

Velvet Warriors In Vietnam—See Inside

1968: A Year Of Allied Progress



FIRST IN VIETNAM

THE OBSERVER

Vol. 8, No. 1

Saigon, Vietnam

January 1, 1969

'Meade River' Claims Total Of 1,019 Enemy

DA NANG (USMC) — "Operation Meade River" was successfully terminated recently with a total count of 1,019 enemy killed.

Opening Nov. 20 with the largest heli-assault in the

'Swifts' Aid Cai Nuoc

SAIGON (USAF) — A task force of four U.S. Navy "Swift" boats teamed up with U.S. Air Force and Australian bombers and Army helicopter gunships recently to speed through a seven-mile gauntlet of enemy fortifications to rush supplies to the beleaguered outpost at Cai Nuoc, 155 miles southwest of Saigon.

Cai Nuoc, the southernmost military outpost in South Vietnam, had been hit seven times in the previous 10 days by enemy recoilless rifle, mortar and ground attack.

The "Sea Lords" operation began in the morning with Air Force air strikes on bunkers along the seven-mile stretch of the shallow Bay Hap River, which connects Cai Nuoc with the Gulf of Thailand.

The four, 50-foot aluminum Swift boats then sped up the river while Army helicopter gunships flew air cover overhead. Resistance on the way in was suppressed by the air strikes.

The Swifts received and suppressed light resistance from enemy positions along the river during their return to the Gulf of Thailand.

Swift crewmen credited U.S. and Australian Air Force and Army air strikes with keeping enemy resistance to a minimum. The craft were also supported during the raid by gunfire from the Coast Guard Cutter Bibb, standing off-shore in the Gulf of Thailand. The Navy and Coast Guard units are part of "Operation Market Time."

Altogether, the Swift boats, during the raid, destroyed or damaged 50 enemy structures, 42 bunkers and 37 watercraft. Air strikes accounted for another 53 structures, 25 bunkers and 23 watercraft destroyed or damaged.

Swift boat crewmen also observed three secondary explosions and seven sustained fires.

history of the Marine Corps, the operation joined seven U.S. Marine battalions with two battalions of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam and elements of the Second Korean Marine Brigade.

Sea Knight and Sea Stallion transport helicopters, carrying assault landing Marines, were escorted and protected by Huey helicopter gunships.

The chopper armada consisted of more than 75 helicopters which darted into 47 landing zones. Altogether, 5,000 Marines were positioned by helilift and ground transport, surrounding an area eight miles long and three miles.

Battalions represented were the 1st Battalion, First Marine Regiment; 2nd and 3rd Battalions of the Fifth Marine Regiment; the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the Seventh Marine Regiment; and the 2nd and 3rd Battalions of the Twenty-Sixth Marine Regiment.

ARVN units were the 3rd and 4th Battalions, 51st Regiment, a unit of Armored Personnel Carriers, Vietnamese National Police Field Force, Regional and Popular Force units.

Two companies of the Second Korean Marine Brigade joined the Free World Force.

With the ring of Marines in position, the cordon snapped shut.

In addition to the 1,019 enemy bodies counted as Meade River drew officially to a close, 129 suspects were detained and later classified as prisoners by the Government of Vietnam. An additional 71 members of the VC infrastructure were also taken.

Additional bodies were expected to be found as the 1st Battalion of the First Marine

(Continued on Back Page)



EMBASSY

Of The

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A HOLIDAY MESSAGE
TO AMERICANS IN VIETNAM

Once again to each member of the United States Mission in Vietnam, civilian and military, I send Season's Greetings and my deep gratitude for the part each of you has played so well in the great task in which we are engaged on the soil of Vietnam.

This has been a year of trial. Men's courage and determination have been tried on the field of battle, they have been tried in the cities and in the countryside in the patient and unflagging effort to help our Vietnamese allies build a strong and viable democracy, in the midst of war to carry out a social revolution. Countless acts of unsung heroism have been performed by soldier and civilian alike.

It has been a year of testing — a testing of our commitment to the spiritual foundations on which our society rests, to the moral order and the rule of law on which it depends. It has been a year of testing of our will to create the peaceful world we envisage, free from aggression, where man's creative energies can be directed toward improving the quality of his life.

What we do or fail to do here will be felt not only in Vietnam, but everywhere, for it is relevant to man's never-ending struggle for freedom and dignity.

St. Paul's words to Timothy are appropriate to our time and situation: "I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you, for God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power." God has given us, as a nation and a people, great power to use for good or ill. As we remember with reverence those who have given the last full measure of devotion, let us pray for the courage, the patience and the steadfastness to use that power to strive for a world in which men may live in freedom, in dignity, in tolerance and in peace.

How shall we be able to do this? Perhaps Dietrich Bonhoeffer, writing from a Nazi prison, can show us the way: "Who stands his ground? Only the man whose ultimate criterion is not in his reason, his principles, his conscience, his freedom or his virtue, but who is ready to sacrifice all those things when he is called to obedient and responsible action in faith and exclusive allegiance to God. The responsible man seeks to make his whole life a response to the question and call of God." In that spirit, may we all in the days ahead, whatever the call may be, stand our ground.

Ellsworth Bunker

ELLSWORTH BUNKER
U.S. Ambassador To Vietnam

SAIGON (MACV) — The year 1968 was ushered into the Republic of Vietnam in routine fashion with the Viet Cong and NVA violating the New Year's stand-down period with numerous incidents of terrorism and attacks by fire.

As the year drew to a close there was little room for doubt that 1968 had been a decisive year, a year of progress for the allies and bloody defeat for the enemy, and probably the turning point of this long, costly war.

While the military action did not wax consistently hot, the major actions were fierce, bloody, and without exceptions ended with the VC-NVA on the short end. There were major victories in each of the four Corps Tactical Zones and the Air Force and Navy continued to exact a terrific toll with their devastating firepower. However, the events most remembered as the year drew to a close were the Tet assaults, Khe Sanh, the sweeps of the A Shau valley, the May "Mini-Tet," Duc Lap, Vinh Luc Island, Liberty Canyon, Meade River and Sea Lords.

Although there were many other notable events such as President Johnson's March 31st and October 31st declarations, the Paris negotiations, the arrival of the USS New Jersey, and the major command changes within MACV and CORDS, it was the battle waged via land, air and sea that dominated the attention of the service men and women in Vietnam.

Even more significant than the story of military action here during 1968, perhaps, is the fact that a viable and independent South Vietnam is emerging from a crucible of strife.

The scars of the communists' Tet offensive and the "second wave" or "mini-Tet" are mostly healed. The Saigon government, having faced up to a situation that amounted almost to a do-or-die challenge, has brought to a conclusion its "Operation Recovery" to restore pre-offensive conditions — an operation that turned out to be a major success.

Inside...

Powder-puffs	2
Signal WACs	3
3rd Field Hospital	4
MACV	5
1968: Wrap-up	6, 7, 8
Repose	9
Weather Girl	10
Colonel Maggie	12

'Demented' Was Just Doing His Thing

DA NANG (USMC) — The story of the massive Operation Meade River was not only a story of the operation, but of bits and parts. Here are two:

There was "Demented."

"Demented" was a rooster, and everyone knows that roosters crow at dawn. Lance Corporal Bob Rea wrote of the

rooster whose nest was, unfortunately, near a Marine position. The position became known as "Demented's Nest."

"Demented's" problem was trying to find out when it was dawn and when it wasn't. Every time the spunky rooster attempted to sleep, illumination flares would pop overhead and

the night would become day — and "Demented," doing his thing, would crow to announce a new dawn.

For eight nights "Demented" proudly hailed the many "sunrises" of illumination flares until his crow was more of a cluck.

But, Operation Meade River

is over now. Perhaps "Demented" — as well as the Marines — will find some peace and quiet and uninterrupted sleep.

One group of NVA soldiers were easy to detect and got cold feet.

A Marine patrol, led by Lance Corporal Howard Baker (Continued on Back Page)

Editorial 'Powder-puffs'

Secretary, librarian, nurse, servicewoman, teacher, social worker or "ambassador" of her nation — the American woman in Vietnam is not just an average woman — she's a first class citizen.

Efficient, concerned and compassionate, this first class citizen is often found working in rice paddies, hamlets, provinces — wherever she is needed. Children, the sick, the needy and the lonely seem to hold a special place in her heart and she gives gladly of her time, love, money and food for them.

The American woman can be near the battlefield nursing the wounded, in a service club counseling lonely GIs, in an office administering affairs of war and state or on a base soldiering with her military brothers.

In her spare time she is also a social leader, a member of a church group or orphanage committee, a counselor of music or drama clubs, an organizer of community social and educational needs, and a companion to those who miss family and home. She is a hard worker, a loyal friend and an asset to the nation-building efforts in Vietnam.

No matter where she is, the American woman is found at the head of the line when representing herself, her employer, or her nation. She is the living proof of the total U.S. commitment to freedom throughout the world . . . and without question a part of the most important combination needed in a free society.

How do you thank these first class citizens — the American women in Vietnam? (MACV)

DOD Explains Second RVN Tour Criteria

WASHINGTON (AFPS) — The Department of Defense has clarified its policy concerning second tours in Southeast Asia.

In some cases draftees have been returned for a second tour in Vietnam when going back to the war zone as a part of an entire unit's movement.

Although there have been high numbers of volunteers in the past for first and subsequent tours in Vietnam in all services, the men in this category are not enough to fill all normal requirements, necessitating involuntary returns for some.

Just In Case You Have Not Heard

★ ★ ★ Phone Calls To Vietnam Cost Less

WASHINGTON (ANF) — The American Telephone and Telegraph Company (AT&T) has introduced station-to-station calling between the United States and the Republic of Vietnam which is expected to save U.S. customers \$121,000 yearly.

Under a change that became effective Dec. 1, the rate for the first three minutes on a station call is nine dollars. Each additional minute costs three dollars. Person-to-person rates will remain the same, 12 dollars for the first three minutes, but additional minute rates have been lowered from four to three dollars.

More than 38,000 calls were completed between the U.S. and Vietnam last year, about four and a half times as many as in 1965.

According to AT&T officials, about 90 per cent of the calls are completed from the Vietnam end, rather than from the U.S., because of the difficulty in locating servicemen to answer calls. Most of the calls are collect, the company said.

Until 1967, servicemen could call home only from Saigon. Calls now can be placed from hospitals and bases in Tan Son Nhut, Long Binh, Cam Rahn Bay, Nha Trang and Qui Nhon. As of Dec. 1, calls also can be made from Da Nang.

However, U.S. callers may still reach only telephones in Saigon and the immediate vicinity.

CID Award Established

FORT MONROE, Va. (ANF) — Military criminal investigators within the U.S. Continental Army Command (CONARC) can now compete for an Army-wide award.

Obviously, personnel possessing critical military skills may have to return to Vietnam for a second tour earlier or more frequently than those personnel in the less critical skill area.

The award, named for a former provost marshal general who has recently retired from active service, is called the Carl C. Turner Award for Professionalism in Criminal Investigation.

It will be presented to a criminal investigator (CID) who has shown outstanding professional ability in his field.

Recently established by the Department of the Army, the annual award is scheduled to be presented for the first time in early 1969. It will be based on recommendations from each major command or agency having CID personnel assigned or attached.

Both warrant officer and enlisted personnel, if accredited, are eligible to receive the award.

Military Police officials point out that a recommendation may not be made on the basis of a single achievement but, rather, on sustained superior performance in all phases of criminal investigation.



WOULD YOU BELIEVE—our "bird's" monicker is Mary Jones? Would you also believe that she's a secretary for Military Assistance Command Civil Operations and Revolutionary Development Support in Saigon? Well, if you don't believe all that, maybe you'll believe that our "bird" is short and will soon fly to her home in California.

(MACV PHOTO BY: SP5 Joseph S. De Priest)



LONG BINH (USA) — The 1st Signal Brigade, which provides communications support in Vietnam and Thailand, has an authorized strength of around 19,000. That round figure has become a little more curvaceous in recent months.

The brigade now has three female communicators, a ratio of one signalwoman to more than 6,000 signalmen.

CW3 Joan M. Blakeley, of Oelwein, Iowa, is the most recent addition to the Brigade. Miss Blakeley, the higher ranking of only two WAC cryptographic warrant officers in the Army, serves as crypto custodian for the U.S. Army Vietnam Communications Center on Long Binh Post.

Working in the same location is PFC Donna M. Loring, of Bangor, Maine, a communications center specialist. She keeps the keys of a teletype writer clicking.

Keeping good connections is a full-time job for Sergeant Glenda Jones of Detroit. She is staff supervisor of dial telephone exchanges in the Saigon-Long Binh area. She is also

traffic analysis NCO responsible for the collection, analysis and evaluation of dial central office and switchboard traffic data for the 160th Signal Group's Telephone Management office. It's the one with the baby-pink telephone.



