

1ST AIR CAV DIV -- It's not easy to capture a rat, but rats have been pushing their luck at FSB Mace. So under a new program, rat pelts are worth something, and many GIs are setting up "night ambushes" for these furry little comrades.

Staff Sergeant James Champlin, who is in charge of a division NCO and EM Club, got together with some 3rd Brigade Skytroopers and came up with a workable solution to end the "Rat Regime". Now, the little creatures who dominate the tents at night are worth either a beer or a soda.

"It was a bad problem and wasn't getting any better," said Champlin, "so we

decided to work out something where extermination would be the end result."

"In less than two months we're had 74 rats turned in for beverages. There were some biting incidents," said Champlin, "but since our new program there has been few cases of "rat activity in the AO."

The largest rat turned in each month rewards its captor with a case of beer or soda. The largest on record, according to Champlin, was turned in by Specialist 4 William J. Springer, 184th Chemical, which measured 16.5 inches. Parenthetically, Springer now holds the title of "King Rat."

Rat regime Ends; 'King Rat' reigns



FIRST IN VIETNAM

the OBSERVER

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February 12, 1971

Bucket chopper Battles Saigon blaze

1ST AVN BDE -- A helicopter of the 213th Assault Helicopter Company greatly aided firefighters recently as they battled a raging fire along the Saigon border adjoining Cholon.

The fire, described as Saigon's largest since the 1968 Tet Offensive, burned out of control for nearly two hours before the alert went out for the "firefighting" helicopter.

Less than 15 minutes after being requested, the CH-47 Chinook helicopter--with "waterbuckets" suspended underneath--was on the scene dropping hundreds of gallons of water onto the flames.

Refilling the waterbuckets in the nearby Saigon River, the helicopter made 30 sorties in 30 minutes, and dumped 12,000 gallons of water before the fire was brought under control.

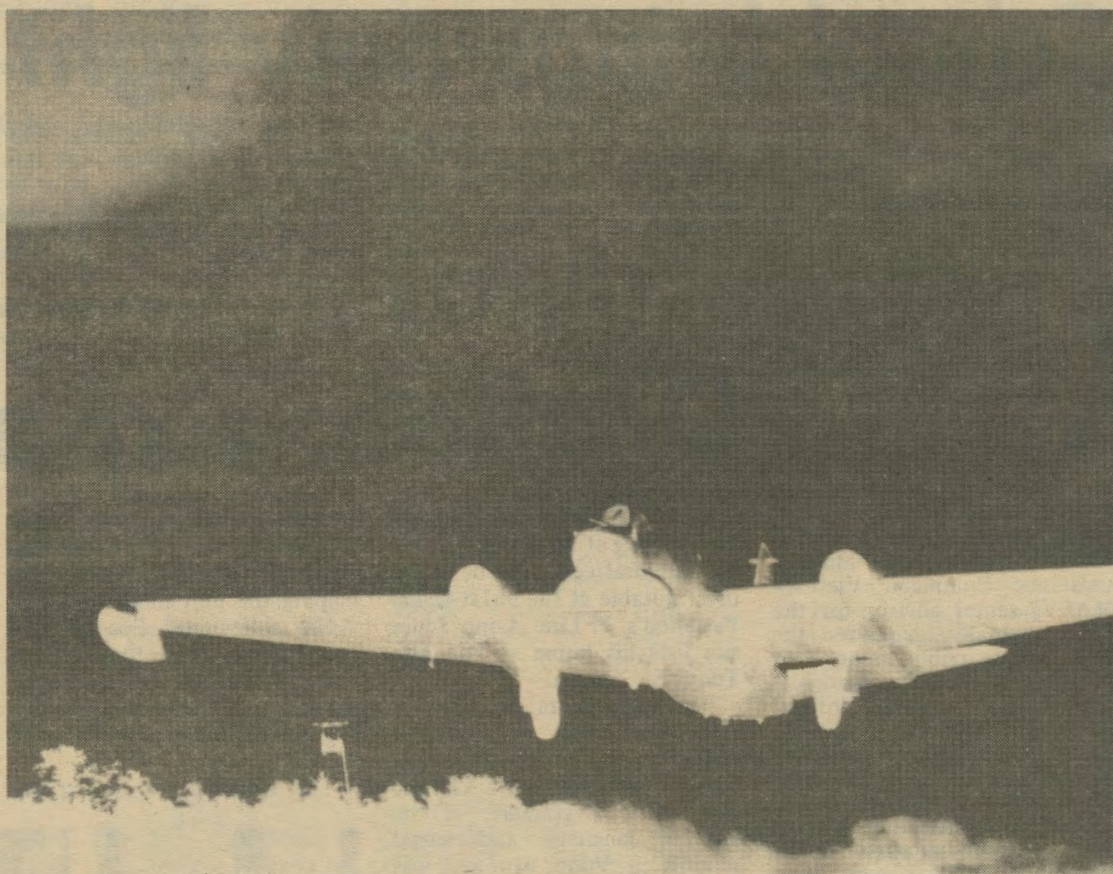
Crewmen of the helicopter reported that the fire had burned a block-long market and residential area, and was spreading toward a petroleum and ammunition storage point when they arrived.

A part of the 269th Combat Aviation Battalion, the 213th Helicopter Company at Phu Loi (about five minutes flight time from Saigon) performs fire bucket missions throughout the year. However, their busiest time is during the dry season between November and May. Army officials at the 269th explained that at least one bucket-equipped Chinook and crew is therefore on standby 24 hours per day.

Each helicopter tasked for the firefighting mission is equipped with two fiberglass, conical buckets suspended on an "X" frame. Each bucket has a maximum capacity of 350 gallons of water, which is dumped when two electrically-operated butterfly doors are opened. To facilitate handling, the buckets in Vietnam are usually regulated to hold 200 gallons of water each.

Hovering over a river, the helicopter pilot fills the bucket by lowering it into the water with the doors open.

...continued on back page



NEGATIVE ILLUSION?

"REAPERS" RETURN -- A B-57 Canberra of the 13th Bomb Squadron (Tactical) lifts off at Ubon Royal Thai Air Force Base after the unit's recent return to Southeast Asia. Dating from 1917 -- one of the oldest squadrons in the Air Force -- the 13th has previously served at bases in Japan, the Philippines, and Vietnam.

(USAF PHOTO By: SSgt Randy Kersey)

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GI
grin

When you're tromping around in the mountainous jungles southwest of Hue, one doesn't normally expect to chance upon a gourmet meal...or, rather, have it chance upon him. But that's exactly what happened to Sergeant Bill Robinson, 327th Infantry, 101st Airborne Division, who recently spotted a 12-foot boa constrictor lounging on the trail in front of him. Fortunately, PFC Dennis Mulligan was close behind, and he shot the giant reptile. With the preliminaries over, the evening meal was carried home and prepared. The consensus was that the delicacy was indeed delicious, and possibly reminiscent of scallops.

ROK training

FLC -- Maintenance Battalion, Force Logistic Command, has been conducting a Maintenance Assistance Program for the 2nd Republic of Korea (ROK) Marine Brigade.

Under the Maintenance Assistance Program, ROK Marines are receiving training from Engineer, Ordnance and Electronics Maintenance Companies in performing on-site maintenance, preventive maintenance, repair and rehabilitation of equipment. The program's goals are to improve the capabilities and knowledge of the Korean Marines.

From Engineer Maintenance Company the ROK Marines receive instruction on mechanics and electrical systems, rebuilding engines, 25 different makes and models of generators, decontamination units and various small engine repairs.

Sergeant Ben Butler, Assistant Shop Chief, commented, "There is some communication gap in teaching them the technical aspects of the equipment. However, they are hard working and eager to learn."

Ordnance Maintenance Company teaches the Koreans how to clean, check and adjust optical equipment, binoculars and panoramic telescopes and how to level artillery mounts.

Gunnery Sergeant Manuel Reyes said, "The Koreans have a strong will to learn and they work with their hands very well." He added, "They learn a lot during their stay here."

Electronics Maintenance Company teaches calibration, how to use different voltmeters and frequency meters, the adjustments of the different meters and battery chargers, preventive maintenance of electronic gear, telephone systems and portable and vehicular radio communications, and procedure of checking equipment in and out for maintenance.

Most of the Koreans come from Service Company, 2nd ROK Marine Brigade located at Hoi An.

Several U.S. Marine teams from Maintenance Battalion have gone to Hoi An to help the Koreans with their maintenance problems.

One such team, 13 enlisted men and an officer, embarked shortly after tropical storm Kate struck. The Marines serviced, repaired and inspected 3,878 items of equipment, most of which were damaged from the storm. Also, FLC Marines provided training to increase the capabilities of the Korean Marines.

Two groups, totaling 25 ROK Marines, have participated in the Maintenance Assistance Program at FLC's Camp Books. The next group is scheduled to begin training in the near future.



FUEL TENDERS -- Lance Corporals Lewis R. Bishop and Thomas E. Gadsden and Corporal Byron M. Simpson, (left to right), man the Force Logistics Command bulk fuel site at Hoi An.

(USMC PHOTO By: SSgt R.D. Lucas)

School brings new light

1ST SIG BDE -- A new light is breaking on the horizon for the children of An Thoi island fishing village in the Gulf of Thailand.

Considering there was no public school in this village of 4,500 a school building project can be the key to a bright future for the people of An Thoi, located on the southernmost tip of Phu Quoc Island.

Five men from the 327th Signal Company's tropospheric scatter detachment on the island have played an important role in the realization of the school.

Lieutenant Colonel Howard J. Douville, special sector Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV) senior advisor for the island, originally recognized the need for a public school to supplement the one parochial school and initiated the project. Brigadier General Jack A. Albright, deputy commander of the 1st Signal Brigade, pledged full support from the brigade.

