

Marine Day Adds Up To Many Clicks

1ST MARINE DIV - "How many 'clicks' (kilometers) did we 'hump' this time?" the young Marine questioned the sweat-soaked Gunnery Sergeant as Company H, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division, moved into position after an all-day march in the hills, 25 miles southwest of Da Nang on Operation Lyon Valley.

"Are you asking for what it says on the map," the gunny grinned, "or the up and down way of counting? Maybe 400 meters on a line, and I'd rather not think about how many it seemed like."

Fishing into his pack, which was perched precariously close to a vicious drop-off, another Marine came up with today's "special:" dehydrated beef stew. "Anybody got any heat tabs left?" he asked.

Using a can of peanut butter (which comes in another type of combat meal), he added insect repellent, which makes a workable stove, to heat his food.

Others dug holes into the steep slopes of the company's present home, and strung out makeshift poncho shelters to shield them from the constant rain that makes life in the hills so "enjoyable."

Sewing kits passed hands for those Leathernecks who had ripped their utility trousers sliding down the bare rock slopes. Mostly the holes were in extremely vulnerable places. A few grimaced while changing wet socks, joking that if the enemy came that night, "we could always throw our socks at them."

Sleeping wasn't hard for the exhausted Marines. A noticeable

lack of mosquitoes due to the cold night and the rain was greatly appreciated. The number one nighttime harassment came from either semi-playful "rock apes" throwing stones at the Marine positions or finding out that one's chosen sleeping spot was in the middle of an ant bed. There wasn't much to be done about either situation.

However, life in the hills wasn't all a reason for complaint. Sometimes there was a pleasant view of lower ground from a break in the thick underbrush and jungle canopy, or a cooling daytime breeze, and, luckily, a swift-running mountain stream to cross that provided cold water for nearly empty canteens.

For the most part, the muddy, unshaven, tired Marines of Company H, life wasn't so bad...somewhere else it could always be worse.



FIRST IN VIETNAM

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Winds Run Vietnam's Weather



THUNDERSTORMS - Air Force Captain Bruce M. Nagle plots the movement of a thunderstorm which threatens to interfere with local flying patterns on a small radar unit.

(USAF Photo)

7TH AF - Most Air Force meteorologists are used to forecasting weather in middle latitudes where weather depends upon cold and warm fronts, as well as high and low pressure areas.

But in Southeast Asia, pressure areas and fronts play no part; weather depends upon wind direction and speed, according to the commander of Detachment 23, 30th Weather Squadron at Phu Cat Air Base.

Major John A. Lasley Jr. of Winston-Salem, N.C., explains that five of the seven forecasters assigned to Phu Cat went to a six-week course at Chanute Air Force Base, Ill., to study Southeast Asia weather patterns. This gives them a good preparation for the overall weather picture.

2nd Bn, 3rd Inf Stands Down

USARV - The U.S. Army's 2nd Battalion, 3rd Infantry, has commenced stand down as a continuation of the fourth increment of the U.S. troop redeployment from the Republic of Vietnam.

The battalion will be reduced in-country to a color-bearing detachment which will be returned to the United States where the unit will be inactivated. The remaining personnel in the unit will be returned to the United States, using normal returnee procedures, or reassigned to other units in Vietnam to complete their overseas tours.

An element of the 199th Infantry Brigade, the battalion has operated under the control of the 25th Infantry Division for the past two weeks. During its assignment to the 199th Brigade, the Battalion distinguished itself on several occasions, particularly during the TET and May Offensives of 1968.

The 3rd Infantry was organized in 1784, saw its first action against the Indians at the battles of Fort Recovery and Fallen Timbers, Ohio, and participated in many major U.S. conflicts during World War II.

Since 1948, elements of the "Old Guard", principally the 1st Battalion, have constituted the Army's crack ceremonial detachment in Washington, D.C.

"However," Lasley says, "at Phu Cat we are in a unique situation. We sit in a valley surrounded by fair-sized mountains. They determine about 75 per cent of the local weather, so we have to learn not only the big picture but how local terrain affects us."

"Weather here is different from that in the rest of the world. We have the northeast monsoons in winter, the southwest monsoons in summer. Combine that with the terrain, and you do have a unique situation."

Nearly every afternoon Phu Cat has showers within 10 miles of the field, but they come over the field less than 30 per cent of the time.

The major explains that this is because the wind on the lee side of the mountains is descending, which decreases rain shower activity locally.

Typically, the weather along the coast is best when it's the worst in the rest of Southeast Asia, and when weather along the coast is at its worst, the rest of the country has sunshine.

The primary job of the detachment is to provide information to combat crews for missions, giving them a complete picture of the weather at the target and along the way. Each detachment in the Republic sends observations every hour, or more often if necessary, to the 1st Weather Group's Southeast Asia Joint Operations Weather Center at Tan Son Nhut Air Base near Saigon; there, weather

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As a courier, Specialist 4 Noel Kugler, of Oil City, Pa., believes in the old motto, "neither rain, nor snow, nor sleet, etc., but nowadays he draws the line at five-penny nails when it comes to getting through with the goods. Seems the Speedy 4 left battalion headquarters to deliver a boxfull of the nails, but arrived at his destination sans brads. Undaunted, he

carried on with the rest of the day's business, and turned the truck homeward around mid-afternoon. Much later that evening, a fatigued and much wiser courier at long last straggled back into the motor pool...the victim on his return trip of three flat tires caused by shiny new five-penny nails!

* 589th ENGR BN



Engineers Cut Elephant Grass

299TH ENGR BN -- On June 24, 1954, shortly after the fall of Dien Bien Phu, the French Group Mobile 100 was ordered to evacuate the garrison at An Khe. Before dawn, supported by armor and mobile artillery, the task force of more than 300 battle-hardened elite troops comprised of French, Cambodian and Vietnamese units struck out for Pleiku across 80 kilometers of road. The road was National Highway 19.

Mobile Group 100 never reached Pleiku. Shortly after 2:00 p.m. the lead elements of the convoy entered the small valley that precedes the entrance to the Mang Giang Pass. Waiting for them was the Vietnamese People's Army Regiment 803. Taking advantage of the six-foot elephant grass growing almost to the shoulders of the road, the attackers virtually wiped out the

entire task force in a matter of hours.

Ten years later, an ARVN ammunition convoy out of Quang-Ngai bound for Pleiku entered the same valley with nearly the same results. Until recently, anyone entering that valley found himself with six-foot high grass and a constant threat of attack.

The men of the 538th Land Clearing Company, under the supervision of the 18th Engineer Brigade's 299th Engineer Battalion, have changed all that. Using Rome plows they have cleared the vegetation away from the critical stretches of the highway out to 300 meters on either side.