One of the Signal Group's three WACs is Sgt. Glenda Jones.



WOMAN OF THE NORTH—Qui Nhon Support Command's Major Sherian G. Cadoria, protocol officer, uses a spare moment to catch up on paper work. The major was the first woman Army officer to be stationed in the northern sector of Vietnam when she undertook her present assignment in Feb. 1968. (PHOTO BY: SP4 FRANCIS JONES)

It's A Family Affair

SAIGON (MACV) — "My father showered me around town," said Air Force Sergeant Diane Matthews, recalling the day she arrived in Saigon last July.

"My husband comes down from Da Nang about once a month and the three of us usually dine out together."

Working in a Joint headquarters "gives you a good look at how the other services operate," Sergeant Matthews commented.

Sergeant Matthews said her husband is usually able to visit her about once a month. During her previous stays in the Far East, Sergeant Matthews developed a taste for Chinese and Japanese food. When she and her husband are together they frequently eat at local restaurants and Sergeant Matthews admits that her favorite Vietnamese foods are nuoc mam and sweet rolls.

"If I had it to do over again, I'd still volunteer to come here," said Sergeant Matthews.

"I wanted to see what it was really like. Actually, I wanted to help. I like to think I am helping — even though what I do amounts to pushing papers. Well, this has to be done, also."

Sergeant Matthews is a clerk



Army Nurse Devoted To 4th Division

PLEIKU (USA) — She stands five feet three inches tall; short black curly hair shadow her face. As a child she made her home in Marlboro, Md. Today she works as a member of the Army Nurse Corps at the 71st Evacuation Hospital in Pleiku.

Lieutenant La Barbera joined the Army upon graduation from Saint Vincent's School of Nursing in Indianapolis. "I remember standing there with my degree and not knowing which way to turn. My mother was an Army nurse and I think her telling me of the opportunities which were offered was the key to my joining."

Being the daughter of a retired Air Force Colonel, Lieutenant La Barbera is no novice to the military way of life. "I had what I thought was a vivid idea of what my enlistment would lead to," she recalled, "but since arriving in Vietnam over nine months ago all my visions have been altered."

"The living conditions which I found came as a complete shock to me—they are much better than I ever expected."

"Not only the living conditions," she explained, "but also the equipment I work with has

impressed me greatly."

The patients and personnel at the 71st Evacuation Hospital receive a morale boost every time the congenial lieutenant makes her appearance.

"I think it's a little easier here for women," she said. "Everyone tries to make you feel more important because there are so few women in Vietnam."

There is little time for a dedicated nurse to express her emotions in Vietnam. "Each time a chopper calls to say a litter is on its way I can feel my heart beat faster. I just don't know what will be coming in, so I just pray that the injured will make it and, along with my counterparts, put my full effort into making things ready for their arrival."

Lieutenant La Barbera is planning to extend her tour in the 4th Division's area of operation for five months to finish her commitment. From there she plans to work for an Army hospital as a civilian nurse.

"I have found no greater satisfaction in my life than to help young men who are giving a portion of their lives to defend our country," Lieutenant La Barbera concluded.

The OBSERVER

FIRST IN VIETNAM
The OBSERVER is an authorized newspaper published weekly by the Command Information Division, Office of Information, Military Assistance Command Vietnam for United States Forces in Vietnam. Opinions expressed here do not necessarily reflect policies or positions of the Department of Defense or any of the Armed Forces. The OBSERVER, printed offset at Pacific Stars and Stripes in Tokyo, uses material from the Armed Forces Press Service, Armed Forces News Bureau and other Department of Defense agencies. Direct mail to: Editor, The OBSERVER, HQ MACV, APO 9622. The OBSERVER has a circulation of 100,000.

COMUSMACV
Information Officer
Chief, Command Information

Officer In Charge
NCOIC/Editor
Assistant Editor
Production Manager
Staff Writer
Staff Writer
Staff Writer
Illustrator

GEN C.W. Abrams, USA
BG W. Siddle, USA
LTC R.B. Solomon, USA
ILT D.E. Boudreault, USA
SFC D.D. Perez, USA
TSgt G.K. Fears, USAF
SP4 J.L. Klop, USA
Sgt E.J. Sargent, USMC
SP5 J.S. De Priest, USA
SP4 D.M. Gerrol, USA
SP5 Mac Clain, USA

"These are decisive times in the history of your country and mine, and indeed the world. Important challenges face us here, and great opportunities."

ELLSWORTH BUNKER
Ambassador



Sgt. Mathews (wolmans her typewriter at MACV Headquarters).

Nurses Meet Challenge With Determination

SAIGON (MACV)—"I'm here because there's a lot of work to do here."

The words of Captain Sheila McCann, an Army nurse at the 3rd Field Hospital in Saigon, sum up the positive general attitude of American military nurses serving in Vietnam.

The nurses work 12 hard hours per day, six days a week.

"When they get invitations to go to a firebase or on a MEDCAP, that's all above and beyond the call of duty," said Major Henry Voegele, head nurse of wards 4 and 5 at the 3rd Field Hospital.

"What is automatically expected under ideal medical conditions in the United States," the major continued, "is accomplished here under adverse conditions."

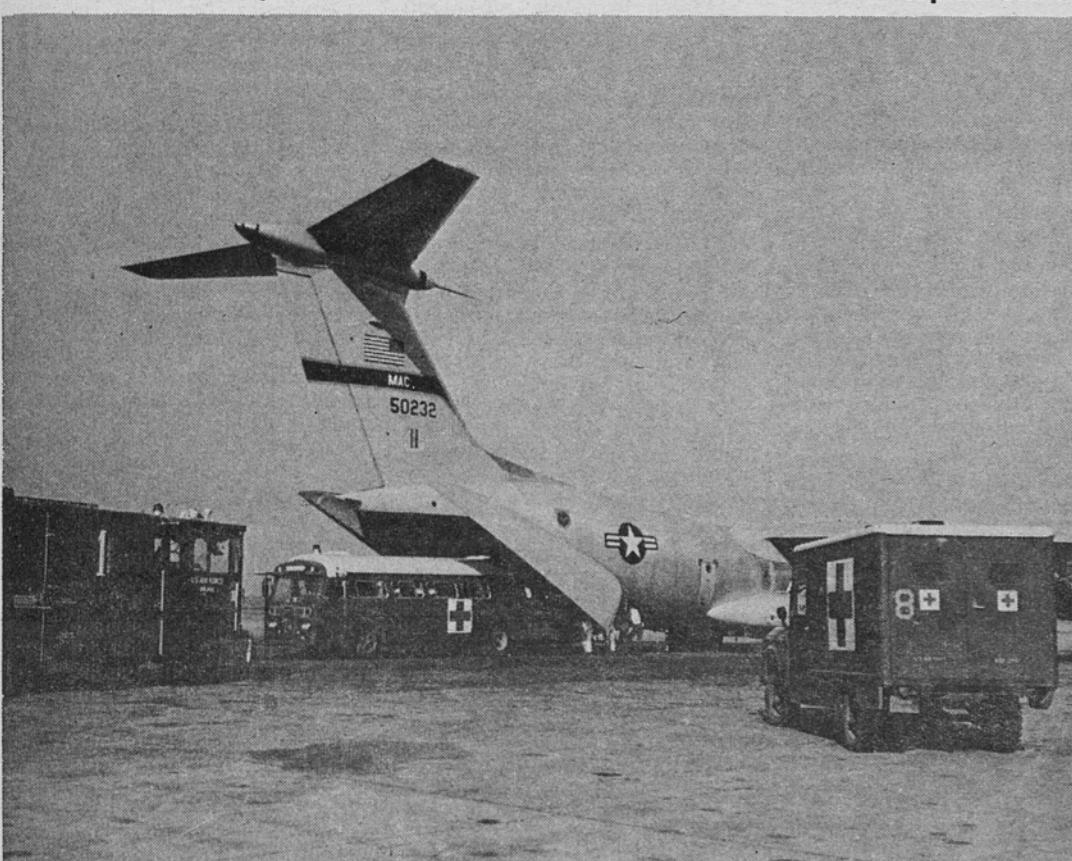
As in military hospitals throughout Vietnam, the beds at the 3rd Field are always filled. In describing recent activities in her ward, Second Lieutenant Lynn Wade, another nurse at 3rd Field, said, "One day we received 26 patients in an hour and a half. The next day we got 27 more."

Story by SP4 David M. Gerrol

Photos by SP4 Thomas Tynes



Second Lieutenant Lynn Wade comforts wounded soldier.



An ambulance bus unloads its passengers into the cavernous jaws of a Tokyo-bound C-141.



First Lieutenant Judy Nicholson prepares an injection.



Captain McCann and 1LT Bernita Downey work on records.

Sgt. Curry and her husband board a bus homeward bound.

MACV Jobs Enthuse Women

SAIGON (MACV) — They're here.

They are outnumbered, perhaps, as one recently commented; but they have an abundance of enthusiasm for the jobs they are performing at Headquarters, MACV.

They are the women working side-by-side with men in the various MACV staff sections.

Six representative service ladies commented recently on their jobs and their Vietnam tours in general.

"I'm getting a better insight into what is going on," said Air Force Sergeant Louise Haselrig, a clerk-typist in the Force Development section.

Sergeant Haselrig, a native of Farrell, Calif., works at the MACV theater ticket window during many of her off duty hours.

"It's a chance to meet a lot of people—a lot of fun. The guys are always clowning around. Two will walk up to the window and one will say he is less than 12 years old and should get in for free. The job is a nice outlet, I like it."

Sometimes a pleasant surprise comes along. "The other day," said Sergeant Haselrig, "I met a classmate. We graduated from high school together in 1957. I hadn't seen him since graduation night."

She smiled. "I had to come half-way around the world, 11 years later to meet someone from high school."

Sergeant First Class Mary L. Curry, a native of Fairmont, N.C., is just beginning her second Vietnam tour—with her husband. Both Sergeant Curry and her husband, Master Sergeant Arthur J. Curry, work in the MACV Headquarters building, she on the second floor as secretary to the Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence, and he on the ground floor, in the Military Assistance Division.

She and her husband served together in Vietnam first from June 1967 to April 1968. "We've been married seven years and the service has never separated us," said Sergeant Curry.

"We feel we have been more fortunate than most couples." The variance of workday schedules usually prevents the couple from going home together. "Home" is the Plaza

Story By
SP5 Joe DePriest, USA
Photos By
MACV



On her off duty hours Sgt. Haselrig works at the MACV Theater ticket window, which is a nice outlet for her.



Performing one of her many jobs as receptionist for COMUSMACV is Specialist Schmidt.



Sgt. Curry and her husband board a bus homeward bound.



Air Force Sgt. Abernathy receives instructions from her OIC, Col. William R. Lobell.

Enemy Badly Mauled During Tet Offensive

SAIGON (MACV) — The "Big Story" of 1968 was the enemy's desperate, but boldly-planned, attempt to reverse the trend of the war, now called the "Tet Offensive." A cunningly devised and violently executed plan, the country-wide assaults were designed to overwhelm the allies as the majority of the nation's citizens celebrated the Lunar New Year — Tet. The offensive culminated in bloody failure for the VC and NVA attackers.

The enemy calculated that the Tet Offensive would result in a general civilian uprising, that there would be rallying to the communist cause, and that mass defections among the ARVN would occur. The offensive turned out to be a gross miscalculation on the part of the enemy, as he achieved none of his military objectives. Conversely, his attacks seemed to infuse the ARVN with a renewed fighting spirit and the nation with unity of purpose, while resulting in massive enemy losses.

The morning of Jan. 31 marked the beginning of the heaviest concentration of action. Despite an announced truce for the Buddhist Lunar New Year, the enemy launched attacks by fire and ground action on 27 of South Vietnam's 44 province capitals, five of its six autonomous cities, 58 of 245 district towns and more than 50 hamlets. In most cities, the enemy was pushed out within two or three days. In only two cities — Saigon and Hue — were

the battles of greater duration. After the initial attack on Dalat early in the morning of Feb. 1, enemy forces still held portions of the city three days later. An estimated two companies of VC infiltrated the city and seized the sector headquarters and provincial hospital. Cadets from the Vietnamese Military Academy forced back other VC advances. Feb. 4, the city and airfield were reported secured.

Fighting broke out in Ban Me Thuot shortly after midnight Jan. 29, and heavy contact continued through Feb. 2. Using rockets, mortars, tear gas and automatic weapons, the VC infiltrated the city, occupied the airfield and attacked the MACV compound.

All enemy attacks were repulsed and Feb. 3 only sporadic small arms fire was being reported.

Early Jan. 30, fighting broke out on three fronts when Pleiku, Tan Canh and Kontum came under heavy mortar attack. By evening, the MACV compound at Tan Canh had received and repulsed 18 probes.

Elements of the 4th Infantry Division moved into the area to reinforce the ARVN defenders and heavy fighting continued through the night.