U.S. Navy Seabees who were building dependent housing for Vietnamese military here, drew plans for the structure and have provided most of the equipment, tools and supplies.

The signalmen, headed by Staff Sergeant George Woodmansee of Charleston, R.I., have been working on the school since the middle of October. Construction crews from the Vietnamese Navy and Army units as well as local civilians have helped the project along.

Douville described the project as "one of the best cooperative efforts between military personnel and civilians working together that I have observed."

During the construction weather has been good and the work has moved along with no major obstructions.

Determination, sincerity and muscle can best describe the effort put forth by the signalmen.

"At the day's end you feel as though you've accomplished something and you know your work is going to a good cause," said Specialist 4 John Baxter, Lyndhurst, New Jersey.

When classes begin this January there will be five teachers. Three will be hired

through a U.S. civic aid program and the others by the Vietnamese government. After the initial three months all the teachers will be paid by the Vietnamese government.

Expected attendance at the opening of the school is estimated at 250-300 children.

As with most villages, the population is growing and this was taken into account prior to construction and the school was designed so additions can be added easily.

Some thought is also being given to holding adult education classes at night.

Draftee; expert technician

1ST SIG BDE -- Many of the men serving at 1st Signal Brigade sites are draftees...but one of the most notable at the 361st Signal Battalion's Pr'Line Long Lines site lists his home as Ton Tho Tuong St., Saigon.

This unusual draftee, Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) Staff Sergeant Mau Can, a Vietnamese of Chinese descent, is a graduate of the ARVN language and signal schools in Vung Tau and was assigned to the II Military Region Integrated Communications Site ICS under the brigade's "Buddies Together" program.

The 24-year-old ARVN repaired radio and TV sets in Saigon before the ARVN reached out, inducting him in 1968. His new job is a bit more complex, but not only has he grasped the skills needed as a tech controller on some of the most sophisticated signal equipment ever built but also he is considered an expert and was the Pr'Line site's first master completing the block of instruction in one third the normal time. The masters program is a plan of instruction and on-the-job practical experience aimed at making incoming personnel completely proficient at the equipment.

Staff Sergeant Can not only knows his job but he is at home with his American counterparts -- living, eating and socializing with them on the isolated site. His associates are also very proud of him. "We treat him like a non-commissioned officer," said Specialist 5 Mike Pierce, of

Walnut Creek, California. His NCOIC Sergeant First Class John Arabie, credited Can with helping the unit in many areas.

His shift-mate, Specialist 5 Tony Sweat, had the greatest praise, "Bluntly, he works as good as or better than GIs...he's a good controller...he's one of us."

The future is bright for the

Cholon resident. A movement is afoot to send Can to the United States for further study and everyone from the Battalion Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Fred Martin, down to the site officer in charge First Lieutenant Samuel Lewis, Pittsburg, Pa., is working to that end. Word on the proposal hasn't come down yet but

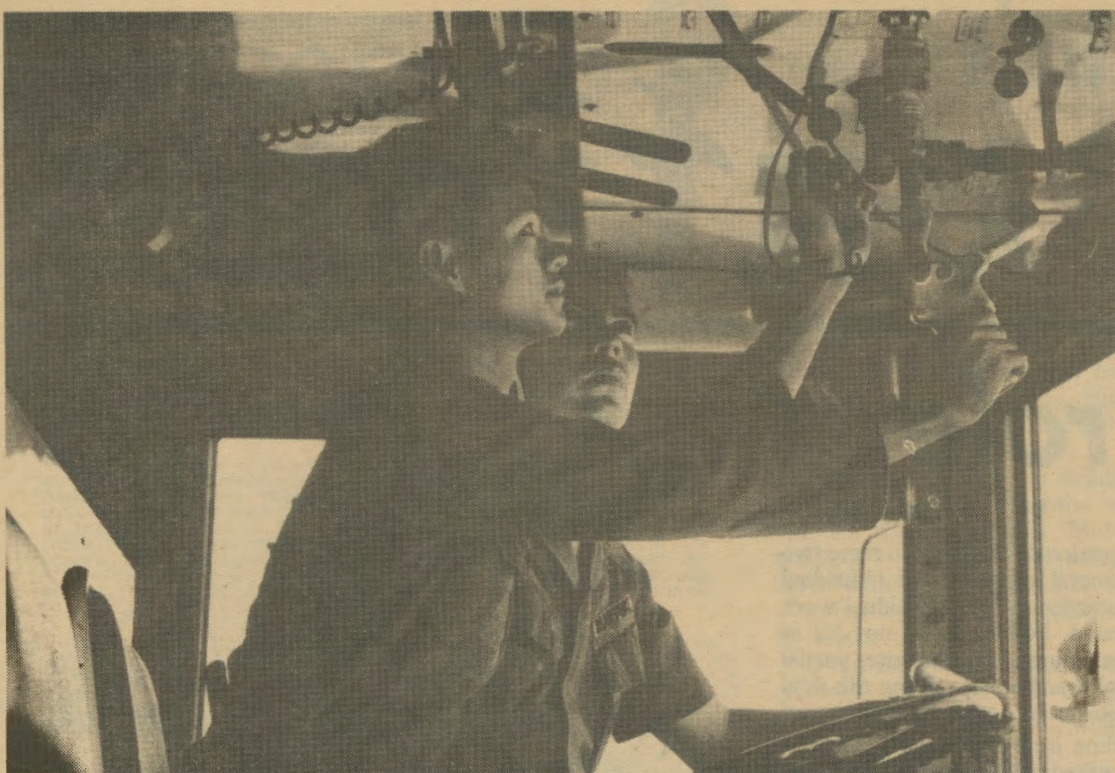
everyone is hopeful.

The young ARVN's brother is an officer but Can thinks he is getting the best training and his counterparts agree. While his duties as a master involve tutoring, he is more inclined to work with equipment but doesn't rule out teaching the skills to other Vietnamese signalmen in the future.



Republic of Vietnam Air Force (VNAF) Technical Sergeant Pham Gay of the VNAF 297th Communications Squadron, monitors the switchboard procedures of Airman 3rd Class Nguyen Quang. Gay and members of his crew were trained by communicators from the U.S. Air Force's 1878th Communications Squadron at Pleiku AB.

(USAF PHOTO)



Staff Sergeant William D. Young of Cheyenne, Wyo., fire protection specialist, right, instructs his Republic of Vietnam Air Force (VNAF) counterpart on how to handle the crash rescue equipment at the base fire department. The VNAF will be taking over control of the department soon. More than 63 VNAF airmen are presently undergoing intensive on-the-job training at the fire department from their U.S. Air Force counterparts. Young and 55 of his U.S. Air Force co-workers will become excess when the VNAF assumes control.

(USAF PHOTO By: SSgt David E. Spaner)

VNAF fire department

7TH AF - Air Force Master Sergeant Hulon M. Oxford of Great Falls, Mont., will become a visiting fireman shortly as the Republic of Vietnam Air Force VNAF assume control of the base fire department.

Oxford is chief of the Bien Hoa Air Base fire department. He will switch roles with VNAF Master Sergeant Nguyen Cong Ly who will become the new base fire chief, marking another advancement in the VNAF Improvement and Modernization Program.

More than 63 VNAF members are presently undergoing intensive on-the-job training at the fire department from their U.S. Air Force counterparts. As the VNAF takes over the duties at the base fire department, 55 assigned USAF airmen and noncommissioned officers will be phased out of a job.

The integration of the fire department actually began months ago in preparation for the turnover of the activity to the VNAF. Staff Sergeant William B. Haney is the training NCO for the department.

The sergeant explained the procedure, "We started training the VNAF nearly a year ago. Four to six at a time would come in and learn all phases of crash rescue and structural operations and all phases of fire protection. We did this until we actually started integrating the department in July."

Most of the VNAF working with the fire department have been through the training course given under Haney's direction. Others now are undergoing special on-the-job training while responding to actual daily emergency situations alongside their USAF counterparts.

One of the fire department crew chiefs, who doubles as an instructor to the VNAF, is Staff Sergeant William D. Young of Cheyenne, Wyoming. He commented, "They like to put what they learn into practice. I

really enjoy working with them. They seem to respond very well in emergency situations."

The department responds to about 12 emergency alarms each day. Oxford said the VNAF will be taking over not only the duties involved in running the fire department but more than 500,000 pounds of rolling stock equipment.

Injector testing

FLC - A small air-conditioned room at Motor Transport Maintenance Company, Force Logistic Command (FLC) houses the operation of the Fuel Injection Pump Tester.

The primary use of the pump tester is to calibrate the amount of fuel consumed by the fuel injector used on multi-fuel engines and on two-and-a-half and five-ton trucks.

The Fuel Injection Pump Tester aids the mechanic in detecting malfunctions of the engine's fuel injector and helps him set the governor springs so the engine consumes the correct amount of fuel.

By running the fuel injector at different RPMs (revolutions per minute), adjustments are made on each of the governors which

must be set separately at different RPMs.

Sergeant Michael D. Lovell is the NCOIC of the fuel and electrical shop. "Usually nine tenths of the problems with the fuel injectors are the governor springs, which are allowing either too much or too little fuel to flow into the engine," he said.

Three other Marines in the shop are qualified to work with the Fuel Injection Pump Tester. All are basic mechanics and have received additional schooling on fuel injectors and operation of the Fuel Injector Pump Tester.

The Fuel Injection Pump Tester can test two different types of injection pumps which are used on Marine Corps vehicles.



TEMPORARY PAPA-SAN -- Lance Corporal Robert C. Crackel helps an infant at the Hoa Khanh Children's Hospital down a cup of milk. (USMC PHOTO By: MSgt E. F. Looney)

Working together

Circuit control

1ST SIG BDE - Communicators of the 21st Signal Group and the 66th Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) Signal Group, are working together to provide communications in the II Military Region, the largest in the Republic of Vietnam.