The dangers of such an operation are many. Enemy mines are a constant threat. The chances of ambushes are cut down by the armor security provided by the 4th Infantry Division, but there are no guarantees, especially at night. But from now on, National Highway 19 will be a safer road for all Allied forces.



A Rome Plow of the 538th Land Clearing Company, 299th Engineer Battalion (Combat), mows down elephant grass near the Mang Giang Pass. In the background, a scout helicopter takes a breather to check out his ship.

Trying To Become Citizens

1ST CAV DIV -- Twenty 1st Air Cavalry Division Skytroopers of various national backgrounds and citizenships who leave the RVN on December 6 for an R&R in Hawaii will return to the RVN a week later, every man an American citizen.

Through a program coordinated by MACV, a planeload of 162 men from units all over the Republic will make the trip and take their citizenship oaths in Hawaii, said Captain William C. Porter, chief of Military Justice, Staff Judge Advocate's Office, 1st Air Cav Division.

Porter reported that among the group of aspiring citizens will be natives of Ireland, Mexico, France, Italy, German, Trinidad, and many others including several of the Communist Bloc countries. "One young man we are preparing papers for tells us he fled the Communist regime in Bulgaria during the early '60's," he said.

Some of the group, says Porter, came into the Army because service in the U.S. military relaxes certain of the citizenship qualifications. Although U.S. residence for a period of five years is usually mandatory for foreign nationals before they can become citizens, this requirement is waived for members of the military. He added that many of the applicants, however, have lived in the U.S. most of their lives.

After the group arrives in Hawaii its members will take tests in the English language and the workings of the United States government. All who qualify will then be administered the oath of citizenship. The remainder of the time in Hawaii the group will spend in tours, organized activities and just plain vacationing.

More than 60 members of the 1st Air Cav Division have received American citizenship through this program during the past year.

Missions Broadcasted From Boats

AMERICAL DIV -- For Americal Division soldiers in the field, it is not uncommon to hear psychological operations broadcasts beamed down to civilians and enemy troop concentrations from aircraft flying above. But a less common, though equally effective way of disseminating this information, is the use of "waterborne" PSYOPs missions -- missions broadcast from boats on the ocean.

The waterborne missions are designed to publicize basic themes to villagers who live along the coast and to fishermen who spend their days in the waters of the South China Sea.

"The coast south of Chu Lai contains many fishing villages," said First Lieutenant Roderick

A. Bayless of Rome, N.Y., CA officer of the 198th Infantry Brigade. "There are also many fishermen who work the entire day out on the sea. Boats can remain on station longer than aircraft and the local fisherman can, if he wishes, come out to the boat and ask questions. Broadcasting from the water is also more personal than broadcasting from aircraft 2000 feet above the target."

A recent waterborne mission run by the 198th PSYOPs Section proved exemplary. Sixty-three-foot mechanized landing crafts and crews were furnished by the 544th Transportation Company of the 57th Transportation Battalion, stationed in Chu Lai. The boats were augmented by large,

powerful speakers used by the PSYOPs personnel to broadcast their mission.

The themes of the messages encouraged the local fishermen and villagers to remain loyal to the GVN and to resist and report any attempts by the VC to extort food from the local economy. The messages assured the people that, should they report extortion attempts, they would receive full support from the GVN in resisting these attempts.

As the messages were broadcast, several fishermen maneuvered their small sampans up to the larger landing craft to ask questions about the broadcast. Interpreters from the PSYOPs section were available

to answer these questions. In other areas, villagers could be seen gathering in groups along the shore listening to the messages. And other fishermen on the sea stopped working their nets and watched and listened to the messages as the landing craft passed.

"The waterborne missions compliment our other forms of dissemination," said First Lieutenant Richard Greenhagen of Long Island, N.Y., PSYOPs officer with the 198th. "More frequently we use loudspeaker teams on aircraft to broadcast to the ground below. But these waterborne missions are ideal for areas along the coast and out on the water where we can remain for a longer time and actually see the people we are speaking to."



FREE RIDE

A CH-47 Chinook helicopter from the 159th Aviation Battalion transports a 155mm howitzer to a 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) fire support/operations base during a recent move of the 2nd Battalion, 11th Artillery. (US ARMY PHOTO By: Sp4 Alvah Davis)

4th Div Finds Cache

4TH INF DIV -- Men of the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry, uncovered a small NVA supply storage area recently while on operations near the 4th Division's LZ Challenge.

During a two-day period, the Cacti Blue located three huts which had been employed as weapons, food and clothing issue points.

The infantrymen found basic foods stored in one of the areas. An additional 300 pounds of salt and pepper and 150 pounds of rice were also turned up. The weapons cache included knives, axe wedges, rope and various other implements often used by the NVA.

The Americans tapped 50 pounds of black cloth, a sewing machine and a bale of black cotton thread at another location which had apparently served as a uniform resupply point.

Outpost Complex

Progressing Well

198TH INF BDE - It takes teamwork of a specialized nature to build an outpost from scratch, and a new Montagnard outpost now under construction on the Tra Bong Road, northwest of Quang Ngai City, is getting that specialized treatment.

The outpost is progressing well as the Montagnards of Regional Force Platoon 73, the Mobile Advisory Team (MAT) 13, and H Troop, 17th Cavalry work together to construct and secure the new installation.

The multi-bunker complex will serve as a base from which the Montagnards will be able to secure a portion of the Tra Bong Road. Since being reopened last May after over a year of inactivity, the road is now a major resupply route over which Americal Division and South Vietnamese convoys travel regularly.

"We began building the outpost in early August," said First Lieutenant Robert L. Elton of Minneapolis, Minn., team leader of MAT 13. "The project is coming along well and we are pleased with the progress. Most of the building supplies for the outpost are obtained through coordination with our team and are delivered by Vietnamese convoys over the Tra Bong Road. In all, I think we are making excellent progress."

After the outpost is completed, a new pacification village will be constructed near the outpost.

"Because of previous combat operations," said Elton, "Many of the local residents had to move from the area. These people can soon return to work their land which will be secured by the Montagnards."

The outpost is now being secured by the Montagnards and H Troop. During the day there is extensive combined patrolling of the area, and at night vehicles from H Troop comprise part of the defensive perimeter around the post.

"We have worked with the Montagnards on many occasions," said Sergeant Dan McCall of Charlotte, N.C., a track commander with H Troop. "And our combined operations have been very successful."

The Montagnards live with their families on the post, and a MEDCAP team from 1st Bn, 52nd Inf, working with Vietnamese civilian workers, recently administered inoculations for cholera and treated the Montagnards for minor cuts and bruises. The MEDCAP was very successful with a majority of the families participating.