Feb. 1, the new Pleiku airfield came under ground attack and the 71st Evacuation Hospital was receiving mortar fire. The Kontum attack continued south

of the city.

Post-Tet festivities were suddenly interrupted Jan. 30 when NVA troops struck at the cities of Nha Trang, Qui Nhon, Tuy Hoa and Ninh Hoa.

Both the Kien Hoa sector headquarters and province headquarters in Nha Trang were occupied by the enemy after fierce fighting. By mid-afternoon, the enemy forces were annihilated by the VC and NVA attackers.

The enemy calculated that the Tet Offensive would result in a general civilian uprising, that there would be rallying to the communist cause, and that mass defections among the ARVN would occur. The offensive turned out to be a gross miscalculation on the part of the enemy, as he achieved none of his military objectives. Conversely, his attacks seemed to infuse the ARVN with a renewed fighting spirit and the nation with unity of purpose, while resulting in massive enemy losses.

Embassy.

After a six and one-half hour firefight, 19 of the attackers were killed and one captured. Five U.S. soldiers and one Marine were killed with seven wounded during the fight.

While the battle for possession of the Embassy was going on, VC troops were also launching attacks against many US officer and enlisted billets, the Vietnamese Royal Palace and other key US and Vietnamese installations in and around the city.

In less than two days, more than 600 VC were killed in the capital. By Jan. 31, President Nguyen Van Thieu had declared martial law throughout Vietnam.

By Feb. 4, allied forces had killed more than 2,300 enemy in the Saigon area. Friendly forces decimated the remaining enemy elements who, continuing to fight in West Cholon until Feb. 21, were unable to disengage and infiltrate out of the battle area.

All enemy attacks were repulsed and Feb. 3 only sporadic small arms fire was being reported.

Throughout the country, the

Tet Offensive proved costly to the enemy. Between Jan. 29 and Feb. 11, the enemy lost approximately 32,000 men killed and 5,800 detained, out of an estimated force of 68,000. They lost 7,500 individual weapons and 1,300 crew-served weapons. Allied losses were 1,001 U.S. and 2,082 ARVN and Free World personnel killed.

By the end of February, the number of enemy killed rose above 37,000. Overall enemy casualties approached 65,000. In the same period, the enemy lost more than 13,000 weapons. In the first two months of 1968, the NVA and VC, combined, lost more than 55,000 killed — two-thirds as many as in all of 1967.

The enemy followed up his first Tet attacks with attacks by fire on more than three dozen cities throughout the II, III and IV Corps Tactical Zones on Feb. 18. Having suffered severely in the previous three weeks, he was unable to follow up with a ground assault.

May Offensive Halted By Allies

SAIGON (MACV) — Beginning May 5, eight days before the start of the official conversations in Paris between U.S. and North Vietnamese negotiators, the enemy launched a series of city offensives. The main thrust of these attacks was directed at Saigon, but it did not match the Tet Offensive in scope or ferocity. Of the enemy forces gathered for the attack, less than a battalion-size force actually reached the inner ring of the city.

After a brief lull, the May 5 attack was followed by a similar attempt on Saigon beginning May 25. As in the earlier attack, most enemy units were stopped and decimated at the city's outskirts. The only persistent fighting occurred in the vicinity of Saigon's "Y" Bridge and in a few small pockets in Cholon, the Chinese section of the city.

In May alone, they lost more than 40,000 men. Not only did the enemy lose impressed replacements, but large numbers of his difficult-to-replace cadre were included among these casualties.

No permanent military gain

was achieved by the enemy and the resolve, prestige and effectiveness of the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces grew as a result of their successes against the enemy in these engagements.

The severe losses suffered by the NVA and the VC in the May attacks and throughout the first half of the year resulted in marked degradation in the fighting ability of the enemy. In the first six months of 1968, the communists lost approximately 170,000 men, well over two-thirds of their strength at the beginning of the year, or enough men to man and support more than 17 communist divisions.

In May alone, they lost more than 40,000 men. Not only did the enemy lose impressed replacements, but large numbers of his difficult-to-replace cadre were included among these casualties.

Sea Lords Patrols Delta

SAIGON (USN) — In November the U.S. Navy announced a new offensive effort tabbed "Operation Sea Lords." It is designed to interdict enemy infiltration deep in South Vietnam's Mekong Delta.

The operation brings together for the first time, the Navy's three major operating forces in Vietnam for a series of interdiction, raider and increased patrol efforts in hitherto seldom-touched areas south and southwest of Saigon.

Sea Lords began in mid-October with the first of a series of "Swift" boat incursions deep into enemy-controlled canals and rivers flowing into the Gulf of Thailand. The thrust resulted in the destruction of 359 enemy watercraft, 411 structures, 70 feet of trenches, 62 bunkers and 23 enemy sampans.

Taking part in other Sea Lords landings have been elements of the ARVN 21st Division, the 4th Battalion of the Vietnamese Marine Corps, Vietnamese Navy Coastal and River Assault Group forces and Kien Giang Province Regional Force soldiers.



MPs lead away a VC who was captured near the American Embassy during Tet attack.

Khe Sanh Forces Resist Attacks



Marines waiting to board an Air Force C-123 Provider transport at Khe Sanh take cover behind an off-loading ramp and metal box. (USAF PHOTO)

Market Time Stops Infiltration

SAIGON (MACV) — Early in March, four enemy trawlers attempted to infiltrate arms and ammunition into South Vietnam. It was, at the time, the communists' boldest infiltration attempt and it became their costliest.

Operation "Market Time" units of the Coastal Surveillance Force (Task Force 115) detected, tracked and stopped the infiltrators.

The first trawler was detected by Market Time air surveillance units, Feb. 28. The other three were detected the following evening. Running dark and flying no flag, the four 100-foot-

1st Cav Airlift Called One Of The Biggest

SAIGON (USA) — The airlift of the majority of the 19,000-man 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) from I Corps to III Corps was described as the "biggest quick response troop movement of the war," by Major General Burl W. McLaughlin, commander of the 834th Air Division.

General McLaughlin also said of the operation, tabbed "Liberator Canyon," "We must have set all kinds of records in moving the first brigade of the division into III Corps in minimum time."

According to the general, the only comparable airlift of the war was the switch in September and October of a brigade of the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) and a brigade of the 82nd Airborne Division between I Corps and III Corps in Operation "Golden Sword."

"Liberator Canyon" began with a dozen sorties a day on Oct. 27 and increased to more than 30 sorties by the first week of November.

C-130 Hercules, C-123 Providers and C-7 Caribous landed on the 2,900-foot perforated steel runway at Camp Evans, picked up cargo, troops and their belongings, and transported them south to III Corps.

During the successful operation, 1,019 enemy soldiers were killed and 2,710 suspects were detained. The Marines captured 164 individual weapons and 15 crew-served.

One hundred and seven U.S. personnel were killed and 523 were wounded.

Top Job Changes In '68

SAIGON (MACV) — The top United States military position in the Republic of Vietnam changed hands on March 3 as General Creighton W. Abrams assumed command of the Military Assistance Command Vietnam. The general, formerly DECOMUSMACV, had arrived in Vietnam in the spring of 1967.

General William C. Westmoreland, after four years as COMUSMACV, departed Vietnam for Washington where he is now Chief of Staff of the United States Army.

General Andrew J. Goodpaster was appointed to the DECOMUSMACV job after serving as a member of the U.S. Delegation for Negotiations with North Vietnam in Paris. He concurrently was commandant of the National War College.

Ambassador Robert W. Komer, Deputy to the COMUSMACV for Civil Operations and Revolutionary Development Support (CORDS), departed Vietnam in November to become U.S. Ambassador to Turkey. He was replaced by Ambassador William E. Colby, formerly the Assistant Chief of Staff of CORDS.

The third trawler was on a course toward the mouth of the Bo De River on the Ca Mau peninsula, 155 miles southwest of Saigon. As it crossed into contiguous waters, it refused repeated challenges from a Coast Guard cutter and headed for the river mouth.

The trawler's crew was returning fire and jettisoning cargo when, in an enormous fireball, the ship was ripped by two successive explosions and sank in approximately 25 feet of water as a heavy barrage of fire from the cutter hit home. After daylight, salvage operations were begun at all three sites. Hundreds of individual weapons, including rifles and machine guns, were recovered along with thousands of rounds of ammunition and other explosives.

The battle was joined when an estimated North Vietnamese regiment, under the cover of heavy mortar fire, launched a ground attack on the Duc Lap district headquarters and Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) camp near the Cambodian border.

SAIGON (MACV) — While the enemy was springing the abortive Tet offensive and the battles of Saigon and Hue were going on, they were also massing troops around the Khe Sanh base.

Feb. 6, the Khe Sanh base and the Lang Vei Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) Camp nearby came under concentrated artillery attack. The enemy forces employed nine Soviet-built PT-76 tanks in the action at Lang Vei and the friendly forces were forced to abandon the CIDG camp and withdraw to Khe Sanh.

During the subsequent 11-week period of continuous and concentrated bombardment, the four Marine battalions and one ARVN Ranger battalion at Khe Sanh resisted and threw back all NVA attacks.

Feb. 23 alone, the base received 1,307 rounds of mortar, rocket and artillery, but the enemy never got beyond the base's outer perimeter wire.

During the siege, the enemy controlled Route 9, the only land route into the area. All reinforcements and supplies had to be airlifted.

Despite adverse weather conditions and enemy harassment of the runway, aerial resupply was uninterrupted and no serious shortages developed.

The key to success at Khe Sanh was air fire-power. For 77 days, round the clock, Air Force, Navy and Marine aircraft provided close-in support, averaging a sortie every four minutes. Tactical aircraft delivered 35,000 tons of bombs on the enemy positions. SAC B-52s flew 2,548 sorties and delivered 60,000 tons of ordnance onto the enemy below. Thanks to the airstrikes, enemy-held ground was neutralized and attack was preempted.

April 1, Operation Pegasus/Lamson 207 was launched to relieve Khe Sanh. Employing the 1st Cavalry Division and three ARVN airborne battalions, this air and ground assault met with little resistance.

As the concentrated effort was lifted April 1, the enemy had taken an estimated 15,000 casualties. Two North Vietnamese regular army divisions had been pinned down and rendered ineffective by five allied battalions supported by massive fire-power.

April 1, Route 9 was opened from the east and Khe Sanh was relieved by land as the bloodied remnants of the enemy force retreated into its sanctuary in Laos.

As opposed to the massive toll taken among the enemy, 167 U.S. troops were killed and 822 were wounded and evacuated.

Duc Lap Battle Costs NVA More Than 750

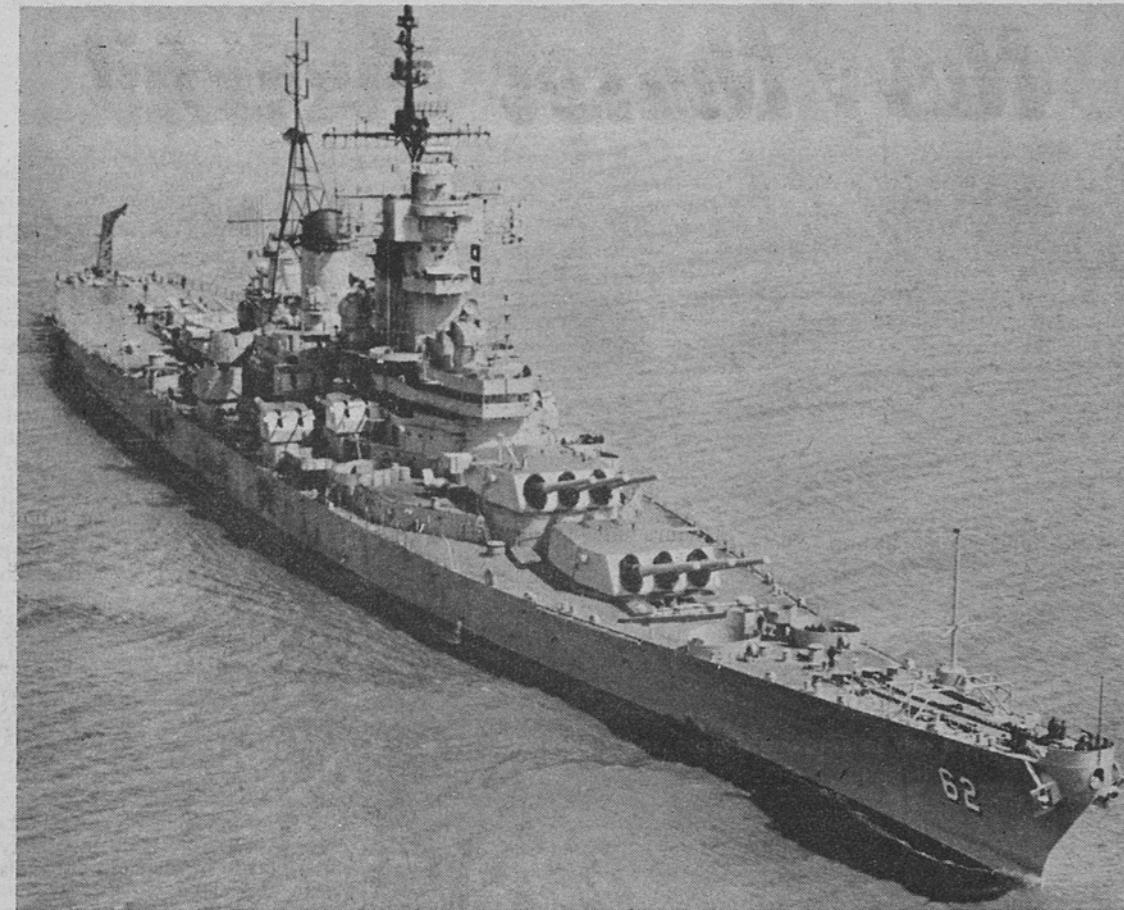
SAIGON (USA) — Elements of a North Vietnamese Army division lost more than 776 men in a three day attempt to overcome the small outpost of Duc Lap in September. The camp was defended by three companies of the Vietnamese Camp Strike Force with their U.S. Special Forces advisors. Supporting fires were provided by B-52s, AC-47s, fighter-bombers and artillery.

