolee program only when they are under sentence by court-martial. The man's conduct within the stockade and the severity of the offense for which he is confined are then weighed, and a decision is made if the man is deserving of release to the project outside the confines of the stockade.

Vanderford concluded, "One sure measure of the success of this program is that the parolees themselves are justifiably proud of their area."



## Fire Power

An Air Force A-37 fighter-bomber assigned to the 3d Tactical Fighter Wing displays the weapons available to its pilots for combat missions over the Republic of Vietnam. The smallest tactical jet aircraft in the Air Force inventory, the A-37 is capable of carrying 5,900 pounds of ordnance. (USAF PHOTO)

### Mail THE OBSERVER Home

★ (Does not meet requirements for "free" mail.)

From:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Place Stamp  
Here

(12 cents 1st class)  
(20 cents Airmail)

TO: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_