"If we continue to progress as well as we have in the past," said Elton, "we should have the outpost completed in the near future and the construction of the hamlet will be the next step. With the continued cooperation of the Montagnards and H Troop, we should have little difficulty in reaching that goal."



Marine Corporal Clair Dorius assists residents of Chieu Hoi Hamlet III in seating a new well. Although the cement is provided by Force Logistic Command's Supply Battalion Marines, the ingenious process of constructing the well is exclusively Vietnamese. (USMC PHOTO By: Bruce Lindberg)

Educating Health Workers

101ST ABN DIV - In addition to treating the Vietnamese people, the 1st Bn, 506th Inf, MEDCAP program is teaching village health workers vital medical skills.

Under the current program, Screaming Eagle medics work

directly with the village health workers in each village aid station in Huong Dien District.

This system familiarizes the villagers with the aid station, so they will return there when they need medical aid. Since the medics are limited to weekly visits, this is an important part of the program.

The most common ailments are cuts and bruises on the children although almost every type of injury and illness has appeared. Most of the patients can be treated immediately, but in cases of serious illness or injury the patient is taken to a nearby Vietnamese hospital.

Superstitious villagers occasionally present new problems. Recently a woman was examined and found to have a 105 degree temperature. The medic sponged her down to cool her off and then went to his radio to call a medevac helicopter.

While he was radioing for help, local villagers placed a dead chicken on her chest and wrapped her in blankets, a custom which is supposed to reduce a high fever.

Fortunately the medic returned quickly, removed the

blankets and sponged her down again. The medevac helicopter came and the woman was taken to the hospital where she later recovered.

"One problem with our MEDCAP program is the limited amount of time that we can spend in each village," remarked Captain Joseph Strain of Bloomington, Indiana. "We can only spend one day a week on MEDCAPS, but some of the cases require daily supervision. That is why we are trying to educate the health workers."

"Even a simple task such as lancing a boil can prove to be disastrous if it isn't watched. It must drain, so if a medic lances it and it heals over and becomes inflamed the patient could develop complications. That is why we are constantly showing the health workers exactly how to treat the patients. We also carefully supervise their diagnosis."

The medics carry a 170 pound chest of medical supplies on each visit. This enables them to treat the variety of cases that arise when more than 100 patients are examined on each MEDCAP.

School; A Regular Thing

1ST AVN BDE - Nearly 400 children of Lap Dien Hamlet now have an adequate school largely because of a civic actions project of the 269th Combat Avn Bn, 12th Combat Avn Group. Until recently the children attended school irregularly as they had only one cramped classroom.

The 269th provided material for the first two large rooms of the new building. The villagers eagerly accepted and promptly built the new classrooms. The success of the project encouraged the province government to provide material for two more classrooms to complete the building.

The first two rooms were dedicated recently in a brief ceremony attended by Colonel John C. Hughes of Ft. Collins, Colorado, commanding officer of the 12th Group, Lieutenant Colonel Arthur A. Delone of Torrington, Connecticut, commanding officer of the 269th, and Mr. Long, the village elder. The children lined up outside the new classrooms to cheer Hughes and Delone as they arrived. The glee in the children's faces hardly reflected the sense of deep satisfaction in the teachers and parents.

Lap Dien is luckier than most agricultural hamlets in that there are two nuns and two

government teachers. Now that there is an adequate building every child up to 16 years can get a free general education. Those who want to go on to higher education will be prepared to do so.

The 58th Regional Forces Group, which is responsible for the defense of Lap Dien Hamlet, is providing the construction

labor for the second two classrooms. Captain Phan,

commanding officer of the 58th Group, is proud of the work his men have been doing on the

building and is very encouraged by the progress.



Vietnamese Popular Forces and Regional Forces practice firing 80mm mortars during an artillery school for the two forces conducted by the Eleventh Marines, 1st Marine Division. The school was held near Hai Van Pass, five miles northwest of Da Nang. (USMC PHOTO)

Project Handclasp

7TH AF - Coeds from the University of Massachusetts along with U.S. Navy and U.S. Air Force men have teamed to assist a group of Vietnamese youngsters in need of help.

More than 1,200 pounds of powdered milk, soap, clothing and toys have been delivered to the Xuan Truong Orphanage located between Tan Son Nhut AB and Bien Hoa AB, just north of Saigon.

The orphanage has been supported as a project of the 821st Combat Security Police Squadron, and it was these airmen who took the needed supplies to the orphanage on the last leg of its journey.

The team effort began when members of the Allan B. Bunce Squadron of the Air Force Reserve Officer's Training Corps Angel Flight at the University of Massachusetts donated \$150 to the U.S. Navy program called Project Handclasp.

The funds were used to purchase milk by Handclasp officials, and the shipment was supplemented by other items which were donated by various manufacturers and individuals.

Angel Flight coeds donated the funds from profits made during a bazaar on the Amherst campus.

Project Handclasp is an official Navy program designed "to promote understanding and good will between Americans and citizens of other lands." Needed materials are collected and then transported overseas in Navy ships on a space-available basis.

Along with the shipment, the Air Force security policemen were commended by Navy Commander Daniel A. Webster, west coast director of Project Handclasp in San Diego, for "the excellent humanitarian program which your squadron is carrying on" with the Xuan Truong Orphanage.

Sea Serpents Challenge Sea



OVER THE SIDE



CORAL PICKING



LET'S GO

7TH AF - One of the fast-growing activities at Phan Rang AB, involves temporarily trading combat boots for wet rubber flippers.

Known as the "Sea Serpents," personnel of the Air Base Scuba Club challenge the sea each week clad only in wet suit and scuba tanks, snorkel and a condemned pair of sneakers. The usual field of battle is a coral reef or a calm inlet of the South China Sea, just eight miles from the base.

There are approximately 50 masked serpents in the club, and their usual prey are tropical fish, lobsters, shells, unusual coral spur formations and an occasional moray eel or octopus.

The scuba club was formed in 1968 by men whose regular duty finds them supporting the fighter and tactical airlift combat role at Phan Rang.

Each prospective club member is required to pass a swimming test, possess a medical certificate of physical fitness and be cleared by a certified scuba diver in order to be able to don the gear.

For those who don't think they're quite ready for the rigors of the deep, the trusty snorkel tube, mask, and flippers are always available and are popular with many of the novice members.

The buddy system is always employed in snorkeling and diving, and often proves especially helpful when two boasters get together to tell the same fish story on the way back to Happy Valley.



FISH STORIES



HELPING HAND



TROPHIES OF THE DAY



Pumps are employed to expel water from the bottom of the dam, discharging it into the drainage canals.



A long view of the drainage system and the beginnings of the dam's foundation.



Women laborers scrape mud from the canal to keep water flowing freely, thereby draining the dam site. Drying the construction site makes it possible to build a dam's concrete and fieldstone foundation.