The battle was joined when an estimated North Vietnamese regiment, under the cover of heavy mortar fire, launched a ground attack on the Duc Lap district headquarters and Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) camp near the Cambodian border.

The trapped Vietnamese and small group of U.S. Special Forces advisors braved heavy enemy small arms, mortars, rockets and human wave assaults against their small base and repeatedly beat back the attackers.

On the fourth day, the heavily contested camp was reinforced with fresh troops while other units began to pursue the fleeing enemy.

As they pursued the battered NVA force, Vietnamese government troops counted more than 776 enemy dead. Friendly casualties were 59 killed and 129 wounded.



The USS New Jersey, only active battleship in the world, went into action in October.

Pacification Gaining Ground

SAIGON (MACV) — Despite setbacks caused by the Communist Tet offensive, the pacification programs in South Vietnam are very much alive, having gained increasing momentum during 1968.

This progress resulted from an accelerated campaign to "win the hearts and minds of the people." Allied leaders recognized, years ago, that unless the people were part of the government, identified with it, and unless they supported the anti-communist campaign, they could be induced or forced to help the Viet Cong. Consequently, pacification has always aimed at winning the allegiance of the people by providing hamlets greater protection and helping the people to build a better life through their own efforts.

Assisted and advised by the Free World Forces, the Government of Vietnam set about this arduous task and gave new impetus and support to the pacifica-

tion programs. The eight programs include Territorial Security, Elimination of VC Infrastructure, People's Self-Defense, Revolutionary Development, Economic Revival, Local Government, Refugee Welfare and Chieu Hoi—all designed to enhance the security and well-being of the countryside and strengthen its commitment to the GVN.

Computer-analyzed field reports from 44 provinces showed that pacification is working and will continue to even more during the next year. Through pacification, South Vietnam is emerging as a more viable, stronger and independent country and is taking its rightful place in the modern community of nations.

Panthers In

SAIGON (MACV) — Units of the 12,000-man Thai Black Panther Division began arriving in Vietnam during July.

The Black Panther Division replaced the brigade killed 232 North Vietnamese Army (NVA) soldiers and captured a huge quantity of weapons in an engagement in the southern half of the Demilitarized Zone.

The Panthers are based at Bearcat.

Delta Forces Rough On Reds

SAIGON (MACV) — The three major task forces operating in the Mekong Delta continued their unique fight against the Viet Cong this year.

They are the Mobile Riverine Force, Game Warden and River Assault Group.

The Mobile Riverine Force is the largest and newest of the three. Conceived as an assault force, the mobile riverines transport infantrymen to the enemy and supports assaults.

The force places Navy and Army officers of equal rank and authority in command and operates from the USS Benewah—the base ship.

During the Tet offensive and the month following, the force netted 600 VC killed, and since has continued to make life difficult for 'Charlie' in the Delta.

The mobile riverine tactics are based on mobility, operating strictly from water. "Base" is an armada of five LSTs (landing ship, tanks).

The "fleet" is comprised of 100 craft.

The entire force—3,000 men,

Army and Navy—lives on the vessels.

The River Assault Group, composed of 1,200 Vietnamese sailors and 26 American advisers, uses 120 ships and the tactical concept of water-borne army assault left as a legacy of the French in 1952. The River Assault Group is the forerunner of the Mobile Riverine Force and the prototype from which it evolved.

The third outfit in the river control network is Operation Game Warden with its PBRs (patrol boat, river).

The PBRs do almost all of the river patrolling. They are nine meters in length and are made of fiberglass. With their speeds of more than 20 knots and shallow-draft capabilities, they can easily run to ground any VC arms-transport sampans.

The PBR crews stop boats of all sizes for spot checks. The papers of owners, passengers, boats, cargoes and even engines are checked by a Vietnamese policeman who accompanies each patrol. They inspect from 5,000 to 6,000 people a day.

The entire force—3,000 men,



Soldiers double-time to choppers during an airmobile operation. (USA PHOTO)

5th Mech Force Arrives Ready

SAIGON (MACV) — More than 4,000 members of the U.S. Army's 5th Mechanized Infantry Division were airlifted to the I Corps Tactical Zone from Ft. Carson, Colo., in September, and quickly served notice on the enemy that the mobile Diamond troopers were a force to be reckoned with.

The mechanized flew to Vietnam on Air Force C-141 Starlifters of the Military Airlift Command. They were met at Da Nang Air Base by C-130 Hercules of the 315th Air Division which flew them to their operating base in I Corps. From here the new arrivals were trucked and heli-transported to their operating locations in the surrounding area.

"I don't think the enemy has ever seen an American unit that can move as fast on the ground as we can," commented one Army lieutenant. "And I know he's never seen an American soldier in the field ready to do battle, in fatigues that still smell like Ft. Carson mothballs."

Official statistics indicate that the average ground time for the army troops was four hours, 30 minutes at Da Nang. In some cases the infantrymen walked directly out of the back of the C-141 from the States and into the open tail ramp of a waiting C-130.

On the Vietnam end, the move was coordinated by personnel of the 834th Air Division's Da Nang Airlift Control Element (ALCE).

The ALCE was kept posted on the expected arrival times of the big MAC jets. Once they knew of an inbound load of men or equipment, they alerted a C-130 crew to "have all in order" for 20 more kills the next day.

During the third day, the Rangers supported by Vietnamese Air Force air strikes—killed 114 NVA.

The seasoned Rangers from the 39th clashed heavily with the enemy in the fourth day of Hung Quang 1-70. In the fierce fighting the Rangers killed 71 enemy.

The 21st Ranger Battalion and 4th Armored Cavalry's 2nd Troop met savage resistance in the fifth day of the campaign. Making a swing south, they came into contact with elements of the 3rd Battalion, 38th Quang Da NVA Regiments.

Shortly after arrival elements of the brigade killed 232 North Vietnamese Army (NVA) soldiers and captured a huge quantity of weapons in an engagement in the southern half of the Demilitarized Zone.

Gunships, artillery and fixed wing Vietnamese and U.S. Air Force air strikes supported the embattled 21st and cavalry unit.

Enemy casualties reported were 82 NVA killed.

They were supported by helicopter gunships, artillery, tactical air strikes, and naval gunfire.

During a sweep of the battle area after the engagement, the troopers captured 242 individual weapons and 17 crew-served weapons. It was one of the largest quantities of weapons captured on a battlefield in any single engagement of the war.

Rangers Effective

DA NANG (USA) — The elite Vietnamese 21st and 39th Ranger Battalions demonstrated their effectiveness during Operation Hung Quang 1-70.

The Battalions killed 320 NVA in the first five days of heavy fighting in late September.

Also committed in the clearing operation south of Da Nang were the 3rd Battalion, 51st Regiment, and 2nd Troop, 4th Armored Cavalry.

In their first contact, Rangers from the 21st killed 11 NVA soldiers and captured several weapons. Before the end of the day they had 33 kills, taking light casualties. They accounted for 20 more kills the next day.

During the third day, the Rangers supported by Vietnamese Air Force air strikes—killed 114 NVA.

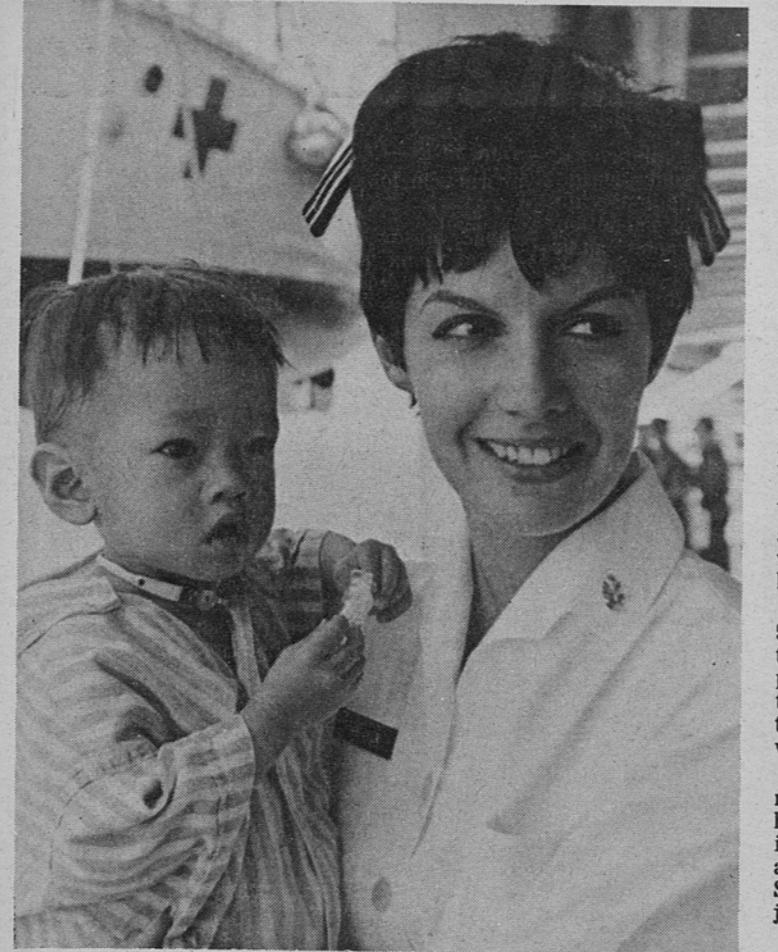
The seasoned Rangers from the 39th clashed heavily with the enemy in the fourth day of Hung Quang 1-70. In the fierce fighting the Rangers killed 71 enemy.

The 21st Ranger Battalion and 4th Armored Cavalry's 2nd Troop met savage resistance in the fifth day of the campaign. Making a swing south, they came into contact with elements of the 3rd Battalion, 38th Quang Da NVA Regiments.

Shortly after arrival elements of the brigade killed 232 North Vietnamese Army (NVA) soldiers and captured a huge quantity of weapons in an engagement in the southern half of the Demilitarized Zone.

Gunships, artillery and fixed wing Vietnamese and U.S. Air Force air strikes supported the embattled 21st and cavalry unit.

Enemy casualties reported were 82 NVA killed.



NURSE—Lieutenant Kathleen A. Glover, nurse on the hospital ship Repose, holds a small Vietnamese boy aboard the ship. (USN PHOTO)

Navy Nurses Thankful For Chance To Serve

SAIGON (USN) — Wrapped in bandages from head to toe, a young Marine opens his eyes. He sniffs the air and says, to no one in particular, "Man, I made it to heaven after all. Smell that perfume!"

The source of the perfume—a U.S. Navy nurse in the hospital at Da Nang—smiles at him. She walks over to his bed and asks how he feels.

The Marine is only one of the 5,530 Allied battle casualties treated at the U.S. Naval Hospital, Da Nang, from July 1967 to May 1968. He will be one of the 4,796—from that total—who will return to duty.

The nurse is one of 30 Navy nurses assigned to the 700-bed hospital in Da Nang. Her job in Vietnam is basically the same as it would be in the United States—care of the sick and injured.

The main difference here is that most of the medical treatment is on an emergency basis and the wounded often arrive in groups of eight to 10 at a time.

During the enemy "Tet" offensive in February 1968, on one day alone, 169 patients were treated.

"Many of the patients received here go through the operating room," said Lieutenant Commander E. Anne Barker. "It is not uncommon for the nurses to work shifts of 12 hours on and off the coast, only minutes by helicopter from the battlefield.

She added that regardless of what her special training might be, a nurse's biggest job in Vietnam is to influence the morale of the patients.