With the rapid Vietnamization Program now in progress, the 21st Signal Group has accelerated its long-standing "Buddies Together" program. In the Group Systems Control Center (SYSCON), ARVN circuit controllers have been working for over six months to learn the skills of communication system management, and to apply these skills in circuit restoration and reporting. These trained controllers are in such high demand in the field that the 21st Signal Group established a special school to train ARVN and U.S. personnel.

The school is now in operation in Nha Trang and has graduated four classes to date, including one joint ARVN-US class and one composed completely of ARVN signalmen.

During the initial phases of the school many problems were encountered, principally the language barrier. Through the efforts of First Lieutenant Art Kaufman, the 21st Group training officer, and Captain Ronald Wilson, advisor to the 662nd ARVN Signal Battalion, a skilled interpreter was obtained. Warrant Officer Than, an experienced Vietnamese circuit control chief, is now acting as interpreter, as well as instructing many classes.

Ngoc, of the 662nd Signal Battalion, has provided the school with Vietnamese translations of tests and hand-out materials used in the school. "Our students are extremely attentive and receptive to our program of instructions, especially to practical exercises. The students pick up the procedures very quickly when actually working with the equipment," explained Sergeant First Class Gerald G. Wilins, principal instructor and NCOIC of the school.

"It has been somewhat difficult to co-ordinate the efforts of so many units, however, I believe that Vietnamization is the only practical answer to the Vietnam War, and I also believe that these students will help the Americans to depart Vietnam much sooner than anticipated," said First Lieutenant Sunderland, officer in charge of the school. "These people have the capability, if only we will take the time to teach them," concluded the officer in charge.

Family housing

7TH AF - Republic of Vietnam Air Force (VNAF) personnel at Binh Thuy AB have set their sights on a large self-help project -- 450 single-story family housing units to be completed in one year.

The project is part of a program developed for the VNAF to improve housing for its members by constructing 2,400 units at seven bases

throughout the country.

The project began the first week in December when crews from Detachment 1 of the 823rd Civil Engineering Squadron (Red Horse), finished erecting a concrete block machine. A second block machine is planned for the near future. The machines will produce more than 360,000 concrete blocks needed to build the 45 10-family dwellings.

The new homes will set on a 43-acre site on the southeast corner of the base. The area is part of a 113-acre tract where construction was recently completed on a new VNAF 4th Air Division headquarters building, airmen dormitories, a dining hall and other new facilities.

Major David A. Korzep of Twinsburg, Ohio, Air Force Advisory Team 4 civil engineering adviser, said material for each family unit would cost several hundred dollars for each building.

"The homes will be identical to those to be constructed at the six other VNAF bases," Korzep said. "The units will have living and sleeping areas, a courtyard and a cooking area."

"The materials will be furnished by the U.S. Air Force but the construction will be done by the VNAF," Korzep said.

"All of the work will be done by 4th Air Division personnel. There will be approximately 30 men from the civil engineering section and 110 to 130 from all other base units."

First Lieutenant Dinh Huu Chi of the UNAF civil engineering section will be in charge of construction.

Observations

Commander's role

By Sp5 John Wilcox

There is, a basic compromise in Congressional policy toward military justice. It attempts to serve two standards – the traditional strict code of military discipline and the liberal safeguards of individual freedom. Under civilian law two standards of social regulation and protection of the individual work together because the executive and judicial functions are strictly separated. Policemen do not act as judges, and judges do not prosecute. In the military, however, the commanding officer assumes partial responsibility for the two roles. He is both prosecutor and judge, investigator and arbiter. From this dual role arises the most visible and openly criticized “flaw” of the military justice system – the presence of command influence.

Command influence is a built-in problem which arises from Congress's attempt to maintain military discipline while safeguarding the rights of the accused. The lawmakers may originally have felt that by giving the commander judicial power they would ensure that military justice functioned as a tool of military discipline. The 1968 amendments suggest that there has been a rethinking of this position and that Congress now feels that there should be a wider separation, as there is in civilian law, between enforcement and judgment in military law. To date, however, Congress has gone only part way in implementing this change in policy.

According to Colonel Vinet, “The law places the commander in a difficult situation. He has to fulfill two roles. We want him to administer discipline in the unit, and at the same time we require him to protect the individual rights of the accused and to judge each offender objectively. We hold the commander strictly responsible for both tasks, but often we do not realize how much these responsibilities conflict.”

The role of convening authority has no counterpart in civilian law. The UCMJ, bestowing this judicial power on the commander, gives military justice an intimate connection with the maintenance of discipline. By contrast in civilian life legal processes are remote and rarely touch the lives of most citizens except in minor ways. The possibility of a federal conviction for disciplinary infractions is a constant threat to servicemen, for they see the processes of prosecution and judgment personified in one man – the commanding officer.

The commander's first role in the system of military justice involves the preliminary investigation of a case and the charging of the accused. As convening authority, the commander assumes the judicial role of deciding what course of action – administrative reprimand, non-judicial punishment, or court-martial – is appropriate for the case before him. His first consideration is the nature of the offense – what did the accused do and what were the actual and potential consequences of his act? He reviews the evidence closely and examines the testimony of witnesses. This is his most basic consideration, for in classifying the offense as “serious” or “minor” he will immediately determine whether it is a crime (suggesting a court-martial) or a disciplinary problem (perhaps requiring no punishment).

The commander's second consideration during his preliminary investigation is the accused. He examines the accused's basic credentials – his past record and length of service. Then he looks deeper and attempts to discover any special contributing

factors involved in the offense. There may be obvious factors of extenuation and mitigation which alter the nature of the offense. The accused's state of mind, unusual circumstances (financial problems, bad news from home, difficulties in the unit) are subjects which the convening authority should examine, preferably through discussion with the accused. During this pretrial assessment the commander must keep in mind the injunction that no commander should resort unnecessarily to punitive action when administrative corrective measures are appropriate.

The commander's third pretrial consideration is

the state of discipline in the command. When a commander is concerned that a particular offense is widespread in his unit and is causing serious problems of morale and discipline, he is justified in treating it as a “serious” offense. He cannot, however, permit this concern to interfere with his judicial objectivity in “calling them as he sees them.” The commander alone must decide what, if any, punishment is adequate to maintain the desired state of discipline, for even superior authority looks to the commander to maintain discipline in his own unit.

In referring charges to trial, a convening authority must remember that the charges themselves are not evidence but merely allegations against the accused. The commander must avoid any form of prejudice or prejudgment before he knows all the facts of a case. American justice, both civilian and military, is built on the presumption of innocence which demands a moral certainty of the guilt of an accused before he can be convicted. Any form of prejudgment undermines the entire system and may lead to embarrassing consequences if the accused, as he has a right to do, elects not to say anything about the charges until his case is tried.

The presumption of innocence is even more crucial during the commander's post trial review. Article 64 of the UCMJ requires that the commander be certain in his mind that all of the allegations are proven before he approves the sentence. He can examine the facts, the credibility of witnesses, the strengths and weaknesses of legal argument. Even though the court showed by its findings that it was convinced of the accused's guilt, he has a duty to set aside the conviction and the sentence, or any part thereof related to the conviction. He may also disapprove or suspend all or part of the sentence for any reason, but he can never increase the punishment adjudged by the court. . . . to be continued



Believe me, sir, after the pep talk I gave the men, they can hardly wait for me to lead 'em on patrol!

ARMY DIGEST

Air dislikes

USASC – The gripes, bad feelings and even contempt for the Army have been and remain one of the major problems that concern everyone in the Army from General Westmoreland to basic trainees.

In an attempt to create better internal rapport, the Army has created human relations boards at every command level. The purpose is to open another channel of communication – besides the chain of command and the IG – to air dislikes, misunderstandings and offer constructive ideas.

At company or battalion level, depending on the size of the unit, informal meetings will

be held where EM, NCOs and officers can communicate, relate and try to eliminate the communicational block that usually exists between the various levels of command. The purpose is to improve human relations through equal opportunity and fair treatment for all personnel, to promote understanding of the problems of minority groups, and to open an informal communications medium available to the individual soldier.

The four areas of major concern are the grievance procedure, military justice system, polarization of races and the communications block.

The Human Relations Board at company or battalion level will meet at least once a month. The minutes of the meeting will be read back to the members of the board, information and discussion from each unit, study different trouble areas, offer suggestions to its higher command or take action at its level.

In Vietnam certain commands have had this program for almost a year. This board can only be effective if EM and officers try to implement this outlet for understanding and communication.

SITUATIONS

A NEW FEATURE begins this week, and will continue in coming issues of the Observer. It's a series of "situations" the American GI might – and often does – find himself in here in Vietnam, along with some insights on how a Vietnamese might view the same circumstances. So read along, and try to place yourself in the other guy's shoes...

DO TREAT TEMPLES, SPIRIT HOUSES, SACRED PLACES CAREFULLY

Reason: Vietnamese religions teach the presence of ancestors as spirits. Credits or debits may be earned for the future life through the faithful practice or neglect of veneration and respect for the spirits of departed ancestors. So treat these places like you would want others to treat places or things that are sacred to you.

DO TREAT RELIGIOUS LEADERS WITH RESPECTFUL COURTESY

Reason: Religious leaders are considered to be “holy” men and are very important in their communities regardless of different religious beliefs. Special courtesy is given them by the Vietnamese. Their friendship and support can often make your mission more successful; their opposition can mean it's failure.

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R&R and leave Regulations

1. R&R offers six days and six nights at one of the following locations: Hawaii, Sydney, Taipei, Bangkok, and Hong Kong. Personnel with dependents residing in Okinawa and Guam are authorized R&R to that respective location. You become eligible for R&R after 90 days in country.