CORDS Helps D

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STORY AND PHOTOS BY

CIVIL OPERATIONS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT.

Women wash their baskets, and families of fowl wade in the narrow, shallow stream running through Hai Trieu, a Vietnamese village some eighty kilometers north of Nha Trang. The stream is an offshoot of the Song Cam River, which runs southeast through Vietnam by the village and spills into the sea four hundred meters to the east.

For years, rice farmers of Hai Trieu were forced to build and re-build make-shift dams to harness the river water and irrigate their rice paddies. These rudely-constructed dams leaked, leaving water in short supply in dry seasons. Other times, they fell victim to flood waters. The dams washed out time and again.

Vietnamese Rural Development officials set a high priority on a dam for Hai Trieu in a meeting held last December with American advisers working with Civil Operations and Rural Development Support (CORDS). Funds were available for such a large project, and a well-constructed dam would mean full exploitation of good rice-growing land. A decision was reached to proceed with designing the dam and requesting contractors to submit bids to build it.

The Nha Trang Sector Office of the Directorate of Irrigation & Rural Engineering, which is under the Ministry of Agriculture of the Government of Vietnam, was responsible for the design. Irrigation service officials worked with a Korean Team, hired through the U.S. Agency for International Development Piaster Fund, and with the irrigation adviser for CORDS II-Military Region, Mr. Langley.



the

Dam Project

MR Rice Farmers To Benefit

From a field of seven bidders, the contract award went to Nguyen Cuu, who brought water pumps and a work crew of two hundred and seven men and women from Quang Tri, near the DMZ.

Mr. Langley, the CORDS irrigation adviser, pointed with approval to Mr. Cuu's water pumps at the dam site and explained that bid specifications were being designed more and more to encourage local contractors to acquire more sophisticated equipment so they could learn the value of equipment in increasing production and reducing labor costs. At the same time he expressed concern for Vietnamese reliance on their available labor resources rather than American and Korean technology, so withdrawal in accordance with Vietnamization will not create a technology vacuum.

Mr. Cuu's workers have put up two barriers. One barrier, reinforced with heavy stakes, holds back the waters of the Song Cam River. Sixty-five meters opposite the re-inforced barrier, another similar one holds back sea-water which spreads inland over the low-lying coast.

In the area dug out between these two walls, men and women keep a maze-type canal free of mud so water flows toward the pumps and can be thrown over the sea barrier.

On a side wall, women spade sand into baskets, which are then shouldered and carried to the re-inforced barrier where they are spilled to build it up.

Already, on the floor of the dam site, fieldstone and concrete form the beginning of the foundation for a system of sluiceways. The completed dam will measure fifty-eight meters across and will be three and one-half meters high. There will be twenty-three sluiceways, each two meters wide; these will control the flow or damming of the Song Cam waters. Total cost for the project is approximately \$211,000.

The completed dam will prevent salt water intrusion into local rice paddies, and provide an even distribution of water during the dry season for the 655 rice farmers of two villages. These farmers work 700 hectares or 1,750 acres of land. Many farmers will profit from the readily-available water by being able to plant a second crop. They will be able to take full advantage of the rich rice-growing soil of the region, and possibly double their yearly rice production.



Sand excavated from the sides and bottom of the dam site is deposited behind the reinforced wall.

Jump Team Moves Supplies In And Out

FLC -- A bell rings inside the C-130 cargo plane. "Get ready. We're six miles out," says the assistant jumpmaster, the man who directs the movements of Marines getting ready to bail out of the aircraft.

A second bell sounds. "Get up," says Sergeant Miguel S. Burgos, and four Marines of the Air Delivery Platoon, Headquarters and Service Battalion, Force Logistic Command (FLC) stand facing the rear of the plane, the tailgate of which has been lowered for the jump and subsequent air drop.

"Check those chutes," Burgos calls out. A last minute check is made and everyone is ready. The third and last bell rings. "Go," shouts Burgos, and the four men bail out one behind the other.

The four-man team precedes a load of supplies to be dropped into the same area. Their job is to retrieve all re-usable materials, such as parachutes and containers holding the supplies, and bring them back to the platoon's two warehouses at Da Nang Air Base.

Each supply container resembles a gaint size envelope. It is made of a large piece of canvas with tough lines extending from its edges. Supplies, such as C-rations, barrels of water, ammunition and fuel, are placed on the large piece of canvas and the lines are joined together. The container can hold up to 2,000 pounds of supplies.

In addition to the jumpers, a 5-man crew of air delivery men aboard the plane is responsible for getting the jump team and the supplies out on target.

One of the five sits in the cockpit with the pilot. He is Master Gunnery Sergeant Russell J. Beilfuss, NCOIC of the platoon.

Beilfuss is jumpmaster for the jump team and dropmaster for the supplies.

"The dropmaster must know the area where the supplies are to be dropped," said Beilfuss. "He must know when to make the drop so the supplies hit the target area.

"We operate on a three bell system," he said. "The first means to get the supplies or jump team ready. The second means to move them up to the rear hatch, and the third means go."

From the cockpit, Beilfuss rings the bell at the right times and Burgos makes sure men or supplies are in the right place after each bell.

The other three crewmen assist members of the jump team as they prepare to bail out, and move the cargo in position for the drop when the time comes.

The air delivery platoon specializes in getting supplies to troops who can't be reached by truck or helicopter.

A unit makes its request to be resupplied through First Marine Division headquarters which contacts the operations section at FLC

headquarters. "They contact us," said Beilfuss, "and we get in touch with the First Marine Air Wing which provides a pilot and plane."

Supply Battalion, FLC, gets the supplies together and brings them to the air delivery platoon's warehouses where they are packaged and readied for the air drop by air delivery men.

There are 28 men in the platoon. All have an MOS of 7141, Air Delivery Man. It takes a month of training at jump school at Fort Benning, Ga., then three months of riggers school at Fort Lee, Va., where a student learns how to pack parachutes and make Special Patrol Insertion Extraction (SPIE) rigs, to qualify for the job.

Air drops of a small amount of supplies are made many times by helicopter, but air delivery men are concerned only with drops made by C-130s.

A C-130 can hold several tons of supplies and is most effective during the steady rains of the monsoon season and for "long range drops of 200 miles or more," according to Beilfuss.

"All facets of air delivery are interesting," said team member Corporal Robert A. Clarke Jr., "but jumping is definitely the best part.