In addition to the hospital at Da Nang, the two hospital ships, Sanctuary and Repose, operate off the coast, only minutes by helicopter from the battlefield. Each ship is a fully equipped hospital with 30 nurses and about 700 beds.

Having the hospital ships so near to the action is a major factor in the high recovery rate of Marine casualties in Vietnam. Less than two per cent of casualties treated have died as a result of their wounds.

"There is only one part of our job that is somewhat disappointing," said Lieutenant Barbara Coffin, on the Repose. "We form tremendous personal attachment to these guys when they are on the ship. Then, when they are able to travel, they are sent to a hospital out of the war zone to finish recovering and either return to duty or to the U.S. This makes it hard to keep track of them to see how they are doing."

Specialty Flexible

CHU LAI (USA) — Delivering babies or treating bullet wounds, one Army doctor in the I Corps area is equal to the task.

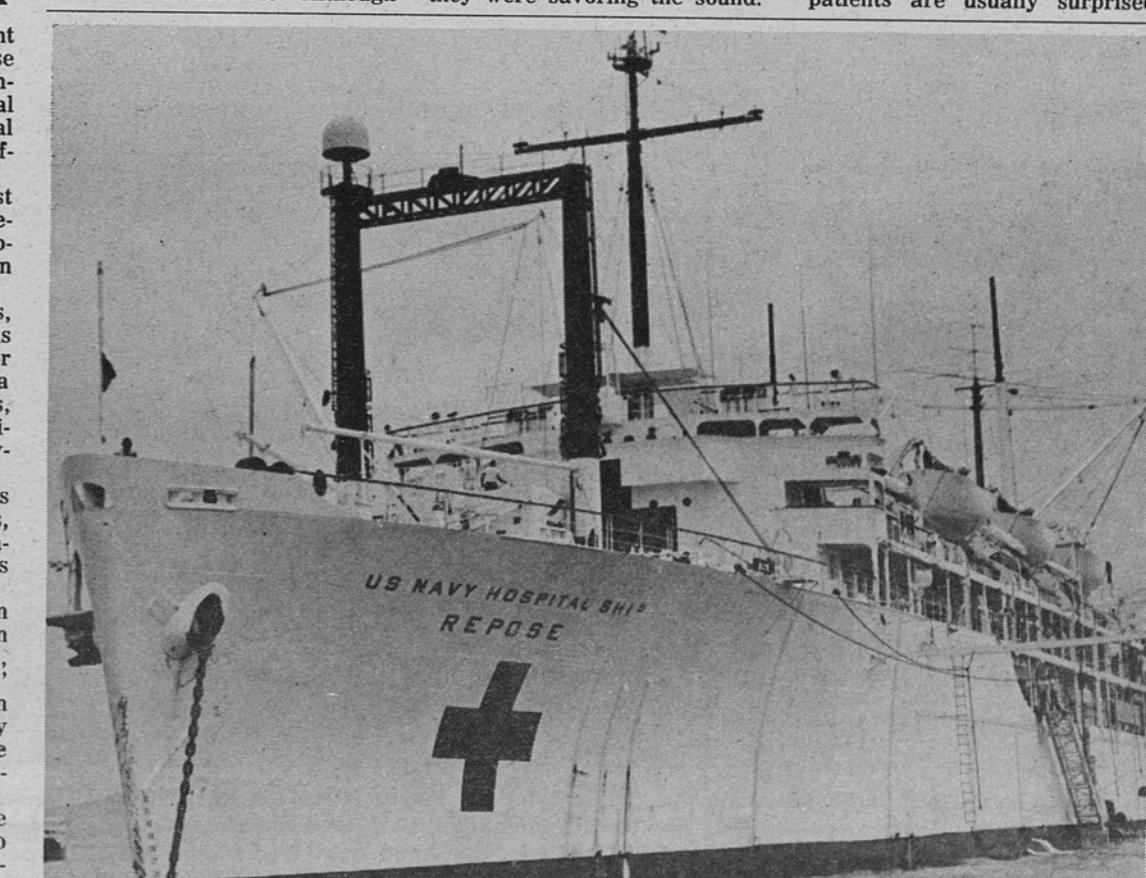
Captain Samuel G. Oberlander is resident obstetrician at the 312th Evacuation Hospital, 44th Medical Brigade. While his medical specialty would ordinarily entail delivering babies and giving prenatal and postnatal care to mothers, he has discovered that in Vietnam "most of my time is spent performing emergency care for acute battle casualties."

Prior to his assignment at the 312th, Captain Oberlander spent 10 months with the 101st Airborne Division near Hue where on one occasion he delivered a Vietnamese couple's eighth child.

At the 312th, his medical specialty is presently being found useful as the hospital is preparing for the delivery of the first baby to be born there.

Captain Oberlander stated he is treating a young pregnant Vietnamese woman who was brought to the hospital for care of a head wound. "Hopefully, this delivery will be as routine as my only other delivery," he explained, "but since this will be the patient's first baby, we are taking extra precautions."

A hospital spokesman said the presence of Captain Oberlander and his medical specialty was a welcome addition to the hospital's staff. "It's a comfortable feeling to know that no matter what type of medical problem may arise, there is a specialist here to treat it," the spokesman stated.



The U.S. Navy hospital ship USS Repose at anchor off the coast of South Vietnam.

PFs End Med Work

CHU LAI (USA) — Eight members of the Vietnamese Popular Forces recently completed two weeks of medical training given by the medical platoon, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry, 198th Infantry Brigade.

"These eight men are the first of 22 PF medics who will receive the training," said Captain David R. Phillips, battalion surgeon.

According to Captain Phillips, the objective of the classes is to complement the medic's prior medical experience with a broader knowledge of drugs, first aid, obstetrics, communicable diseases and combat psychiatry.

"In class, the first group was very attentive, took good notes, and frequently asked stimulating questions," Captain Phillips said.

"The afternoons were spent in practical work on MEDCAPS in the villages of Ly Tra, Ky Chon, Chong Nhon and Chong Hiep," the captain continued. "On MEDCAPS the men effectively controlled the children and gave expert attention to their patients."

Captain Phillips said, "The medic's efforts in the past two weeks will be a growing contribution towards a stronger Vietnam."

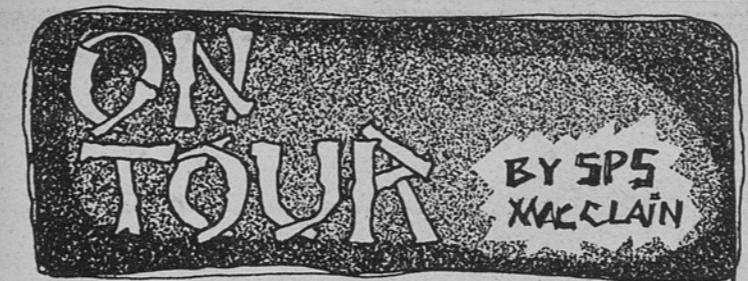


BUNKER BUNNY OF THE WEEK—is smiling because through following the "Nine Rules for Personnel of U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam," she has established firm bonds of friendship with the Vietnamese people. She had to memorize the Nine Rules because, as you can see, she doesn't have any extra room in her pockets in which to carry the wallet-sized copies of the rules which have been published for all American personnel serving in Vietnam. Our Bunny is Barbara Keith, a secretary by day at the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Saigon. At night she can be seen as "Bobbie the Weather Girl" on AFVN, Saigon. (PHOTO BY: SP4 JOHN L. KLOPF)

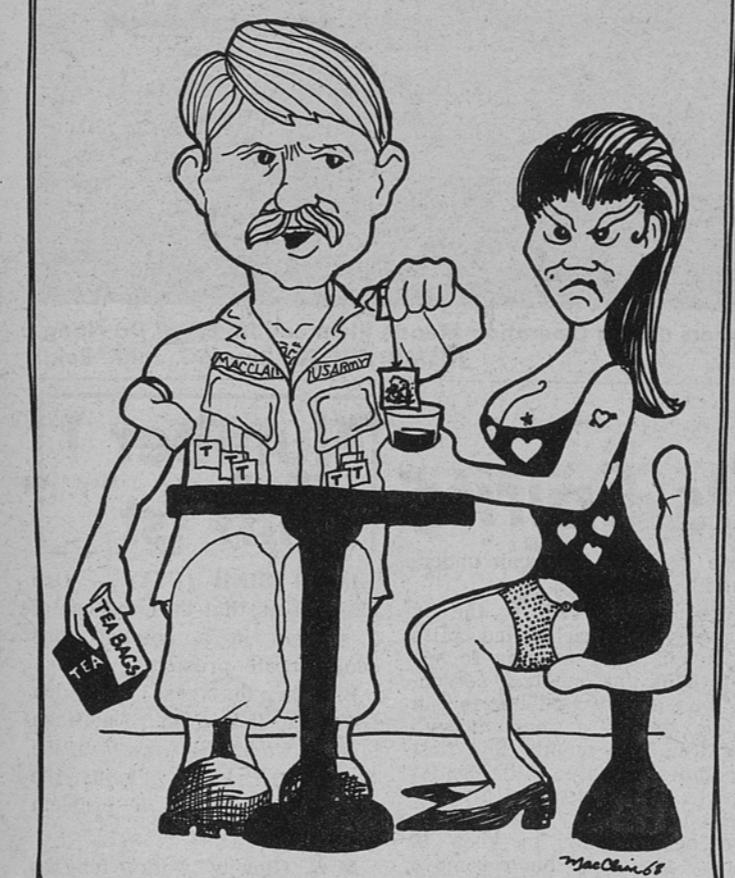
January 1, 1969

The OBSERVER

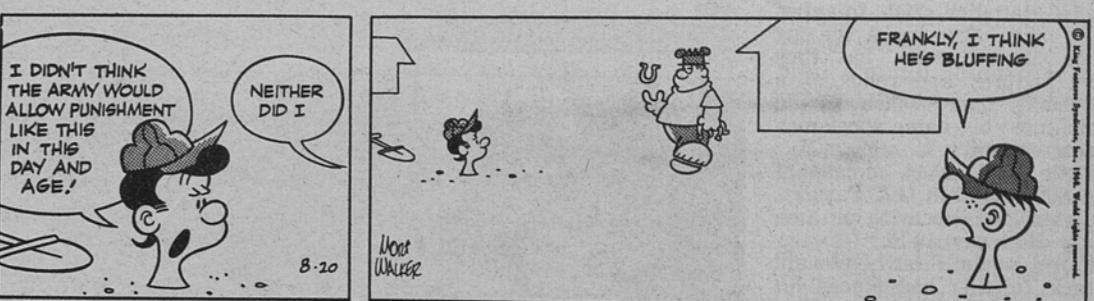
By Mort Walker



SURE YOU DON'T WANT
ANOTHER "TEA..."



Beetle Bailey



Peanuts

By Charles M. Schulz



CROSSWORD PUZZLE Answer to Previous Puzzle

ACROSS	DOWN	PEW	HAIL	TAB
1-Measure of weight	1-Flap	ARA	OISE	EMIL
4-Goés by water	2-Angle-Saxon money	CANALS	VIE	GO
9-Devolved	3-Restricted	TRY	PET	HOT
12-Macaw	4-Winter vehicle	ANET	FEET	HITS
13-Boundary	5-Be ill	BED	AIR	WAS
14-Female ruff	6-Prefix: not	ET	STRIPES	PO
15-Container	7-Ashy pale	UTE	OAT	CAD
17-Excusable	8-Let it stand	VISA	ADD	WARD
19-Free of	9-Gets up	ASE	IDS	RAS
20-Ceremonies	10-Afternoon party	ST	TODD	HUNTER
21-Above and touching	11-Lamprey	ELIA	ERIN	LIE
23-Small lump	16-Tear	END	RETS	ERS
24-Danish island	18-Approaches			
27-Condensed moisture	20-Tattered cloth	29-Goal	42-Remainder	
28-Large	21-Worship	31-Defeats	43-Invigorates	
29-Malicious burning	22-Singing voice	32-Terrid	(colloq.)	
30-Preposition	23-Toupees	35-Armed bands	44-Greek letter	
31-Container	25-Vagrant	36-Plaything	45-River island	
32-Pronoun	26-Vegetable	37-Determine	46-Decay	
33-Enlisted man (colloq.)	28-Evil	39-Experience	47-Quarrel	
34-Lassoed		40-Posed for portrait	48-Before	
36-Man's nickname			51-Bone	
37-Pair				
38-God of love				
39-Small child				
40-Observed				
41-Wander				
43-Moccasin				
44-Free tickets				
46-Retreat				
49-Hasten				
50-Bend over				
52-Cockle beetle				
53-Possessive pronoun				
54-Trials				
55-Female sheep				
				17

SENT BY UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE, INC. 11

For Use In Authorized Service Newspapers Only.