2. Application must be submitted 45 days prior to desired month for sites other than Hawaii. For Hawaii, application must be submitted 45 days prior to desired quarter. Example: 15 February for April, May, June.

3. Uniforms may be worn only in Hawaii.

4. Personnel who extend for six months are entitled to a 30-day leave which is not chargeable. Leave does not begin until you arrive at your destination, which may be anywhere in the world US forces personnel are authorized leave. The Government furnishes all transportation at no expense to the individual.

5. Personnel are entitled to 14 days ordinary leave which cannot be taken together with R&R. This may be taken in two seven day increments or one 14 day increment to an R&R site, or in one 14 day increment to CONUS. Leave to CONUS must be taken between 4th and 8th month and all travel is at the individual's expense. Individual must present evidence of a return seat to RVN prior to approval of leave to CONUS or 14 day leave to R&R site.

6. Compassionate and emergency leaves may be granted. Such requests must normally be substantiated by the Red Cross.

viewing vietnam



Each week, "Viewing Vietnam" explores a different facet of the Vietnamese people, their customs, and their society. In this continuing effort to promote the U.S. soldier's understanding of his hosts, we have recently been studying the various religions of the country; this week's topic is Buddhism.

Buddhism is the third of the great religions which have contributed to the molding of Vietnamese culture and character over the centuries. Buddha was a contemporary of Confucius, and the religion he founded entered Vietnam from both India, Buddha's home, and China. Today it is perhaps the most visible of Vietnamese religious beliefs.

The major teachings of Buddha are found in the Benares Sermon of Buddha which stressed the "Middle Way." That this "Middle Way" might be realized by humanity, Buddha proclaimed what are now known as the Four Noble Truths:

1. Existence (life) is a succession of suffering or, to exist is to suffer;

2. Suffering is caused and created by desires or cravings; the ignorance of true reality allows ambition, anger, illusion, to continue to cause an endless cycle of existence;

3. The extinguishing of suffering can be achieved only by the elimination of desire;

4. The elimination of desire or craving can be achieved only through the Noble Eightfold Path.

The Noble Eightfold Path by which the Buddhist must strive to perfect:

- *Right views
- *Right aspirations
- *Right speech
- *Right behavior
- *Right living
- *Right effort
- *Right thoughts
- *Right concentration

Buddha gave five Commandments or Prohibitions:

- *Do not kill
- *Do not steal
- *Do not be unchaste
- *Do not lie
- *Do not drink alcohol

None of Buddha's teaching is of greater significance than the doctrine of Karma. The wheel, one of the earliest Buddhist symbols, stands for the unending cycle of existence through which life goes on by birth and rebirth.

According to the doctrine of Karma the sum total of a person's good or bad actions, comprising thoughts, words and deeds, determines his specific destiny in the next rebirth in the unending cycle of life.

As translated from The Gospel Of Buddha by Paul Carus, Buddha taught that "All beings have karma as their portion: they are heirs of their

karma; they are sprung from their karma; their karma is their kinsman; their karma is their refuge; karma allots beings to meanness or to greatness."

While Hinduism holds a similar belief in reincarnation, the wheel of existence and karma, Buddhism differs in that Buddha taught that there is no self, therefore, no actual transmigration of the soul or continuity of the individual.

In fact, Buddhists technically prefer the term "demise" to death as they assert there is no death as life is not confined to one's body, but that the life force experiences a series of rebirth. In popular Buddhism, the adherent tends to think of himself as a candidate for rebirth.

As a man determines his Karma by his actions, he has made himself. This force, Karma, is held to be the motive power for the round of rebirths and deaths endured until one has freed himself from its effects and escapes from the Wheel of Existence.

The state to which the Buddhist aspires is Nirvana. It is a state of being freed from the cycle of rebirth or the Wheel of Existence. It is the final release from Karma and can be achieved only by long, laborious effort, self-denial, good deeds, thoughts and purification through successive lives.

An exact definition of Nirvana seems unobtainable since Buddha refrained from describing this state. He called it the summit of existence, the enlightenment of mind and heart, the city of peace, the lake of ambrosia and peace, perfect, eternal and absolute.

It is the state in which Buddha's followers believe him to be now as a result of the Enlightenment which he achieved.

By the second century A.D., Buddhism had divided into two major branches: Theravada (the lesser vehicle or the teaching of the elders) also called Hinayana, and Mahayana (the greater vehicle). The two branches do not necessarily conflict but they emphasize different things.

Followers of Theravada Buddhism regard Guatama as the only Buddha and believe that only a select few will reach Nirvana. Every man following this branch must spend several months in the priesthood.

The "greater vehicle" of Mahayana theology teaches that everyone can strive toward a better world. The followers regard Buddha as only one of many Buddhas and believe that, theoretically, any person may become a Buddha—if not in this life, then in a future life—but those who attain Buddhahood are rare.

Start job searching now

By Sgt Richard Connell

As a GI in Vietnam becomes "short" he allows himself the luxury of thinking about going home and what he is going to do once he returns to the United States. And if you're a GI in Vietnam who is short and planning to ETS at the Oakland Army Terminal, now, indeed is the time to begin thinking about getting a job.

The United States is currently facing a period of economic recession with a higher than normal rate of unemployment. This is causing special problems for GIs returning from Vietnam. Estimates are that between 13 and 20 percent of the over 4½ million Vietnam veterans are presently out of work and many soldiers who are about to return to the United States will soon be among the unemployed. Therefore, the more you prepare to get a job now, the better your chances once you return to the United States.

But how does one go about looking for a job while in Vietnam? The answer to this question depends upon your situation.

If you are a GI who has a job skill, anything from tree surgery to computer programming, you probably already know of potential employers. It's a good idea to start contacting these employers while still in Vietnam and finding out if they will hire you. Even if you don't get any positive responses to your job inquiries, you may get an idea of what the job market is like in your part of the country. Also many businesses will provide you with the names and addresses of other potential employers if they cannot hire you themselves.

But what about GIs who don't already have job skills?

Enter the GI Bill Use of the

GI Bill of Rights is one of the best ways to get job training. It can be used to finance at least part of a college education or a vast number of vocational and technical training programs. If you are interested in finding out the benefits you're entitled to under the GI Bill contact the Veteran's Administration Office (VA) through your personnel Services NCO.

For soldiers who plan to return to civilian life but still have a service obligation after leaving Vietnam, it isn't too early to start looking over the job market upon arrival at your next duty station. Most major military installations in the United States utilize Project Transition under which soon-to-ETS soldiers spend part of their duty day receiving on-the-job training at nearby civilian firms. The success of

Project Transition has varied from post to post, but it might prove worthwhile to look into the program.

Another thing to remember is that if you had a full-time job before entering the military you can have the job back. According to the Military Service Act of 1969, a veteran who held a full-time job before entering the service must be rehired by his old employer if he applies for the job within 90 days after his ETS. This can be useful, even though you may not have been satisfied with your former civilian job, as it provides you with income while you look for a better position.

Finally no matter what your situation is, start planning BEFORE you get out of the service so you'll be in a better position to get the best job available when you ETS.



In the wake of the worst floods s

Air Force, Army to ravaged Mala



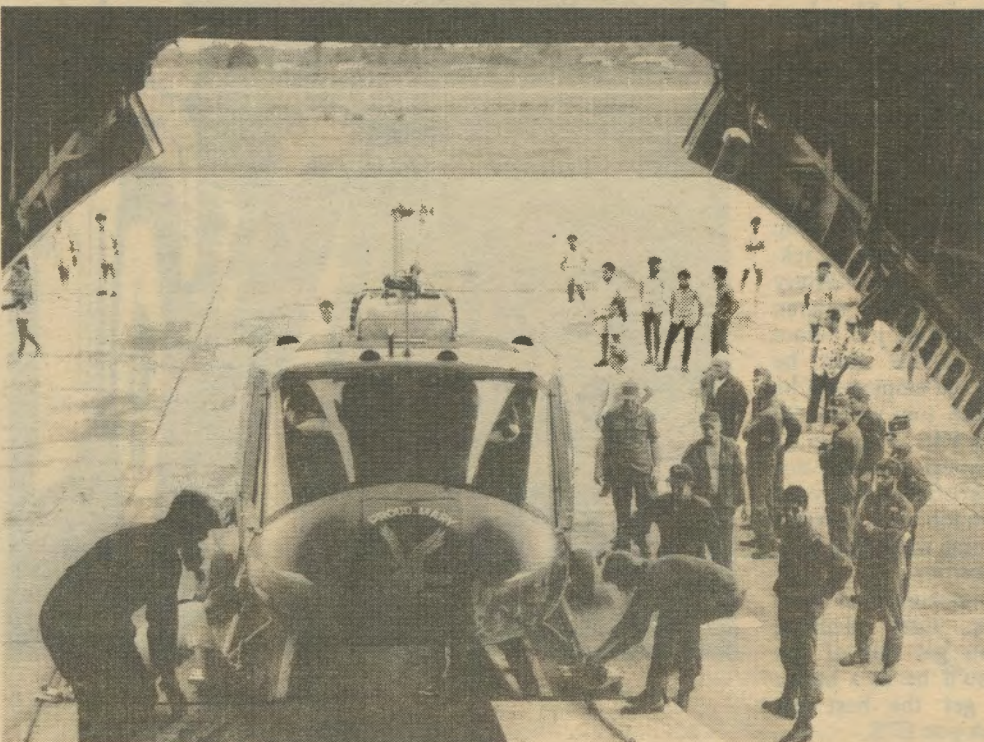
HIGHWAY PATROL BOAT -- Cutting through the receding flood waters, a boat surveys the damage to a Malaysian highway. (USAF PHOTO By Maj Jack H. Oswald)



WORKING TOGETHER -- A US Army helicopter pilot is briefed by a disaster relief coordinator. (USAF PHOTO By Maj Jack H. Oswald)



GLUB -- Trees have trouble keeping their heads above water in an area not far from Kuantan RMAFB. (USAF PHOTO By Maj Jack H. Oswald)



ON THE WAY -- A UH-1 Huey helicopter is loaded onto an AF C-124 Globemaster en route to the flood-ravaged land. (USAF PHOTO By Sgt Bill Diebold)

7AF -- More than 50,000 pound supplies, six UH-1 Huey helicopters and with outboard motors were airlifted by Air Force to Malaysia recently to aid relief operations.