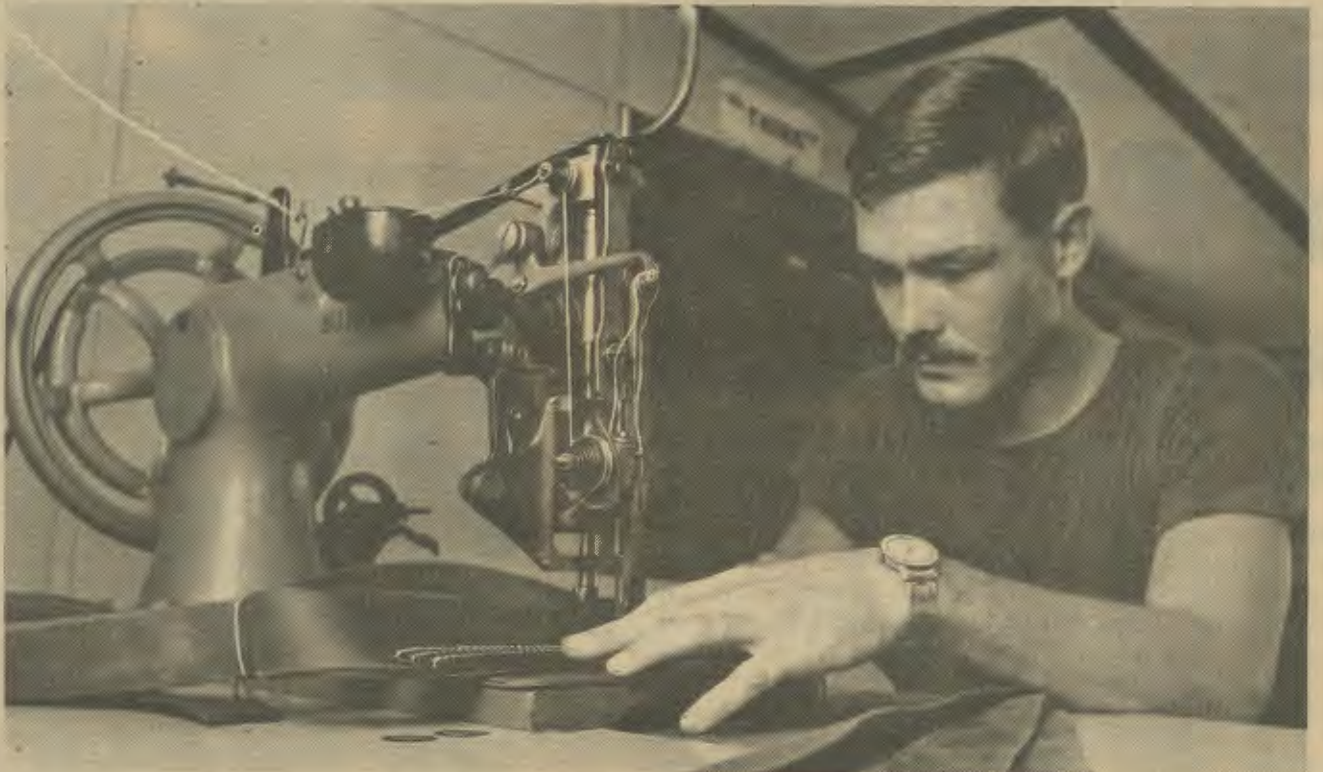
"When I was a civilian, I always wanted to jump," he said. "And I got the chance when I came into the Marine Corps."

Clarke has made 42 jumps, six in Vietnam, since graduating from jump school in August 1969, and openly admits to being afraid each time he jumps.

"You never get over being afraid," he said, "and that's how it has to be, because being scared keeps you on your toes." The old cliché we've always been told is if you stop being afraid you should stop jumping."



Parachutes are folded and the lines are pulled straight prior to packing.



Corporal Robert A. Clarke Jr. practices sewing together a Special Patrol Insertion Extraction rig.

Story: PFC Vanuch
Photos: SGT Heikkinen



Air delivery platoons are checked prior to taking off in a C-130 transport.



Air delivery men pause for an instant at the rear of a plane before plunging into space.



LIGHTER MOMENTS

First Lieutenant Harold Hiller, operations officer for Civic Actions, U.S. Army Headquarters Area Command, jokes with young Pham Van Hao during some lighter moments of a recent visit by the CA team. The Vietnamese youngster is one of the many children throughout the Saigon area who continue to benefit as a result of the medical projects conducted by Civic Actions.

(US ARMY PHOTO)

Eagle Is Angel of Mercy

USAHAC - The eagle of the 101st Airborne Division worn on his right shoulder once put fear into the hearts of many VC. But as First Lieutenant Harold Hiller trudged down the dank alley ways adjacent to the Saigon canal, the eagle was now an angel of mercy.

Hiller, formerly of the illustrious "screaming eagles," and now operations officer for Civic Actions in Saigon, was the man leading a CA team as it wended its way to the objective. The mission was one of the many medical projects which are spearheaded by Civic Actions throughout the Saigon area.

They were calling on the family of 10 year old Pham Van Hao to finalize preparations for an eye operation which would take place at the 3rd Field Hospital in Saigon. Medical records showed that the boy had been afflicted from birth with an

eye condition known as estrophia which causes the eyes to be severely crossed. Time was running out as total blindness became a stark possibility.

"We don't want to build up false hopes. All we can tell these people is that we'll try and see what, if anything, can be done," said Specialist Five Richard Cannon, medical projects coordinator for Civic Actions. "We have been fortunate that in the approximately 150 cases handled over the past two years, at least 95 per cent could be classified as total successes."

Most prospective patients are referred to Civic Actions by private agencies such as the Tan Dinh Clinic in Saigon. But there are instances when the Vietnamese have heard through the grapevine of the effectiveness of this program and turn to us for help.

"This is when we know that

we're reaching the people. They come to us with the belief that if anything can possibly be done - we will do it," said Hiller. "These kids are no different from children anywhere. They want to be able to run and play just like their friends."

Young Pham Van Hao, and many more like him, will benefit as a result of similar projects fostered by Civic Action. As Cannon noted, "One successful operation makes it all worthwhile."

Doughboys Of Chu Lai

USASC - They are the flower children of Chu Lai and their day starts when everyone else is thinking of "racking out." Their Guru is a short man with a gravelly voice. They have plenty of dough and their clothes are generously sprinkled with a soft, white substance.

These men are the happy bakers of Da Nang's Fourth Quartermaster Detachment Bakery. Their Guru is Staff Sergeant J.C. Essary and that white stuff is spelled F-L-O-U-R, and no other way.

You would have flour all over, if you baked almost 500,000 pounds of bread each month for the entire Americal Division and most of the other troops in the southern part of I Military Region.

Essary, NCOIC of the bakery said, "No stale bread is eaten by the people we serve, because we work all night and our bread is in the company mess halls the very next morning."

His statement is the goal of most of the bakers back home and they don't work in a combat zone where power failures can waste hundreds of pounds of dough without any warning.