PFCs Bag Huge Cat

CAMP ENARI (USA) — Lavish sums of money for high-powered rifles, hunting attire and knowledgeable guides are usually needed if a big game hunter wishes to fill his den with trophies.

Such is not the case with Privates First Class Joe Barber and Bob Luster. Both are members of a patrol from Company D, 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry. They may never make the big game hunter scene, but they have pictures and relics of a 400-pound tiger which would make most big game sportsmen green with envy.

While working in support of the 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry, the patrol was securing an area along Highway 19-E.

Patrol leader First Lieutenant James Tefteller had placed his men in their positions. After five hours of jungle quiet, Privates Barber and Luster spotted movement far to their right flank.

"We both thought the movement was a stray water buffalo," said Private Barber, "so we held our fire." More than an hour passed and the movement in the brush continued in circles around the position.

"The noise came closer," said Private Luster, "but we still could not tell what was causing it. Then, when it was only three meters away," he exclaimed, "we saw the tiger."

Without much time to think, the two men opened fire on the crouching jungle cat. Five full magazines were emptied into the cat.

In the morning, the unusual KIA was carted back to Blackhawk Fire Base where infantry and cavalrymen marveled at more than seven feet of tiger.

Demented...

(Continued From Page 1) was nearing the village of Hue Duc, eight miles southwest of Da Nang. "My point man," said Corporal Baker, "had been following a trail up a hill. He saw a partially camouflaged hut, and heard loud voices clearly coming from a group of very careless enemy soldiers.

The point man opened fire with his rifle and the NVA scrambled madly from the hut. By the time the Marines secured the area surrounding the hut, the enemy was gone. The Marines found blood trails, four rifles and a pistol, 32 grenades and a cooking pot filled with rice. "There were a lot of clothes hanging near the fire," Corporal Baker grinned, and when he caught a glimpse of the VC running across the rice paddy, we knew what had happened." The enemy had more than "cold feet" — they were nude.

Mail THE OBSERVER Home

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

From:

Place Stamp
Here
(12 cents 1st class)
(20 cents Airmail)

TO:



G'BYE, BUNKER! — An enemy bunker is blown up by Marine engineers during Operation Meade River southwest of Da Nang. It was one of many blown after being searched. (USMC PHOTO By: SSG John Reid)

Aids Wounded Marines

'Colonel Maggie' Lifts Spirits

QUAN LOI (USA) — A guardian angel, in the form of Martha Raye, descended on a mission of mercy to aid the wounded and lift the spirits of two companies of the 1st Air Cavalry Division, locked in battle five miles northeast of here recently.

The film and television star, a honorary lieutenant colonel in the 5th Special Forces Reserves, was visiting Civilian Irregular Defense Group camps in the area when she heard that the Skytroopers of the 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry, were in contact and that Medevacs had been called to lift out the casualties. Diverting the helicopter in which she was riding, she rushed to the scene to give a hand. Using her own chopper, she accompanied several wounded to the 93d Evacuation Hospital in Long Binh.

Returning to Company C, 15th

Medical Battalion at Landing Zone Andy, she combined her experience as a registered nurse with a compassion gained through three years in Vietnam. Working far into the night, she refused to leave the treatment room until all the wounded were in from the field.

"I have a regular itinerary," she explained, "but I wanted to be where I could help. These men are so important to me."

After everyone had been cared for, Miss Raye visited the men who had gathered to view a television film of her that she had brought along.

While remembering the events of sorrow and joy she has faced during her tours in Vietnam, she explained, "These experiences I've had here I wouldn't trade for anything in the world. But I can't tell them to the people in the States, for only

those who are here can understand."

Although the visit to the 3d Brigade was unscheduled, Miss Raye had been wanting to see and thank the medical personnel who had treated her for an illness during a tour through the area last month. She first became acquainted with the 1st Cav in 1965, when the division arrived in country. "Since then I've been trying to keep in touch," she said, "but you move around so often."

Miss Raye arrived in Vietnam in November for her sixth tour of the country. She was accompanied by guitar virtuoso John Carr.

A tireless entertainer, Miss Raye began making USO tours in 1942. During World War II she entertained troops in England and North Africa.

Miss Raye's career embraces work with many of the other greats of show business — from Al Jolson and Charlie Chaplin to Bob Hope and Eddie Cantor.

Number 1 With 1st

LONG BINH (USA) — One might think that the presence of a woman in a combat zone could create problems.

But in the case of Edna Glowitz, the first American civilian woman to work with the 1st Signal Brigade, it's just the opposite. She's a problem solver.

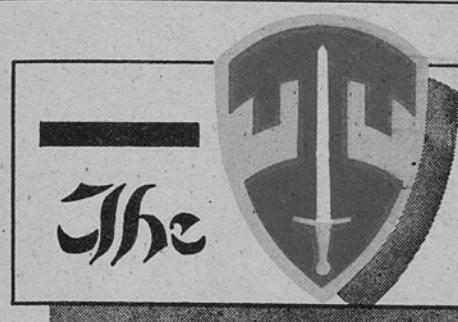
Miss Glowitz works for the U.S. Army's Electronics Command (ECOM) in Philadelphia and is part of a new plan to "provide an interface between the theater commander and ECOM in the area of supply and logistics." In other words, she's a trouble shooter in electronics supply problems.

This is her first overseas assignment in 18 years of service with ECOM. She's enjoyed her first month in Vietnam and is looking forward to a tour in Europe after she completes her year here.



Edna Glowitz — First with the 1st Signal

Joint Force Nets 139 VC Suspects



FIRST IN VIETNAM

THE OBSERVER

Vol. 8, No. 2

Saigon, Vietnam

January 3, 1969



BEGINNING OF A MISSION — Huey helicopters leave the ground after dropping off soldiers of the 4th Battalion, 39th Infantry in the Mekong Delta lowlands. The choppers are an appreciated mode of transportation for the 9th Infantry Division troops who work in the marshy delta.

(USA PHOTO By: PFC Steve Sheppard)

Heart Operation For Viet Youngster

They Overcome Red Tape To Aid Teen

TAN SON NHUT (USA) — A 16-year-old South Vietnamese boy may get to see another Christmas because of the efforts of some airmen and soldiers and the noted heart surgeon Dr. Michael E. DeBakey.

Nguyen Tan Hoang, a victim of rheumatic fever at 12, departed Tan Son Nhut Air Base recently for Houston Methodist Hospital in an Air Force C-141 carrying wounded U.S. servicemen.

Dr. DeBakey has agreed to perform the delicate open-heart surgery to correct a mitral valve defect. The Vietnamese teenager has not grown since he was 12 and is given little chance of survival without the operation. Getting Hoang to the United States was no easy task. Throughout the diagnosis, Captain Richard A. Brunswick vied for the confidence of Hoang and his family with the village folk doctor.

Dr. Brunswick, who completed his residency under Dr. DeBakey before entering the Army, enlisted the Houston surgeon's help for Hoang.

In July after Dr. DeBakey

had agreed to the operation, Hoang disappeared from the Army dispensary where he was being treated. His parents had hidden him after being frightened by the village doctor.

The village chief promised to reassure the parents in bringing about Hoang's return. But then the entire family disappeared, possibly because of threats from

the Viet Cong. The Nguyens live in VC-infested country, 15 miles from the Cambodian border, not far from Tay Ninh City. The family eventually returned however, and the parents consented to the operation.

Still, the struggle to get Hoang to Dr. DeBakey was just beginning as Dr. Brunswick's efforts stalled in a maze of red

tape. In desperation, he went to Colonel Patrick H. Henry, Tan Son Nhut AB vice commander.

The colonel and his unit, the 377th Combat Support Group, assumed responsibility for the project from Dr. Brunswick's unit, Company B of the 25th Medical Battalion. The 377th

(Continued On Back Page)

Strange Presents Were Okay, But That Wolf . . .

WITH TASK FORCE 77 (USN) — "Somewhere on this ship lurks a live turtle."

This what a postal clerk, Seaman J. A. Van Dyke Jr., said as he placed the last of 8,000 letters in its proper slot on board the attack carrier Constellation.

"During the last three weeks, I thought I'd seen every imaginable type of Christmas present pass through this post office, but a week ago a live, hungry turtle arrived and I knew that had to be the strangest yet," he said.

Every day of the holiday season is filled with hard work, but it also offers plenty of chuckles

for the Constellation's 13 postal clerks.

Scattered among the more than 140,000 pounds of packages received as of mid-December were some most unusual presents.

"Around the first of December we had to call a Missouri boy down here to pick up three stocks of sugar cane," said Postal Clerk 3rd Class Thomas J. Fuegor. "Believe it or not, it came insured."

Plants and animals aren't the only strange gifts sent here. A sailor from North Dakota received a set of fur-lined ear muffs and a winter coat from

his well-meaning parents, while Yeoman Seaman Gary Bassett searched the ship for something to use in place of snow under his four-foot Christmas tree.

Although turtles, sugar cane, winter garments and Christmas trees are somewhat out of place on an aircraft carrier cruising off the coast of Vietnam, they are hardly any more unusual than the penny slot machine received by Fire Control Technician 2nd Class Robert Murdock.

"I couldn't believe the look on that postal clerk's face when he saw my slot machine. He wasn't sure whether there was a law against it, but he finally decided

it was okay after he played three pennies in it and hit a jackpot," the sailor smiled.

Why are sailors on board the Constellation receiving such strange presents? Post Clerk 1st Class James Robinson, the Post Office supervisor, summed it up this way.

"I guess everyone over here is looking for something to remind him of home and Christmas always seems to be a good time to receive those little reminders," he said.

"That's all well and good," interjected Postal Clerk Seaman William McLean, "but this

(Continued on Back Page)

GIO LINH (USMC) — Leathernecks of the 3rd Marine Division and Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) soldiers recently dealt a crushing blow to the Viet Cong infrastructure in the northeastern-most corner of South Vietnam.

The Joint Marine-ARVN force moved into the area for a sweep and clear mission and an identity check which netted 139 Viet Cong suspects.

Elements of the 3rd Marine Regiment, backed by Marine tanks, joined the ARVN soldiers as the joint force swept into the Gio Linh area, south of the Demilitarized Zone near the Gulf of Tonkin.

The force, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Vu Van Giai, 2nd ARVN Regiment commanding officer, encircled the village and surrounding hamlets.

While Marines served as a blocking force, ARVN troops swept through the villages in search of the enemy.

The villagers were collected and transported to a central collection and clearing point. They were screened and interrogated.

While ARVN troops searched, Marines provided medical and dental checks of the villagers, distributed food, and provided entertainment in the form of a concert by the 3rd Marine Division band.

Once the processing was completed, the villagers were returned to their homes.

'Time Out' For Chuck

TAY NINH (USA) — Apparently the enemy feels that "All work and no play makes Chuck a dull boy."

This is true if uncovered enemy bunker complexes are any indication. Since the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) moved to the III Corps area, they have uncovered 600 such complexes and some of the findings have raised a few eyebrows.

"We found models of American aircraft, including helicopters whittled out of wood, along with anti-aircraft positions. It appears obvious that Chuck was using the set-up to practice shooting down our aircraft," opined Staff Sergeant McNair Grant, a squad leader in Company D.

The enemy doesn't spend all of his time working. A number of picnic tables — Stateside models — have dotted some of the complexes. Stores of fresh meat and fish have been found along with other delicacies such as snails and frogs.

Editorial

Saving Habit

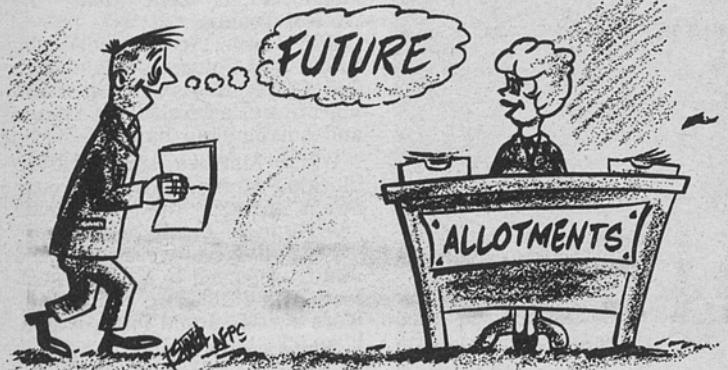
By now most everyone has made all their holiday purchases and budgeted for the other year-end expenses that always seem to come up at this most inopportune time.

In most cases, it has become painfully apparent that we don't have that extra supply of available cash that would be so handy at times of peak expenses during the year.

All too often, the reason for this is the lack of a "savings" habit on the part of the individuals concerned. Although our intentions may be good to put "something extra" in the bank every month, more often than not that extra money gets spent before it ever gets to the bank.

To help your savings habit and insure that you will have an extra supply of available cash when you really need it, why not try U.S. Savings Bonds and Freedom Shares?

With the new 4.25 per cent interest rate on Savings



Bonds and the five per cent interest on Freedom Shares, they are certainly a good safe investment.