The relief operation began after hours of continuous rain caused the worst flooding in Malaysia since 1931. Airfields at Kuantan and Kuantan Royal Malaysian Air Force Base were used during the operation.

A Pacific Air Force C-124 Globemaster II, piloted by Lt. Col. Bernie L. Goode flew the mission, carrying two U.S. Army UH-1 helicopters, aircrews and maintenance personnel to Kuantan RMAFB.

His 463d Tactical Airlift Wing crew from Kadena AB, Republic of the Philippines, will perform additional missions from here to Kuantan, bringing with them two more Hueys and 24,000 blankets and supplies. Another 463d TAW aircraft brought the other two UH-1s to the base located about 60 miles east of Kuantan.

Medical and relief supplies were also being sent from Kadena AB, Okinawa, by a 463d TAW Hercules to Kuantan on later. The load included 24,000 pounds of blankets, 2,500 medical supplies and five medical technicians.

The U.S. Army medical technicians will administer 16 Malaysian medical personnel typhoid immunizations to persons in the rural areas. The team was equipped with immunization guns operated by foot-pedal.



AFTER THE RA common as inland leaving many areas PHOTO By Maj Ja

e 1931

y relief sia

LUCKY -- These two houses escaped the raging storms with relatively little damage. (USAF PHOTO By Maj Jack H. Oswald)



Subsequently two Military Airlift Command C-141 Starlifters delivered fifty 16-foot Johnboats and 25-horsepower outboard motors to Kuala Lumpur.

Many of the boats were redistributed to other locations by the 463d TAWC-130 Hercules which remained in Malaysia to assist by providing additional airlift capability.

According to Goode, who piloted the first U.S. aircraft to land at Kuantan as part of the relief mission, officials at the base said they were "short on food, water and transportation."

"We were advised that in the last 24 hours the water level has receded 10 feet," he said. "In fact, the highway connecting the airport to town was seven feet under water."

He noted the weather had improved "a great deal." He said there were scattered clouds in the area when his giant Globemaster arrived but that visibility was "probably 10 miles and there were no signs of heavy buildups that would produce rain."

Brig. Gen. Jack W. Hemingway, commander of the 1st Aviation Brigade at Long Binh Army Post, visited the area later to observe the first UH-1s being offloaded.

Hemingway indicated about 45 U.S. Army people, including aircrews, maintenance and command element personnel were involved in the relief operations, with the six Huey helicopters directed by the Malaysian Air Force Group Commander.

"The principal mission will be to carry food, medical and comfort supplies to people in rural areas where transportation has been out off by high water," General Hemingway said. The helicopters operated within an 80 miles radius of Kuantan RMAFB.

U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. John W. Kehoe, tactical airlift liaison officer to the U.S. Army at Long Binh Army Post, monitored the operations at Tan Son Nhut AB in the Republic of Vietnam.

The majority of the relief efforts have been provided by the Malaysian government and armed forces. In addition to the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Army assistance, help has been provided by the Singapore Air Force and both the British Royal Navy and Air Force.

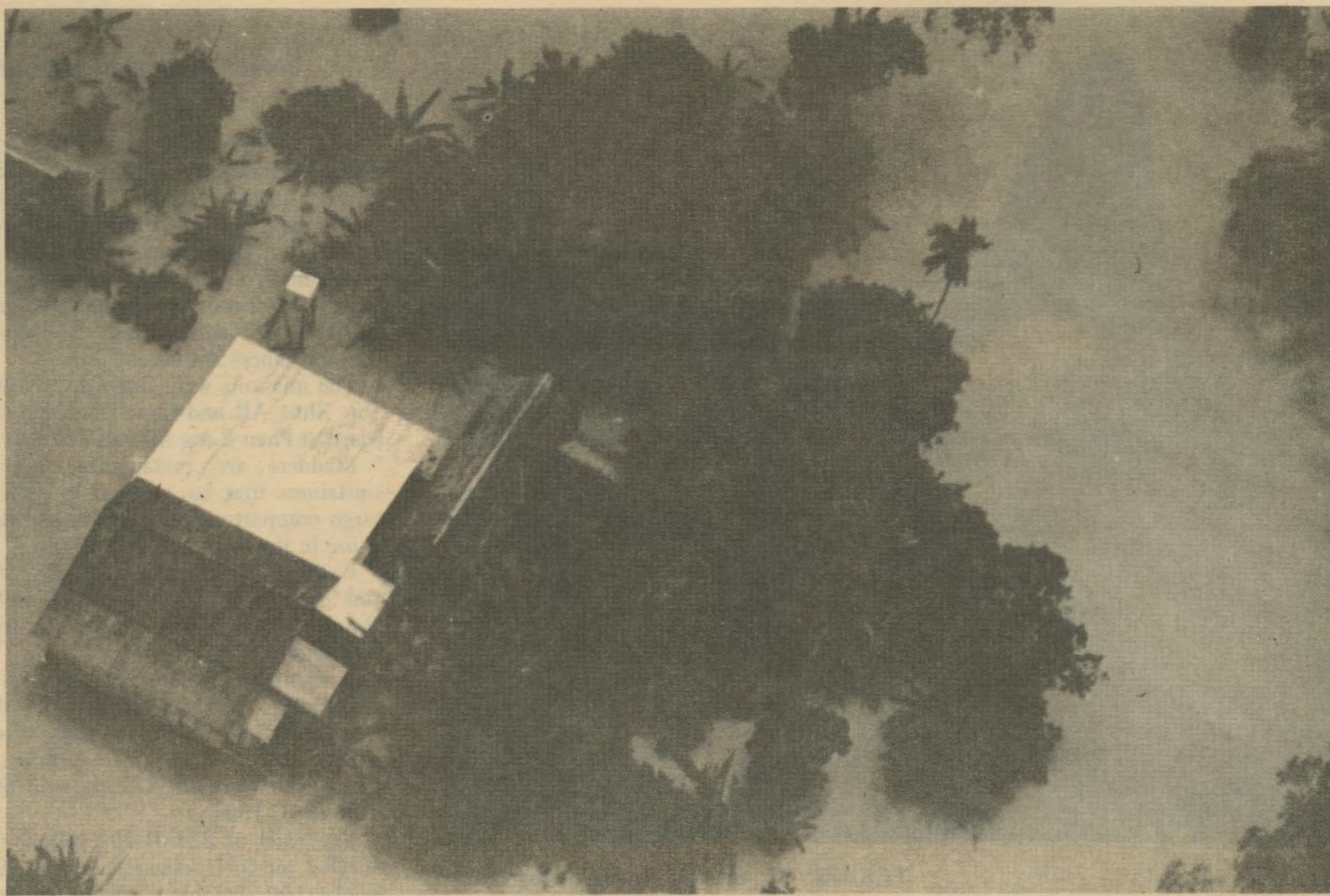
British and Malaysian pilots estimated at least 100,000 people in the central lowlands to be in need of food, clothing, and medical attention.

It was reported 48 inches of rain fell at Kuantan, with 81 inches further inland during the week-long inundation.

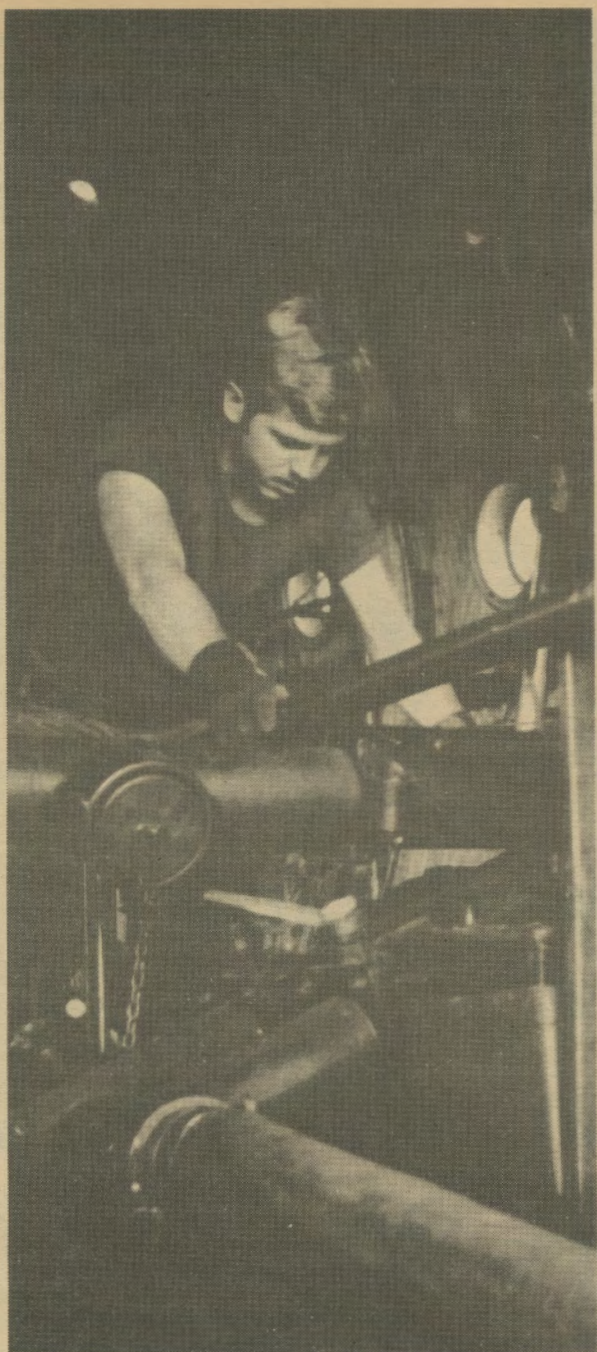
Rivers in the interior of Malaysia flooded towns and cities. Massive rainfall swept down from the western mountains and dumped enough water into Kuala Lumpur to flood the streets to a depth of six feet. The large inland city of Temerloh, 80 miles east of Kuala Lumpur, was heavily flooded and cut off from land transportation to the east coast.