The RVN also has another problem for the bakers. It's the heat and the effect it has on the processed dough. Essary explained, "The temperature here sometimes goes as high as 120 degrees and this causes yeast to act extremely fast. To combat this action, we add ice directly to the normal list of ingredients."

"If we didn't put the ice in, we'd be up to our ears in dough," he added with a grimace.

Our doughboys in Chu Lai also have another attraction. They not only make white bread daily, but three days per week they put forth a little more effort and make raisin, cheese and whole wheat bread to tempt the pallets of their customers.

It takes a little over one hour for the bread to go from unmixed ingredients to finished product. The men work at a furious pace while the huge mixing machines "frump" the next batch of raw ingredients into a workable dough.

The dough is scaled, panned and then placed into one of the three ovens where it is baked to perfection under the watchful eyes of the master bakers.

VNAF Receives Park

7TH AF -- U.S. Air Force members of Air Force Advisory Team 2 (AFAT-2) were thanked recently in ceremonies here by Colonel Vo Xuan Lanh, vice commander of the Republic of Vietnam Air Force (VNAF), after they turned over a recreation park to the VNAF.

Earlier in the day, Col. Lanh had presented the VNAF's 62d Tactical Wing with its second outstanding unit award. During the same ceremonies he presented Colonel Paul E. Bell of Redlands, Calif., the commander of AFAT-2, with the Vietnamese Medal of Valor with the Silver Star.

The park, which took the men of AFAT-2 four months to build during their off-duty time, will be used by VNAF personnel and their families. Included in it are picnic tables, swings, barbecue pits, lights, running water, a

French bowling court and a volleyball court complete with concrete stands.

Col. Bell said, "The park would represent something lasting which would show our combined struggle for freedom."

Following the dedication and ribbon cutting ceremonies a team of six stalwart American advisors challenged their Vietnamese counterparts to a game of volleyball. The Americans lost the best of three series, two games to one.

Colonel Thomas A. Personnett, deputy chief of the Air Force Advisory Group in Vietnam, who was representing Brigadier General Kendall S. Young, the Group's chief, presented the winning Vietnamese team with a trophy.

Following the game, both Vietnamese and Americans enjoyed a cookout at the new facility.

A Brighter Future

IIFV -- Workers, both Vietnamese and American, presently are putting the final touches on a brighter future for technical education in Tay Ninh Province in III Military Region.

The project is the installation of electricity at the Tay Ninh Technical High School. Those contributing work include the 6th AA Platoon of the 2nd Civil Affairs Company, a Civil Operations for Rural Development Support (CORDS) representative, and the high school students themselves.

The electrification project includes the lighting and circuit installation in 21 rooms and one maintenance shop. Completion is scheduled in time for the opening of school.

Late last year, the Philippine Civic Action Group began the project with the installation of a generator and generator shed. However, before the group could begin work on the actual electrification, it was redeployed to the Philippines.

Captain Joel Boroff, commanding officer of the civil affairs platoon, picked up the ball and sought civilian contractors to complete the project. Unsuccessful at this, Boroff contacted CORDS who dispatched William B. Maynard to survey the situation. Maynard, assistant to CORDS Engineer in charge of works and power in III Military Region, sketched a plan whereby the project could be completed.

"We came up with the idea that, this being a technical high school, there was no reason why the students couldn't assume the project as a self-help program," he said. "We approached the director of the school and he told us that he could find some students who were interested in electrical installation. We began in March with eight to 10 students and one teacher working on the project."

Maynard served as technical advisor to the students, visiting the site a few times each week from his office in Bien Hoa. Boroff and his platoon provided telephone poles and other materials not located on the site.

The students worked three days a week until the end of school. At that time, the director arranged for three students to remain on the job throughout the summer.

"The students have been working five days a week and I've been up once or twice a week to check on the progress," Maynard remarked. "The plan has worked out very well. I was pleased at how fast they picked up techniques. You had to show them only once and they knew it. They were quite enthusiastic."

When the school opens, it will have 200 students as opposed to 90 last year and 80 the year before. The students, girls and boys aged 13 to 16, will be offered courses in mechanics, home economics, wood working, sheet metal works, and with the addition of the electric system, an electronics course for boys and cooking for the girls.



BIOLOGICAL SPECIMEN

At the 35th U.S. Air Force Dispensary on Phan Rang AB, Master Sergeant Frank H. Wright of Opelousas, La., NCOIC of the medical laboratory, shows Republic of Korea Army Sergeant Cho Jong Hee a biological specimen through a microscope. Cho, a corpsman with the ROK's 52nd Field Artillery, 30th White Horse Division, works closely with the base dispensary.

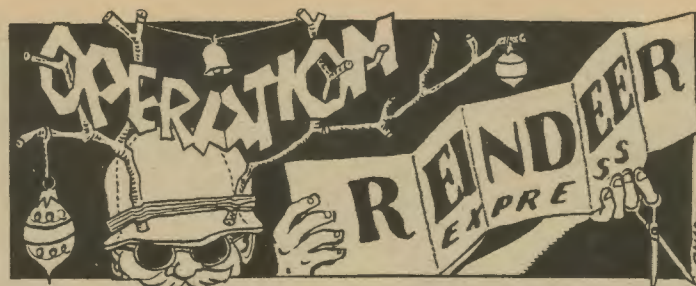
(USAF PHOTO By: TSgt John Mahony)



Bunker Bunny Sez,

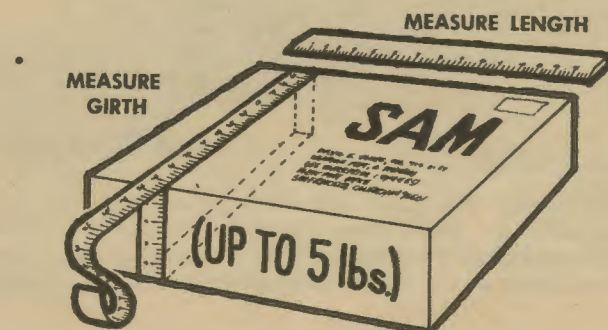
Are you hot, delirious, red, dry, almost unconscious and on the verge of having convulsions? Well don't blame me. These are really some of the recognizable symptoms of a heat stroke — the most serious heat injury. The heat is one of the facts of life in the Republic of Vietnam, and it can take a heavy toll if you aren't careful. In addition, the best way to prevent yourself from becoming a heat casualty is to be sure that you drink enough water, take extra salt, and don't get too close to any Bunker Bunny pictures.

(Photo Courtesy Daily Mirror, Sydney)



GLASSWARE, CHINAWARE, CERAMICS, RADIOS, AND OTHER SIMILAR ARTICLES are very fragile and require both a strong container and adequate interior cushioning between the pieces and the container.