And, what is even better, by buying your Savings Bonds and Freedom Shares with regular monthly allotments, you never have to worry about your savings money getting sidetracked.

Your money will go into savings on a regular basis and you'll get your Bond and Freedom Share every month. Saving will become a habit and you'll be surprised at how easy it will be once you get into the swing of it.

Then, when the time comes you need some extra, you'll have it — all that you have contributed plus interest. In the process, you will also be making an investment in America.

Begin your savings habit today and start buying U.S. Savings Bonds and Freedom Shares through the allotment program. See your finance clerk today. (AFPS)

Marines Get 'John Wayne' Gear

QUANTICO, Va. (USMC) — With the idea that U.S. Marines are trained to be efficient fighting machines rather than pack mules, the Development Center at Quantico has come up with an entirely new load carrying system for combat Marines.

The system, sometimes called "John Wayne" or "782" gear by the Marines who have to hump it, has been approved by the

Just In Case You Have Not Heard

Aliens Must Report In Jan.

WASHINGTON (ANF) — U.S. Servicemen and their families are reminded that the Immigration and Nationality Act requires all aliens in the United States to report their addresses to the Attorney General during the month of January.

Cards for this purpose are available at any U.S. Post Office or at offices of the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

The act provides serious penalties for willful failure to submit this report. Compliance with the requirement, therefore, is of the utmost importance to aliens in the Armed Forces and to relatives who may not be citizens but who are residents of the United States as of Jan. 1, 1969.

Taxpayers Will See Red

WASHINGTON — Taxpayers literally will see red when they fill out their 1968 federal income tax returns.

The Internal Revenue Service has announced that the forms will be printed in two colors, with red ink being used to focus attention on the most common errors and omissions of taxpayers.

The drive to reduce taxpayer errors was formulated after eight million errors were made by taxpayers on the 1967 forms. That was an average of one error for every nine tax returns.

Sheldon Cohen, Internal Revenue Service commissioner, said taxpayer errors slow the processing of returns and delay refunds.

(PHOTO COURTESY OF PLAYBOY)



By 1LT David E. Boudreaux

Commandant and is now slated for production. Supply officials hope to have it ready for issue to infantry troops in Vietnam by the first of the year.

The result of ten years research and testing, the new gear will replace the packs and suspender straps the Corps has been using since 1941. Welcome features of the new gear include water-resistant, light-weight nylon material design that affords vastly increased stability, and wide, padded shoulder straps. Pockets for "goody" items such as cigarettes and socks will also be welcomed by men in the field.

Another improvement offered by the two-pack and shoulder strap configuration is the quick release snaps throughout the system that will enable a Marine to drop all of his gear within a fraction of a second.

The project officer for the new equipment, Lieutenant Colonel Howard L. Barrett, Jr., emphasizes that the most important feature of the system is the increased maneuverability the assault Marine will have. No more will be carry an 80 or more pound battle-load in knapsack-haversack arrangement on his back—he will carry only a basic 15 pound assault load in the new knapsack worn at the waist.

He said, "The system had to be more durable, more stable and had to do more things for the individual Marine. He's living out of it—it's his home."

The load carrying system can be utilized in a number of configurations. Components can form field transport, marching and light marching packs. While the shoulder straps will be worn as a matter of course, taking the weight of the cartridge belt ensemble off a man's hips, the haversack and knapsack components can be worn separately or together—either at the waist or shoulders.

Pottery, particularly ceramics, is very popular among foreigners who visit Vietnam. Americans in the III Corps area, especially around Bien Hoa, are quite familiar with the ceramic elephants which frequently become passengers to the United States through the APO system.

Pottery is an ancient craft in Vietnam. It was in existence before either Chinese or European influence found its way into Vietnam. The Vietnamese are conservative in their craft, however, limiting their production to small objects. History asserts that the Vietnamese learned to make larger objects from a Chinese craftsman, Hoang Quang Hung.

The craftsman, visiting Vietnam, noticed that the Vietnamese did not have large storage containers to keep water. Instead, they drank directly from the streams. The craftsman offered to teach the Vietnamese how to make large pottery containers. Only one Vietnamese, Truong Trung Ai, accepted. After receiving three months instruction, Mr. Truong mastered the craft. Soon his fellow villagers were requiring him to instruct them in the craft. And the craft began to spread throughout Vietnam.

Today pottery is a sizeable part of the Vietnamese economy.

The center of the craft is Bien Hoa, which produces some of the most beautiful pottery to be found anywhere.

Ceramics, pottery which has

been glazed in a special manner, is found extensively throughout South Vietnam. Ceramic objects are used to decorate gates, temples, walls, gardens, porches and other areas.

"... we have stood ready to assist nations whose self-determination is threatened, and who want to help themselves. That is why we are in Vietnam."

ELLSWORTH BUNKER
U.S. Ambassador



THE OBSERVER is an authorized newspaper published weekly by the Command Information Division, Office of Information, Military Assistance Command Vietnam for United States Forces in Vietnam. Opinions expressed here do not necessarily reflect policies or positions of the Department of Defense or any of the Armed Forces. The **THE OBSERVER**, printed offset at Pacific Stars and Stripes in Tokyo, uses material from the Armed Forces Press Service, Armed Forces News Bureau and other Department of Defense agencies. Direct mail to: Editor, **THE OBSERVER**, HQ MACV, APO 96222. **THE OBSERVER** has a circulation of 100,000.

COMUSMACV
Information Officer
Chief, Command Information

GEN C.W. Abrams, USA
Information Officer
BG W. Sidle, USA
Chief, Command Information

1LT D.E. Boudreaux, USA
SFC D.D. Perez, USA
TSgt G.K. Fears, USAF
SP4 J.L. Klop, USA
Sgt E.J. Sargent, USMC
SP5 J.S. De Priest, USA
SP4 D.M. Gerrol, USA
SP5 Mac Clain, USA

Officer In Charge
NCOIC/Editor
Assistant Editor
Production Manager
Staff Writer
Staff Writer
Staff Writer
Illustrator

1LT D.E. Boudreaux, USA
SFC D.D. Perez, USA
TSgt G.K. Fears, USAF
SP4 J.L. Klop, USA
Sgt E.J. Sargent, USMC
SP5 J.S. De Priest, USA
SP4 D.M. Gerrol, USA
SP5 Mac Clain, USA

... we have stood ready to assist nations whose self-determination is threatened, and who want to help themselves. That is why we are in Vietnam."

ELLSWORTH BUNKER
U.S. Ambassador

... we have stood ready to assist nations whose self-determination is threatened, and who want to help themselves. That is why we are in Vietnam."

ELLSWORTH BUNKER
U.S. Ambassador

... we have stood ready to assist nations whose self-determination is threatened, and who want to help themselves. That is why we are in Vietnam."

ELLSWORTH BUNKER
U.S. Ambassador

... we have stood ready to assist nations whose self-determination is threatened, and who want to help themselves. That is why we are in Vietnam."

ELLSWORTH BUNKER
U.S. Ambassador

... we have stood ready to assist nations whose self-determination is threatened, and who want to help themselves. That is why we are in Vietnam."

ELLSWORTH BUNKER
U.S. Ambassador

... we have stood ready to assist nations whose self-determination is threatened, and who want to help themselves. That is why we are in Vietnam."

ELLSWORTH BUNKER
U.S. Ambassador

... we have stood ready to assist nations whose self-determination is threatened, and who want to help themselves. That is why we are in Vietnam."

ELLSWORTH BUNKER
U.S. Ambassador

... we have stood ready to assist nations whose self-determination is threatened, and who want to help themselves. That is why we are in Vietnam."

ELLSWORTH BUNKER
U.S. Ambassador

... we have stood ready to assist nations whose self-determination is threatened, and who want to help themselves. That is why we are in Vietnam."

ELLSWORTH BUNKER
U.S. Ambassador

... we have stood ready to assist nations whose self-determination is threatened, and who want to help themselves. That is why we are in Vietnam."

ELLSWORTH BUNKER
U.S. Ambassador

... we have stood ready to assist nations whose self-determination is threatened, and who want to help themselves. That is why we are in Vietnam."

ELLSWORTH BUNKER
U.S. Ambassador

... we have stood ready to assist nations whose self-determination is threatened, and who want to help themselves. That is why we are in Vietnam."

ELLSWORTH BUNKER
U.S. Ambassador

... we have stood ready to assist nations whose self-determination is threatened, and who want to help themselves. That is why we are in Vietnam."

ELLSWORTH BUNKER
U.S. Ambassador

... we have stood ready to assist nations whose self-determination is threatened, and who want to help themselves. That is why we are in Vietnam."

ELLSWORTH BUNKER
U.S. Ambassador

... we have stood ready to assist nations whose self-determination is threatened, and who want to help themselves. That is why we are in Vietnam."

ELLSWORTH BUNKER
U.S. Ambassador

... we have stood ready to assist nations whose self-determination is threatened, and who want to help themselves. That is why we are in Vietnam."

ELLSWORTH BUNKER
U.S. Ambassador

... we have stood ready to assist nations whose self-determination is threatened, and who want to help themselves. That is why we are in Vietnam."

ELLSWORTH BUNKER
U.S. Ambassador

... we have stood ready to assist nations whose self-determination is threatened, and who want to help themselves. That is why we are in Vietnam."

ELLSWORTH BUNKER
U.S. Ambassador

... we have stood ready to assist nations whose self-determination is threatened, and who want to help themselves. That is why we are in Vietnam."

ELLSWORTH BUNKER
U.S. Ambassador

... we have stood ready to assist nations whose self-determination is threatened, and who want to help themselves. That is why we are in Vietnam."

ELLSWORTH BUNKER
U.S. Ambassador

... we have stood ready to assist nations whose self-determination is threatened, and who want to help themselves. That is why we are in Vietnam."

ELLSWORTH BUNKER
U.S. Ambassador

... we have stood ready to assist nations whose self-determination is threatened, and who want to help themselves. That is why we are in Vietnam."

ELLSWORTH BUNKER
U.S. Ambassador

... we have stood ready to assist nations whose self-determination is threatened, and who want to help themselves. That is why we are in Vietnam."

ELLSWORTH BUNKER
U.S. Ambassador

... we have stood ready to assist nations whose self-determination is threatened, and who want to help themselves. That is why we are in Vietnam."

ELLSWORTH BUNKER
U.S. Ambassador

... we have stood ready to assist nations whose self-determination is threatened, and who want to help themselves. That is why we are in Vietnam."

ELLSWORTH BUNKER
U.S. Ambassador

... we have stood ready to assist nations whose self-determination is threatened, and who want to help themselves. That is why we are in Vietnam."

ELLSWORTH BUNKER
U.S. Ambassador

... we have stood ready to assist nations whose self-determination is threatened, and who want to help themselves. That is why we are in Vietnam."

ELLSWORTH BUNKER
U.S. Ambassador

... we have stood ready to assist nations whose self-determination is threatened, and who want to help themselves. That is why we are in Vietnam."

ELLSWORTH BUNKER
U.S. Ambassador

... we have stood ready to assist nations whose self-determination is threatened, and who want to help themselves. That is why we are in Vietnam."

ELLSWORTH BUNKER
U.S. Ambassador

... we have stood ready to assist nations whose self-determination is threatened, and who want to help themselves. That is why we are in Vietnam."

ELLSWORTH BUNKER
U.S. Ambassador

... we have stood ready to assist nations whose self-determination is threatened, and who want to help themselves. That is why we are in Vietnam."

ELLSWORTH BUNKER
U.S. Ambassador

... we have stood ready to assist nations whose self-determination is threatened, and who want to help themselves. That is why we are in Vietnam."

ELLSWORTH BUNKER
U.S. Ambassador

... we have stood ready to assist nations whose self-determination is threatened, and who want to help themselves. That is why we are in Vietnam."

ELLSWORTH BUNKER
U.S. Ambassador

... we have stood ready to assist nations whose self-determination is threatened, and who want to help themselves. That is why we are in Vietnam."

ELLSWORTH BUNKER
U.S. Ambassador

... we have stood ready to assist nations whose self-determination is threatened, and who want to help themselves. That is why we are in Vietnam."

ELLSWORTH BUNKER
U.S. Ambassador

... we have stood ready to assist nations whose self-determination is threatened, and who want to help themselves. That is why we are in Vietnam."</p



MEDCAP—Hospital Corpsman Second Class Gary W. Davis, a member of Seabee Team 0603, treats a Vietnamese girl at Phan Rang during the team's recent MEDCAP Operation there. (USN PHOTO)

Language Barrier Is Bridged At Orphan's Christmas Party

TAN SON NHUT (USA)—Hot dogs, hamburgers and baked beans—that's what the 125 youngsters at the Co Nghi Vien Go Vap orphanage had for lunch at a Christmas party recently. And they loved it.