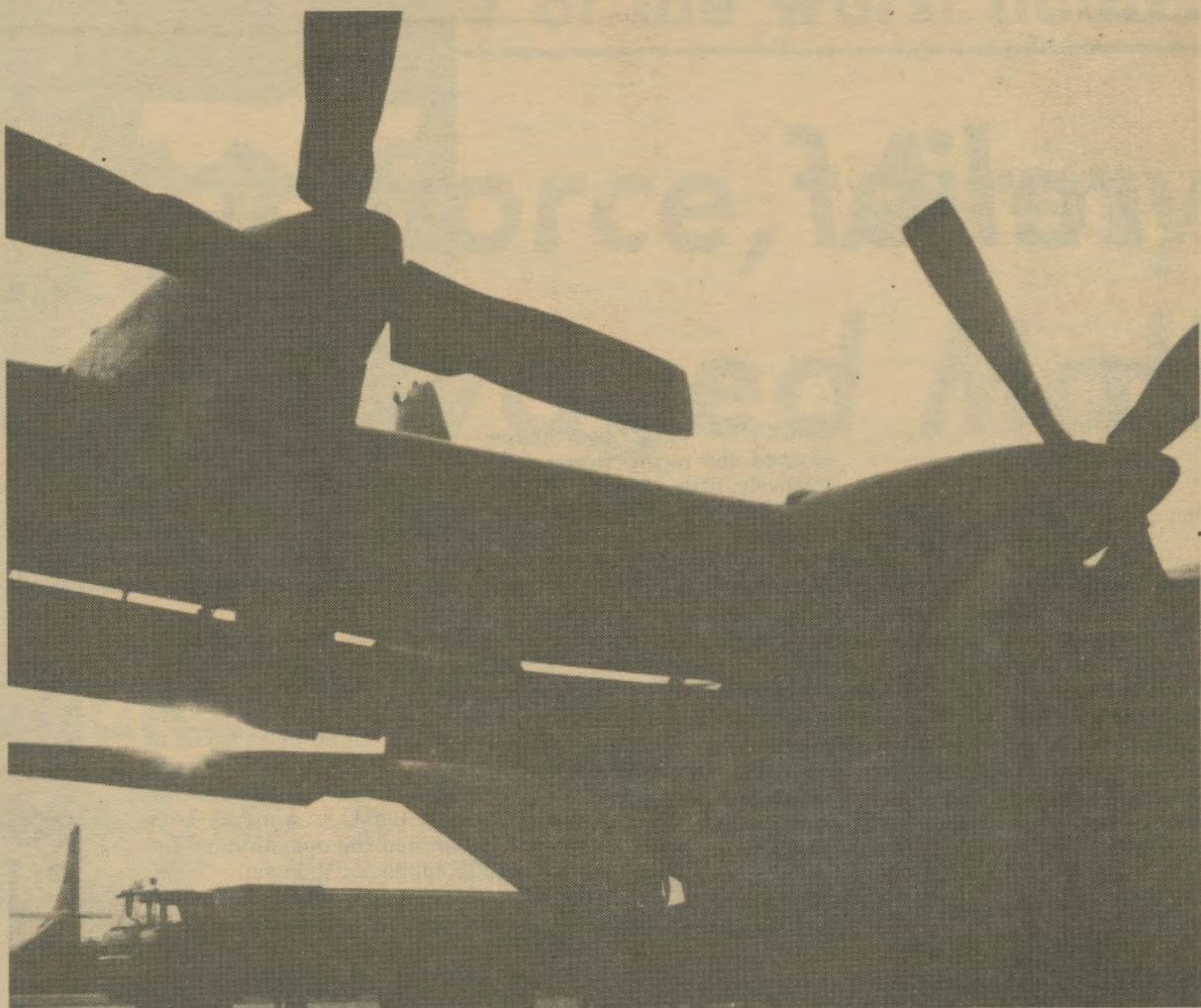
HELP AT LAST -- Army relief workers unload part of the many tons of supplies sent by the United States. (USAF PHOTO By Maj Jack H. Oswald)



THE AFTERMATH -- A lone dwelling sits in several feet of water in the wake of the worst floods to hit Malaysia in 40 years. (USAF PHOTO By: Maj Jack H. Oswald)



PRESSURE PUMPS -- Both C-123's and C-130's carry their own pumping systems to transfer fuel.



SUNRISE -- With the sun still very low over the horizon, a fuel truck pumps JP-4 jet fuel into a C-130.

Bladderbirds deliver the goods

PHOTOS BY SGT WILLIAM DIEBOLD



TAKING IT BACK -- An Army fuel specialist at Duong Dong Airfield relieves a C-130 of its load of fuel.

7AF -- More than 22.5 million gallons of JP-4 jet fuel were delivered by the 834th Air Division to remote airstrips throughout the Republic of Vietnam during 1970, and to Cambodia during allied operations last May and June.

The fuel, used primarily by U.S. Army helicopters, was delivered by C-130 Hercules and C-123 Provider "bladder birds." The totals do not include fuel delivered by tactical airlift aircraft contained in 55-gallon drums or inflatable fuel containers known as "donuts."

The missions were flown by C-130s operating from Tan Son Nhut AB and Cam Ranh Bay AB along with C-123s based at Phan Rang AB and Tan Son Nhut AB.

Bladders are rectangular, heavy, black rubber-like containers that are secured to pallets and rolled into the cargo compartment of C-130s and C-123s. They have been in use in the Republic since 1966.

Each C-123 can carry 2,000 gallons (13,000 pounds) and each C-130 6,000 gallons (39,000 pounds) to the remote airstrips where road or water transportation is unavailable.

A pumping system is installed in each aircraft allowing the fuel to be transferred from the bladders to larger storage bladders at the airstrips, trucks, or directly to the aircraft. A total of 270 gallons per minute can be transferred from the C-124s, and 600 gallons per minute from the C-130s.

The total of 22,601,994 gallons (144,652,762 pounds) of JP-4 jet fuel delivered during 1970 was off-loaded at nearly 100 airfields in the Republic, and at locations in Cambodia during May and June to resupply U.S. Army helicopters.

Civil Affairs

Orphans receive clothes

...toys too

1ST AIR CAV -- As the Vietnamese holiday season (Tet) rolled around, men of the 1st Air Cav's 3rd Brigade S-5 (civil affairs section), did everything they could to see that the holiday season was made more enjoyable for some of the underprivileged Vietnamese children in the area.

"It's hard not to care for the children," said Specialist 4 Michael Hennessey, "after we spend much of our time with the people in the village and camps. The children greet us warmly each time and we've grown very attached to them."

From personal donations among themselves and from the brigade commander and each of the three Battalions, the men of the S-5 bought 447 old toys for the children. Children in Ham Tan, Xuan Loc orphanages and Suoi Cat refugee center were treated with dolls, model tanks and guns, and various other toys.

"We all wrote home requesting clothes," said Hennessey. "My sister coordinated with church members in a drive for clothes for the Vietnamese children."

It's another chapter in the Civil Affairs program where the hearts and minds of the Vietnamese people are given priority.

USAECV -- Appreciation was the instant reaction of 70 children at the school and orphanage operated by the Ho Nai Roman Catholic Church as Specialist 4 Marvin H. Watson presented three boxes of clothing to the children.

Watson, R & R clerk for HQ, 20th Engineer Brigade, gave the clothing to Father Linh Pham Ba, director of the orphanage, on behalf of the women of the United Methodist, Christian and Catholic Churches of Burlington Junction, Mo. Once a month for the past two years, the women gathered to make clothes to send the underprivileged children in Vietnam.

As the boxes were opened, the children caught glimpses of their contents and anticipation and excitement became the rule of the day. Father Linh, along with his aides, lined the children up in single file in preparation for distribution of the clothes. One by one, the children came up and patiently waited as the aides measured them to insure that each article of clothing would fit.

Father Linh has been the director of the orphanage for 16 years and is responsible for the 100 to 150 children who are either orphans who live there or who are from the village and attend school there. The school children range from six to 10 years of age while the entire group ranges in age from a few months old to 16 years of age.

Through an Army of the Republic of Vietnam interpreter, Corporal Thuan Pham Van who is attached to the 18th Military Police Brigade, Father Linh was able to convey his thanks to Watson. Father Linh said, "We of the school wish to thank the American soldiers and the women of the church for their generosity. We are so thankful for their kindness and hard work in order that the children of Vietnam may benefit."

Watson, a 24-year-old native of Sterling Heights, Michigan, stated, "Speaking for myself and the women of the church, we are glad to be of help and hope we can do more of the same in the near future."

better relations

MEDCAPs net gains

FLC -- When patrols of Force Logistic Command's 1st Military Police Battalion report inhabitants of an area are suffering from some kind of sickness or disease, a Medical Civil Action Patrol (MEDCAP) is quickly sent to the area.