Packages weighing five pounds or less and measuring up to 60 inches in height and girth can be sent via Space Available Mail (SAM). The parcels go whenever air transportation is available. Delivery from APO/FPO to Stateside addresses can be expected in five to seven days. No additional fee other than fourth class postage is required for SAM service, and the deadline for Christmas mail is December 2. If you plan to use fourth (surface) class mail, better hurry, the deadline is November 1. (Surface)



Wrapping paper should be at least equal in quality and strength to the kraft stock used for grocery bags. Two or more thicknesses of flimsy wrapping paper will NOT compensate for the lack of strength, since the address portion of such inferior packages can be more easily torn off or mutilated.

It is preferable that outside paper wrappers be omitted if the box itself constitutes an adequate shipping container.

Sportscene . . .

By TSgt Chuck Wills

CASEY STENGEL still stacks words into better sentences than most people who make a living with words: "When a fielder gets into trouble, the pitcher has to pitch himself out of a slump he isn't in."

* * *

IN THIS day of relief pitchers, it's fun to look back at what relievers contended with in years gone by. There's such a story about Ed Rommel, who long ago pitched for the Philadelphia Athletics. He entered a practice game against the Cleveland Indians in the second inning and stayed until the end—the 18th inning. And he used a knuckleball as his main pitch. Rommel allowed 29 hits, nine going to the Indians' Johnny Burnett. Rommel won, 18-17.

* * *

HOW MUCH does individualism figure in pro football? Well, Vince Lombardi once said: "Football is a pressure business, and on my teams I put on most of the pressure. The point is, I've got to learn 40 ways to pressure 40 men."

* * *

THERE MUST be nearly as many bowling hustlers as there are pool hustlers. Prior to World War I, a gent by the handle of John (Count) Gengler came into his own as a bowling whiz. He was often thought of as a hustler. The Count had to rush from city to city to outrun his reputation in order to find opponents. Angelo Biondo of the Chicago Daily News recently put together a feature story about the Count, relating tales of his remarkable feats. One of these stunts was the art of bowling in the dark. He rolled 12 perfect 300 games in total darkness, according to Biondo.

* * *

HORSESHOE TOSSING is a big sport in North Carolina. In the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association tournament at Winston-Salem, there was an entry named Lynn Spencer of Asheboro, N.C. The 12-year-old tossed 81 ringers of 203 shoes, winning the Class D title against 40 grown-ups.

* * *

ERNIE JENNINGS, tabbed "The Kansas City Comet," will get most of the attention on the Air Force Academy football team this year, but Bob Parker rates a few words about an interesting item from his past. Parker replaces Gary Baxter as quarterback this season. The few words: he and Baxter were teammates in high school. Has to be a rarity.

TEXAS A&M has a gem in Dave Elmendorf. He could be a three-way All-America selection. He could make it as a defensive safety in football, centerfielder in baseball, and Academic All-America. What's more, he plays both defense and offense in football—at five positions.

* * *

It's difficult to believe that Vida Blue has registered a one-hitter and a no-hitter for the Oakland Athletics during September. Blue had a previous tour with Oakland, during which time he gave up 13 homers in 42 innings.

* * *

YES, CHARLIE Finley's National Hockey League team in Oakland wears Fort Knox gold and Kelly green. He seems to have started something, as six clubs in the league have decided to switch to brighter colors.

* * *

Beetle Bailey

By Mort Walker



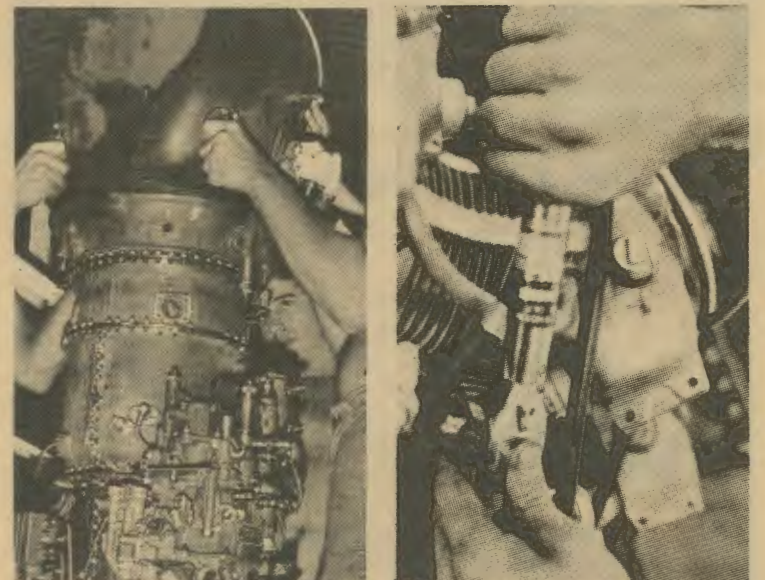
Peanuts

By Charles M. Schulz



'Photo Quiz'

Have you thought about your Christmas shopping? It's not too early to start, especially if you're planning to send a 4th class package via surface means. The 1970 Christmas mailing period has been established for the Republic of Vietnam area to meet US Post Office Department requirements for delivery of Christmas mail in CONUS on established time period. Deadline dates are: Fourth Class, 1 November; SAM Parcels, 7 December; PAL Parcels, 10 December; SAM Letters, 12 December; and Airmail, 15 December. Before running out to finish your Christmas shopping see if you can identify the photos below.



(A) This 1800-pound bridge sits on top of a 25th Division's bridge track. (B) T-58 engine shop members have just installed a power turbine assembly on a helicopter engine. (C) An Air Force mechanic installs a spark plug with a torque wrench on a C-7 Caribou engine. (D) A basket of Ho Chi Minh sandals sit as a mute reminder of the success of a cordon and search operation.

PENTAGON ACTION

By Lee Cowan
Pentagon Correspondent

Manpower is one of the key elements being considered by the Department of Defense as it makes the transition from a wartime to a peacetime budget.

Basically, the policy being followed is embodied in the Nixon Doctrine and has been in motion since Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird took charge of the nation's Defense establishment in January 1969. It is often referred to as a period of transition from an "era of confrontation to one of negotiation."

MANPOWER REDUCTIONS

Statistics show that manpower is being reduced in conjunction with budget requirements.

The latest military strength figures released by the Defense Department show a total numerical strength in the Armed Forces on July 31, 1969 of 3,458,166.