Navy Hospital Corpsman First Class (HM-1) Edward A. Connearney commented, "The MEDCAP program seems to be very effective." Connearney is one of three corpsmen who conduct MEDCAPs aided by Civic Action Marines.

Gunnery Sergeant T. D. Trong, Army of the Republic of Vietnam, assists the corpsmen by relaying instructions and directions in Vietnamese to the people. He is an interpreter with the

battalion's Civil Affairs section.

Over 100 Vietnamese civilians were treated recently during a MEDCAP at Cam Bac hamlet near here.

Not only did the Vietnamese receive medical care, the children were given candy, chewing gum and soap.

Marine 2nd Lieutenant Lynn Adams, commander of a security squad from Delta Company, said, "The program not only accomplishes medical aid to the people, but also aids in better relations. On a number of occasions we've had small arms ammunition and mortar rounds turned over to us."



OPEN WIDE -- A Vietnamese woman shows her child how to keep his mouth open while HM-1 E.A. Connearney examines the boy's sore throat. (USMC PHOTO By SSgt. R.D. Lucas)



DON'T BREAK IT!!! -- Captain Axel Lenz of the 159th Aviation Battalion, 101st Airborne Division demonstrates how to make animals from balloons.

The anxious onlookers are students at the An Bang Elementary School in Phu Bai, where Lenz headed a visiting medical team. (US ARMY PHOTO)

Barons fund HS

1ST AVN BDE -- The future education of hundreds of Vietnamese teenagers in Gia Binh village has been made possible by material contributions by the Black Barons of the 269th Combat Aviation Battalion.

The new Gia Binh high school was officially opened recently by a dedication ceremony attended by Colonel Sahn, the Hau Nghia Province Chief, and Major Frank Haynes, acting commander of the 269th.

"The two-room high school, which will hold approximately 200 students, was built entirely by the villagers," explained the 269th Civic Actions officer, Captain James H. Kenton.

Major Haynes said, "The truly humanitarian effort shown by US soldiers to improve the education and lives of the Vietnamese children was highly commendable."

Entertainment



BUNKER BUNNY SEZ,

"Would you like a nice warm Mascot who has soft sleek tresses and just loves to cuddle?" asks Debbie Ellison. Remember guys that mascot you now have or are planning to get, cat, etc., has got to have rabies shots. Rabies are almost 100% fatal and your chance of contacting the disease is 5000 times greater here than in the states. So take the proper precautions and remember there's a pet at home that's just waiting to cuddle up to you."
(PHOTO COURTESY PLAYBOY)

VIEW FROM THE GREEN

By Sp5 Larry Green

The American Basketball Association recently held its player draft and their selections serve to remind one of the wealth of prospective talent in this year's draft pool.

The NBA will not hold its college draft until the regular season is over and the clubs' order of finish is apparent. Those with the poorest records will make the first selections. This will be especially helpful to the NBA expansion teams; Cleveland, Portland and Buffalo.

Jacksonville's Artis Gilmore, UCLA's Sidney Wicks, Notre Dame's Austin Carr, and Western Kentucky's Jim Mc Daniels are the most sought-after players. However, many of the ABA teams and some of the NBA franchises do not have the financial resources to join in an all out bidding war. None of the ABA clubs picked Austin Carr or Sidney Wicks for this reason. Gilmore, the ninth player selected in the ABA draft, was tabbed by the Kentucky Colonels. Apparently they are willing to offer somewhere near the two million dollar figure Gilmore is reported to expect.

The key to success in the NBA is a big center. The agile giants Reed, Chamberlain, Thurman, and Alcindor put a premium on the big man. Before Wes Unseld arrived to take over the rebounding and start the fast break Baltimore was a second rate team. Compare too, Detroit's record this year with last season's effort. Big Bob Lanier is the difference. The six seven-foot players in the draft pool will be highly prized selections.

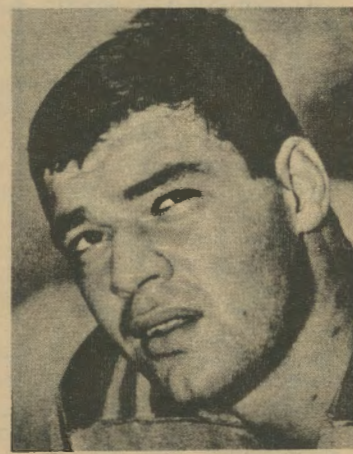
Among the can't-miss prospects is Sidney Wicks who has all the qualities that make an ideal professional forward. He is quick, agile and aggressive, with the size (6 foot 9, 235 lbs) to hold his own in the more physical professional leagues. He is the most complete player available and according to coach John Wooden he's the best player in college basketball.

Austin Carr's accurate shooting makes him the most highly rated guard prospect. His outside scoring would be a definite asset to any NBA or ABA team.

There are exceptional players available for those teams with the resources to attract them.



GREG LANDRY
DETROIT LIONS



LARRY CSOKA
MIAMI DOLPHINS

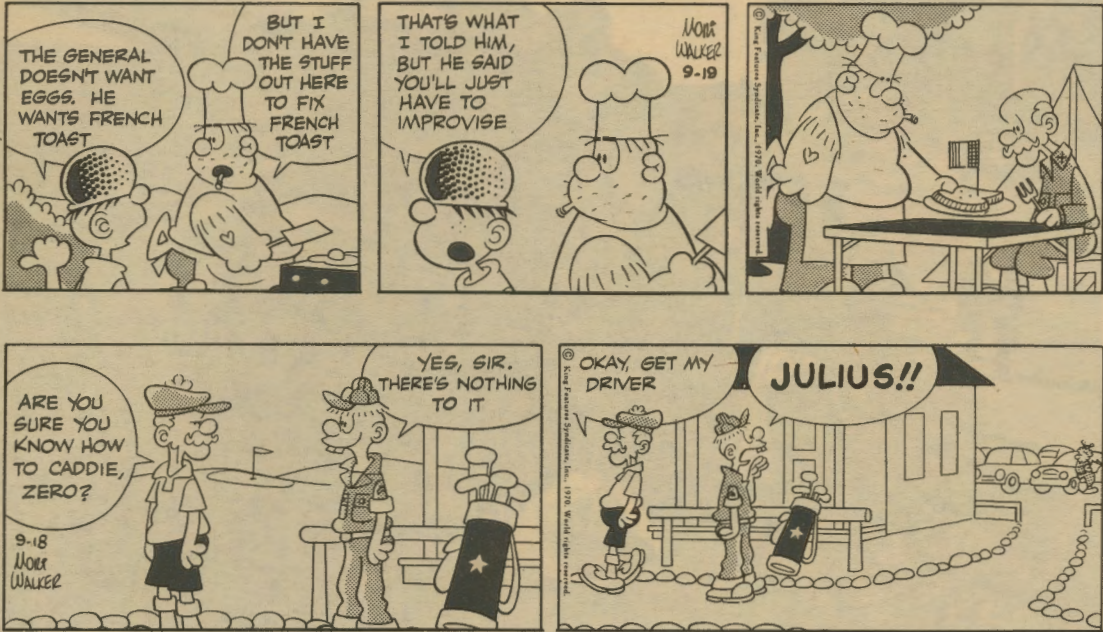


CLINT JONES
MINNESOTA VIKINGS

**1971
NFL UNIT
NO. 2
IN
VIETNAM**

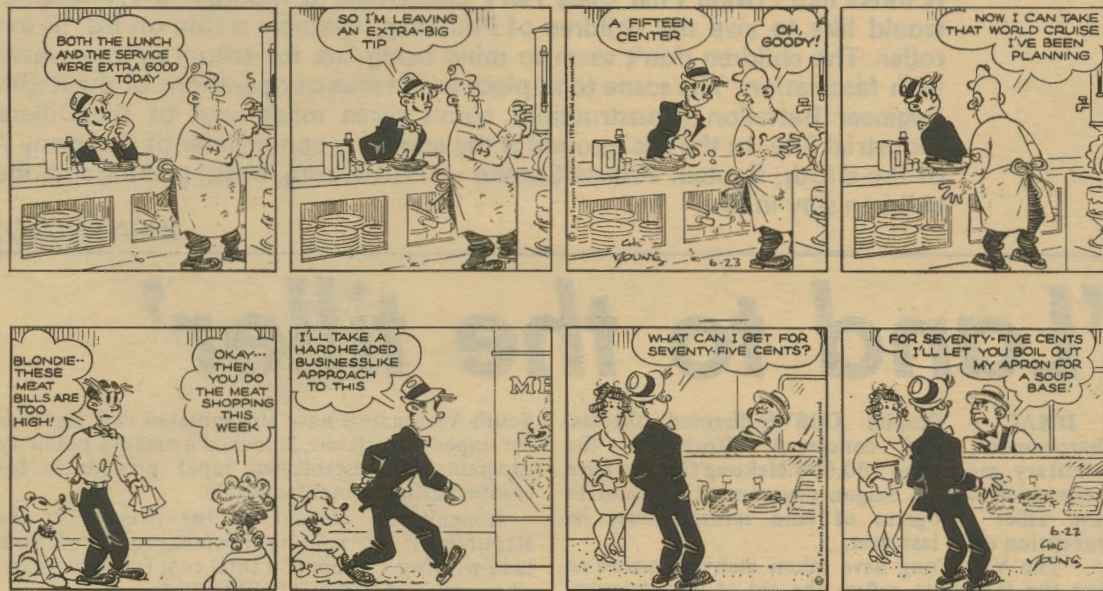
Beetle Bailey

By Mort Walker



Blondie

By Chic Young



... every night at the movies

COURTESY A & AF MOTION PICTURE SERVICE (PACIFIC)