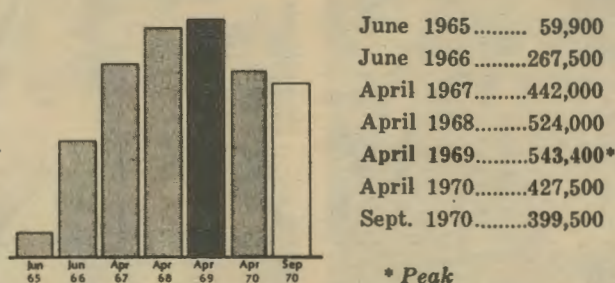
A year later (July 31, 1970)—a preliminary report showed the manpower strength of the services to be 3,044,620—a drop of more than 400,000 in a year's time.

Reduced draft calls are another indicator of manpower cut-backs in the active forces. Draft calls for calendar year 1970 will total 163,500—the lowest for any calendar year since 1964, when the total was 107,500.

Every effort is going to be made to reduce reliance on the draft for military manpower requirements.

Meanwhile, the "wind-down" continues in Vietnam, with United States military strength there down to 399,500 on Sept. 3. A further reduction to 384,000 is scheduled by mid-October. The peak "in-country" numerical strength of U.S. Armed Forces in Vietnam was 543,000 in April 1969.

U.S. Military Strength In RVN (In Country)



COST OF ALL-VOLUNTEER FORCE

The Secretary of Defense sees the transition to an all-volunteer force as a "very expensive thing." For example, he pointed to the automatic pay increase of almost nine per cent given to members of the Armed Forces as a result of the postal difficulties early this year. (This pay increase cost the Defense Department about \$600 million during the first six months of calendar year 1970.)

He said that talk about zero draft calls and volunteerism must be in the context of fiscal problems which "we face here in the Department of Defense."

There must be "massive increases" in military pay in order to attract young men into the Services while maintaining a "certain degree of selectivity" of the men that are accepted.

Secretary Laird indicated that the Defense Department would continue to move toward a zero draft call and an all-volunteer force, but Defense budgetary considerations would be a governing factor as the department moves in that direction.

Big Cubes Ease Ice Shortage

USASC -- Ice in the Mekong Delta is hard to come by, especially when a mess hall is located 180 miles away from the plant where it is made. But for Saigon Support Command's Delta Logistical Support Activity (LSA), headquartered in Binh Thuy, ice supply is seldom a problem.

All the mess halls served by Delta LSA are supplied with ice from a single plant located near Can Tho. It's not an uncommon site to see the ice room completely empty at the end of the day. During the day, team trucks from all corners of Military Region IV arrive for their authorized number of 300 pound ice 'cubes.'

Plant manager Specialist 5 Michael Tanaka and his three Vietnamese assistants have their hands full every day making, storing and loading the bulky blocks of ice.

The ice-making process is slow, but efficient. The large containers are filled with water and transported to flat bed cubicles where they are slipped into place for that time-consuming change of liquid to solid. It takes 24 hours. The actual freezing is done with ammonia flowing around the containers at a cool 10 degrees.

Once the water-filled containers have rested in the sea of unscented ammonia until becoming solid masses of ice, they are lifted from their bed and moved to the storage room where the 300 pound blocks remain until being picked up.

"We are scheduled to produce four blocks every four hours, which will supply every unit we serve," said Tanaka, who also runs an ice cream plant a couple of blocks away.

"Well, at least my office is cool," he concluded.

winds, cont.

weather over the whole area is charted and fed back to each detachment.

The information is also sent to Fuchu AB, Japan, where the whole East Pacific weather pattern is charted from these reports and satellite photos. Horizontal weather depiction charts are furnished to units every six hours, and a master forecast is sent out every 12 hours.

Local observations include wind direction and speed, visibility, temperature, barometric pressure and cloud amount and height. A radar unit is used to track storms in the vicinity of the base.

Lasley also furnished some statistics on Phu Cat weather for the past three years; some of the figures would be the envy of many resort areas of the world.

Average maximum for the year is 87 degrees, and average minimum is 73. Absolute high recorded so far is 105, and absolute low has been 60.

The monsoon season is expected somewhere about the middle of September, and then the temperatures in the high 90s should break and average in the high 80s.

Typically, August brings about 5.35 inches of rain, September 9.89 and October 22.21. The rains will drop off in November to an average of 8.40, and in December will be over with just 3.79, for a yearly average of about 63.37 inches.



An ARVN soldier of the 404th Scout Company sets himself on the skid of a hovering "Huey" before beginning a 100-foot rappel to the ground. The Vietnamese outfit is learning the tricky technique through the cooperation of the 7/17 U.S. Cavalry. (USA Photo by MSgt L.D. Brune)

Yen Learns Ropes

II MR ADVISORY GP -- Now it's Sergeant Tran Van Yen's turn. His commanding officer loops the rope through the D-ring tied to his waist. Face tense, lips clenched, he pivots onto the chopper's skid. He tests the rope with two quick pulls, gets an encouraging slap on the shoulder from a buddy, leans back, then kicks off. A few seconds later and 100 feet further down, he pulls the rope to his back with his right hand, tightens his grip, and, grinning, steps gently to earth.

Now Area's For VNAF

7TH AF -- Sixty-five Vietnamese supply officers undergoing training at the Republic of Vietnam Air Force Air Logistics Command (ALC) facility at Bien Hoa AB moved into the north cantonment area recently.

The 75-building complex, primarily dormitories, is the largest, single U.S. Air Force turnover of real property here to date. The dormitories will provide critically needed housing for ALC personnel. USAF airmen moved into existing housing facilities available at Bien Hoa.

In addition to the dormitories, the new ALC area contains a 200-man dining hall and several latrines. It is currently undergoing modification and cleanup prior to complete occupation.

The north cantonment area previously housed airmen of the 3rd Security Police Squadron and several other organizations.

No. 1 Equals No. 10?

589TH ENGR BN -- It's really remarkable how readily American soldiers learn to communicate with the Vietnamese once they arrive in the Republic of Vietnam.

For example, only a few short hours after a soldier arrives he's already tossing around such native phrases as "Beaucoup," (many) and "Ti Ti," (small) and most frequently the comparative terms "Number One" (good) and "Number Ten" (bad). Occasionally, however, in their over zealous attempt to communicate with Vietnamese, the soldier's florid use of these more common colloquialisms may create problems. Specialist 5 Gregory Fulton, a clerk with the 589th Engineer Battalion, 18th Engineer Brigade, was witness to such an instance

recently.

Fulton was sitting behind his typewriter when in walked a newly arrived soldier, fresh from the states. While waiting to be briefed by his first sergeant, the new soldier was talking to Fulton and just slinging out Vietnamese popularisms by the mouthful. The first sergeant arrived, and after appraising the new man, directed him to the barber shop to get a trim.

The "green trooper" went to the barber shop and asked the Vietnamese barber for a "Number One" haircut. Referring to the chart of military haircut styles, the barber proceeded to cut. The trooper reappeared in the orderly room with a "Number One" cut all right -- a completely shaven head!