FEBRUARY 21-27	SUN (21)	MON (22)	TUES (23)	WED (24)	THURS (25)	FRI (26)	SAT (27)
TAN SON NHUT No1	Hornet's Nest		The Grasshopper	Ned Kelly	The Landlord		Support Your Local Sheriff
MACV ANNEX	Tell Me That You Love Me Junie Moon		Hail, Hero	Hornet's Nest		The Grasshopper	Ned Kelly
MACV COMPOUND	The Boys In The Band	The Chairman	Tell Me That You Love Me Junie Moon		Hail, Hero	Hornet's Nest	
TAN SON NHUT No2	The Adventurers		The Boys In The Band	The Chairman	Tell Me That You Love Me Junie Moon		Hail, Hero
BIEN HOA AB	West Side Story		Tarzan's Jungle Rebellion	The Adventurers		The Boys In The Band	The Chairman
DA NANG AB No1	The Best House In London		Johnny Cash	WUSA		My Lover, My Son	The Bridge At Remagen
DA NANG AB No2	Watermelon Man	Then Came Bronson	The Best House In London		Johnny Cash	WUSA	
FREEDOM HILL	Butch Cassidy And The Sundance Kid		Watermelon Man	Then Came Bronson	The Best House In London		Johnny Cash
PHU CAT	Cotton Comes To Harlem		The Honeymoon Killers	My Sweet Charlie	W.D. The Love Bug		Land Raiders
TUY HOA AB	Bob & Carol & Ted & Alice		Where It's At	Heaven With A Gun	Ben-Hur		The Bushbaby
CAM RANH BAY	Too Late The Hero		The Fox	The First Time	The Moonshine War		Let It Be
PHAN RANG	Hello, Dolly		Death Of A Gunfighter	The Comic	Z		Dracula Has Risen From The Grave
CAN THO	W.D. The Boatniks		Jenny	Skulduggery	Southern Star		The Maltese Bippy
VUNG TAU	Darling Lili		Halls Of Anger	Guns Of The Magnificent Seven	The Sicilian Clan		A Boy Named Charlie Brown

Trying to keep Choppers flying

1ST AIR CAV - It takes more than gas and a pilot to keep a chopper airborne. Besides gas, a helicopter needs a steady diet of oils and greases and requires a working over every hundred hours of flying time to give constant smooth performance. It's hardly something to be taken for granted, especially for the men of "North Flag," C Company, 229th Assault Helicopter Battalion.

Even the 13-week school that a helicopter maintenance and repair man goes through is only the beginning of learning the trade. Private First Class Lorenzo Perez of Fremont, Cal., had a lot of learning to do. "It took me six months to figure out what I was doing. You really don't know how it's done until

you've worked on one. It's on-the-job training and preventive maintenance all the way."

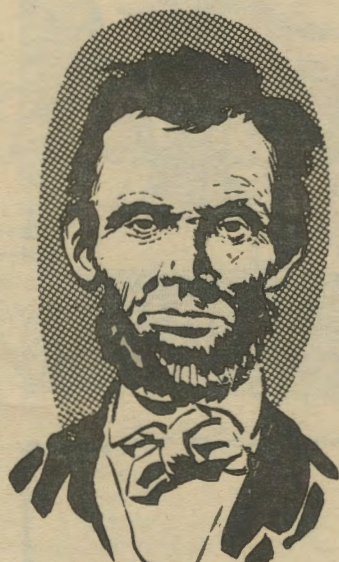
"We like to get three birds at a time," explained Specialist 4 Dava McCall of Detroit, Mich., "though flying scheduling doesn't always allow us to have our way. We have 19 birds to keep in condition. It just depends on how badly messed up a bird is to how long we keep it. A new bird takes no more than 3 or 4 days. Messed up -- a week."

Technical Inspection (TI) takes responsibility for everything being right. Experts on helicopter maintenance, they are the quality control team constantly watching the maintenance crews.

The ground maintenance crewmembers agreed that, as McCall put it, "It's the pilots that make our job easy or hard. We've got good pilots here."

Helicopters become known by number and reputation though they're somewhat hard to tell apart because they are all the same make Huey. "Number 150 has 170 bullet holes in it, yet it's a good 1969 bird," explained McCall. Number 274 is probably our oldest bird from 1966. All the choppers in the company are kept in good shape and we've been painting them, so that their ages now don't show so much."

With the aid of a competent ground crew, a bird with plenty of gas and a good pilot can do its job easily. As the backbone of the 1st Cav's troop movements, repairs can't be left to chance.



Feb 12

FIREFIGHTERS, continued —

Both buckets are filled in approximately fifteen seconds. When the desired amount of water is attained, the flight engineer closes the doors of the containers and the helicopter lifts it out of the water.

The airborne buckets are then flown over the flame-engulfed area and the release doors are opened. If the helicopter makes a high approach, a rain-like effect is produced by the downward flow of air from the churning rotor blades; a low approach results in a more accurately-placed and concentrated volume of water.

Piloting the aircraft that aided the Saigon firemen were Chief Warrant Officer David W. Fountain and Warrant Officer Richard L. Clark. Flight Engineer Specialist Four Marvin J. Gunn, Jr., Crew Chief Specialist Five Roy Cox, and Door Gunner Specialist Five Ronald L. Eckhard completed the crew.



It looks like Private First Class Terry Lauderdale of Montgomery, Alabama, would like to give the children of Phu Hiep, Vietnam a ride on his 10-ton roller. The children don't seem to mind being late for school as they watch with fascination. The scene took place in the area of operations of the 815th Engineer Battalion (Construction) about seven miles west of the Dillard Industrial Site. In the background is the company commander of Company A of the 815th, Captain Robert Speake of Hattiesburg, Miss., making sure the children stay in line.

(USA PHOTO)

'Land to the tiller'

DMAC - Despite COSVN-directed threats, harassment, and concerted efforts to the contrary, more than 100,000 Mekong farmers have responded to the Saigon government's "Land to the Tiller" program of land reform, since its inception early last year.

"The Viet Cong have taken many measures to get the farmer to refuse the aid of this program, but none of them has worked effectively," said MR4 CORDS Land Reform Advisor Roger Alluis.

These have included, he indicated, newsletters, papers, broadcasts, harassment, and 'outright threats.'

"The Communists have always used propaganda against the program but there is no uniformity in the use of it," he continued. "VC in some areas might use force, and in another promises, to get the farmer to work against the program."

"The program is strong...the Government of Vietnam has taken an offensive with land reform...(and) the VC just don't offer the farmers any acceptable alternatives."

"Land to the Tiller" is moving at an accelerated rate of speed and it is because the South Vietnamese themselves are really working at it," added Alluis.

The land reform program has been termed as "the most daring land reform ever attempted in the free world" by informed observers who feel President Thieu is staking much of his political reputation on its outcome.

Under "Land to the Tiller," signed into law and declared top priority by the RVN President nine months ago, ownership of tenanted land is virtually prohibited. The law also expropriates all rice land not cultivated by the owner, and limits ownership of tenanted land is virtually prohibited. The law also expropriates all rice land not cultivated by the owner, and limits ownership to a 15-hectare acre maximum. A landlord may retain up to five hectares of tenanted land for ancestral worship, if it was registered as worship lands prior to passage of the law.

By providing that the land will be transferred to whomever is farming it, the law establishes a precedent by recognizing the rights of squatters and farmers now in possession of former Viet Cong lands.

Initial goals call for over one million hectares (2.5 million acres) to be redistributed to about one million farm families during the next three years, to benefit an estimated 4 to 7 million people.

Implementation of the sweeping revisions outlined by the law were initially retarded, but only briefly, by a lack of both land registration records and trained administrative personnel. With limited U.S. advisory assistance, automated data processing systems were installed, personnel trained, and aerial photographs produced. The

South Vietnamese have also initiated new methods for expediting claims, launched a massive publicity program, and established rapid procedures for compensating former landlords.

Roughly 60 percent of the riceland in the Republic of Vietnam has been expropriated from land-wealthy owners at a total cost (over 11 years) of an estimated \$VN180-200 billion.

Compensation of landlords - a responsibility of the land recipient under previous, less successful reform programs - has been undertaken solely by the government.

To counter the anticipated inflationary impact of the economy, cash payment is made for only 20 percent of the total value of each plot and the balance paid in the form of eight bonds redeemable annually over an eight year period.

Some of the former owners of sharecropped land are more than a little reluctant to cooperate, and a few have flatly refused. For them, the law contains stiff penalties and heavy fines.

At each village, applicants are solicited and assisted by a government land reform representative. Each request is checked against previous claims, approved, and forwarded to Saigon for final approval and recording. Approved applications generate new deeds to the land, which are returned to the farmers.

Of perhaps even greater future significance, the reform bill brings to a close the 100-year system of tenancy that has held an estimated half-million farmers and their families in economic dependence on their landlord.

Much of the Mekong Delta was cleared and developed by small farmers in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. A series of bad crops in the early 1930's forced many into debt and then into tenancy. Others started as wage-laborers on large plantations granted to French, Chinese, and a few favored Vietnamese by the French colonial administration.

Land reform became a bitter issue that lent much impetus to the Viet Minh movement, and won heavy popular support for the insurgents in the countryside. The same platform initially formed even a means of gaining support for the Viet Cong, although the taxes levied by the Communists were greater than the rents extracted by the original landlords.

According to recently-released statistics, during the first nine months of the program 140,995 Mekong Delta farmers have applied for ownership of the land they are cultivating. The statistical summary also indicates that over 80,000 of the requests have already been approved, and land deeds returned to almost 8,000 occupants. Officials are optimistic that the majority of the pending applications will be processed and approved early this year.

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