Members of the 600th Photo Squadron, Tan Son Nhut, hosted the party for the orphanage, which they have "adopted". Co Nghi Vien Go Vap is located in the village of Thu Duc, near Saigon.

Another visitor at the party was a white bearded, jolly man in a red suit. Lieutenant Colonel George E. Hoffman from the Air Force Advisory Group at Tan Son Nhut assisted the squadron by playing Santa Claus.

Santa Claus passed out toys and candy to the children. Although the youngsters did not

quite understand the concept of Santa Claus, when he began to pass out toys and candy, they readily accepted the idea. The orphans had a chance, for a few brief moments, to forget that they are living in a country torn by war; a war which had made them orphans. They were given the opportunity to enjoy the holiday atmosphere much as American children.

Gifts presented to the orphanage consisted of toys, clothing, candy, and other items, including 50,000 vitamins. Some gifts were purchased from donations by members of the squadron.

Many other gifts and clothing were donated by people in the United States: Headquarters, Aerospace Audio Visual Service and 63rd Air Base Group (CB-PO), both in Norton AFB, Calif.; the Alpine Circle of the

Washington Park Methodist Church in Denver, Colo.; the Sacred Heart Rosary Guild of San Bernardino, Calif.; and the 934th Air Reserve Squadron in Los Angeles, Calif.

At the close of the party, the Vietnamese youngsters sang traditional songs for their American friends, who reciprocated by singing several American Christmas carols.

It was a day of sharing that did away with any language barrier. A warm smile, the soft touch of a friendly hand, and the eager look of sparkling eyes—happiness.

Recently, after high winds whipped through the area, blowing down many trees and damaging numerous buildings, the

Seabee Team Helping Train Viet Craftsmen

PHAN RANG (USN)—At one corner of an incomplete single story building two American Seabees were kneeling beside a Vietnamese.

The Seabees, Lieutenant (junior grade) William J. Hanley and Engineering Aid Construction Man Paul F. Brann were teaching him how to make window frames for an infirmary at Ba Rau Village, about 170 miles northeast of Saigon.

When completed, the building will be used as the village's maternity clinic. It will have a modern fresh water and sewage disposal system and will provide quarters for the resident midwife.

Members of U.S. Navy Mobile Construction Battalion Six, Team Three (Seabee Team 0603), located at Phan Rang, teach Vietnamese in their area a number of skilled trades through a "Self Help" program.

When the Seabees undertake a project, they provide technical advice and assistance to the Vietnamese who actually do the work. This creates within the worker a sense of pride and accomplishment, since he is actually working and learning at the same time.

Among the projects the 13-man team is currently sponsoring is the infirmary, rebuilding a school which was partially destroyed by high winds, repairing and maintaining various roads in the area and constructing block-making machines to enable the villagers to construct better homes and buildings.

"The Vietnamese are quick learners," remarked Chief Builder Albert L. Cole. "Usually we show them how to do something once. After that we occasionally render a little assistance and advice."

Recently, after high winds whipped through the area, blowing down many trees and damaging numerous buildings, the

Seabees helped remove trees that had fallen on or were threatening Vietnamese homes. "One had fallen and was resting in the 'V' of another tree just above a house," the Chief said. "We had no crane so we trimmed the tree down as far as we could and still not have it fall."

"We then used a bulldozer and rader to remove the tree," he continued. "When it fell it missed the house by less than a foot."

"The Vietnamese were really impressed and we have won many friends from this one incident," he concluded.

Another team member is Hospital Corpsman Second Class Gary W. Davis. While his primary job is providing medical support to team members, he is very active in the Navy's Medical Civic Action Program (MEDCAP). He travels via helicopter to ten isolated Vietnamese villages each week, rendering medical aid and issuing items such as soap, cough syrup, and antibiotics. He also gives public health instructions with the assistance of an interpreter.

There are 15 such Seabee teams working in South Vietnam. Their efforts play a key role in the overall U.S. effort to strengthen the Republic of Vietnam's economy and help train the craftsmen necessary to maintain it.

Chaplain Teaches

CAT LAI (USA)—The chaplain of the 11th Transportation Battalion (Terminal) has a unique cultural exchange program with several local Vietnamese officials.

The Vietnamese from a nearby village send one Vietnamese language instructor each Friday to teach their language to the officers and men of the battalion; the Americans return the service with taped English lessons for the villagers. "It's working out pretty good," said Chaplain (Captain) Owen W. Nibbelin. "It's a highly profitable experience for all of us." Chaplain Nibbelin says the battalion commander and Cat Lai's sergeant major also participate. The language exchange program is part of the battalion's community relations (CR) program in the Cat Lai-Binh Trung area.

Materials

Food and building materials in the form of salvaged tonnage from the cargo ships that call at Cat Lai and school supplies constitute most of the direct aid portion of the CR program. A recent project resulted in about three tons of food being distributed to needy families in the area. A portion of the food helped citizens of the village who were involved with the Cat Lai English/Vietnamese language program.

Visits

Chaplain Nibbelin said he personally makes five to eight visits to the local villages and orphanages each month. These are in addition to the individual visits made by men of the battalion.



Women trainees stand at attention with the men during morning flag-raising ceremonies.

ARVN Ladies Hit The Silk

18 and 25.

Volunteering for airborne training, these members of the Women's Armed Forces Corps (WAFC) report to the school in their traditional, flowing ao dai, change into combat fatigues, take a rugged physical fitness test and then join the male volunteers going through training.

At present, there are 31 jump qualified girls at the Division working as nurses, clerks and "riggers" or parachute packers.

Most of the girls who volunteer are between the ages of

The girls begin each day at 6 a.m. with physical exercises. Following flag-raising ceremonies at 7:30, they begin an arduous day of training. At the conclusion of their training at 5:30 p.m., the girls return to their homes nearby or stay at the bachelor women's quarters at the division.

The first week is ground work during which they learn and practice parachute landing falls (PLFs). This is done by jumping from an inclined ramp four feet off the ground and by sliding down a playground slide. They also learn aircraft exiting procedures aboard a mock C-47 transport on the ground.

In their second week, known as tower week, the girls learn more about landing by use of the swing land trainer, a device from which they swing twelve feet off the ground. Upon command of the instructor, they fall to the ground with feet together, then roll over on the back of their shoulders.

Another training device is the suspended harness, hanging 12 feet off the ground, from which they learn to guide their parachutes during the course of the jump. The biggest test of what they have learned comes in that second week as the prospective parachutists practice jumping from the 34-foot tower. Wearing parachutes, the girls jump from the tower with a harness on a steel cable catching them in mid air and sliding them down to a simulated landing zone 100 meters away.

In the third and final week, the girls jump from C-47 and C-119 aircraft. The girls need six jumps to receive their qualification certificate and parachutist wings.

After successful qualification, the girls are assigned to the Airborne Division which is always 100 per cent jump qualified. They must jump at least four times a year to remain on jump status but generally jump a minimum of eight to 10 times.



Trainee is unhooked from cable after jump from 34-foot tower.

Hospital Is Joint Effort

BONG SON (USA)—Amid sounds of construction, doctors worked with speed and precision to save the life of a Vietnamese villager.

Having completed the operation, a U.S. Army doctor and a New Zealand Air Force doctor walked from the small operating room and looked with satisfaction at the new 100-bed Free World hospital being erected for the village of Bong Son, 40 miles north of Qui Nhon.

The new hospital is financed by the United States, contracted by a Philippine firm, constructed by Korean workers and equipped by Canadians.

A staff of New Zealand doctors and technicians operate the new hospital with continued medical assistance from the 173rd Airborne Brigade, when needed.

Captain Roderick G. Johnson and other brigade medical officers have been actively engaged in supporting the village hospital with technical assistance and medical supplies since the brigade's arrival to Bong Son.

Lieutenant Harry Guy, medical officer of the New Zealand Air Force whom Captain Johnson has assisted on many occasions.



PARTY—A young Vietnamese girl—one of the 125 youngsters at the Co Nghi Vien Co Gap orphanage, enjoys the last bit of her dinner during a recent Christmas party held at the orphanage by men of the 600th Photo Squadron. (USAF PHOTO)

From Ao Dai To Fatigues



Officer and enlisted share a proud heritage.



WAFC and U.S. WAC officers inspect officer cadets.



WAFC Training Center instructs and trains more than 1400 trainees yearly.



Each year nearly 125 WAFC officer cadets graduate as "aspirant" and receive their 2nd Lt. commission 18 months later.

Yesterday she was wearing her beautiful traditional "Ao Dai" dress. Today she dons olive-green fatigues and black boots.

She could be any one of 100 South Vietnamese girls volunteering each month to follow in the footsteps of the famous Trung sisters who freed Vietnam from terrorist rulers nearly two thousand years ago.

Maintaining that tradition of "duty to country" are more than 4,000 highly-trained officers, NCOs and enlisted women serving with the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces (RVNAF) as members of the Women's Armed Forces Corps (WAFC).

This Jan. 1, the WAFC marks its fifth anniversary of service to South Vietnam. While the

WAFC is only 5 years old, women have served in the RVNAF since 1952, as an auxiliary unit and were integrated as a regular component in January 1963.

"I can remember when I was a cadet training. For most, this one of five women officers in the whole Vietnamese military service", says Lieutenant Colonel Tran Cam Huong, a veteran made almost immediately, and Director on the WAFC and the

Director in the Corps.

Unlike the U.S. counterpart (WAC, WAF, WAVE), the WAFC does not belong to any service. Instead, its members serve with the Vietnamese Army, Air Force, or Navy units throughout South Vietnam. Nurses are also in military justice, leadership, military customs, and other related

The average age of all WAFCees is 20 but women from 17 to 30 years old may join. They learn to march, stand strict and receive instruction in first aid, military justice, leadership, military customs, and other related

Although the trainees and

When entering the service, life for the new WAFCee recruit begins at the WAFC Training Center in Saigon. The problem for them soon become center has been "home" to every young Vietnamese woman and show that they want to do man—enlisted and officer—whether their part", says Major Ho The Ve. The attractive and dedicated Major Ve is Commander from many of the hamlets and villages in South Vietnam, after basic, a WAFCee may volunteers, some filled with qualify for further specialist

Although the trainees and

At the center, the basic

and were integrated as a

component in January 1963.

At the center, the basic

and were integrated as a

component in January 1963.

At the center, the basic

and were integrated as a

component in January 1963.

At the center, the basic

and were integrated as a

component in January 1963.

At the center, the basic

and were integrated as a

component in January 1963.

At the center, the basic

and were integrated as a

component in January 1963.

At the center, the basic

and were integrated as a

component in January 1963.

At the center, the basic

and were integrated as a

component in January 1963.

At the center, the basic

and were integrated as a

component in January 1963.

At the center, the basic

and were integrated as a

component in January 1963.

At the center, the basic

and were integrated as a

component in January 1963.

At the center, the basic

and were integrated as a

component in January 1963.

At the center, the basic

and were integrated as a

component in January 1963.

At the center, the basic

and were integrated as a

component in January 1963.

At the center, the basic

and were integrated as a

component in January 1963.

At the center, the basic

and were integrated as a

component in January 1963.

At the center, the basic

and were integrated as a

component in January 1963.

At the center, the basic

and were integrated as a

component in January 1963.

At the center, the basic

and were integrated as a

component in January 1963.

At the center, the basic

and were integrated as a

component in January 1963.

At the center, the basic

and were integrated as a

component in January 1963.

At the center, the basic

and were integrated as a

component in January 1963.

At the center, the basic

and were integrated as a

component in January 1963.

At the center, the basic

and were integrated as a

component in January 1963.

At the center, the basic

and were integrated as a

component in January 1963.

At the center, the basic

and were integrated as a

component in January 1963.

At the center, the basic

and were integrated as a

component in January 1963.

At the center, the basic

and were integrated as a

component in January 1963.

At the center, the basic

and were integrated as a

component in January 1963.

At the center, the basic

and were integrated as a

component in January 1963.

At the center, the basic

and were integrated as a

component in January 1963.

At the center, the basic

and were integrated as a

component in January 1963.

At the center, the basic

and were integrated as a

component in January 1963.

At the center, the basic

Stable Door Hinges On Navy Harbor Defense

CAM RANH BAY (USN) — Protecting allied shipping in the seaports of Cam Ranh Bay, Vung Tau, Qui Nhon, Nha Trang and Vung Ro is the Harbor Defense Element of the U.S. Navy's Coastal Surveillance Force.

The Harbor Defense unit's job, aptly named "Stable Door," is a difficult one. The men of "Stable Door" must stop infiltration of the harbor by enemy swimmers. They deny the use of the water taxis and junks that ply the harbors of Vietnam to the Viet Cong.

During daylight hours, these men constantly stop and check sampans and other craft. After dark, they keep the shipping channels clear of fishing junks. They enforce the curfew on the inner harbor and drop concussion grenades into the water at random to discourage enemy who try to swim.

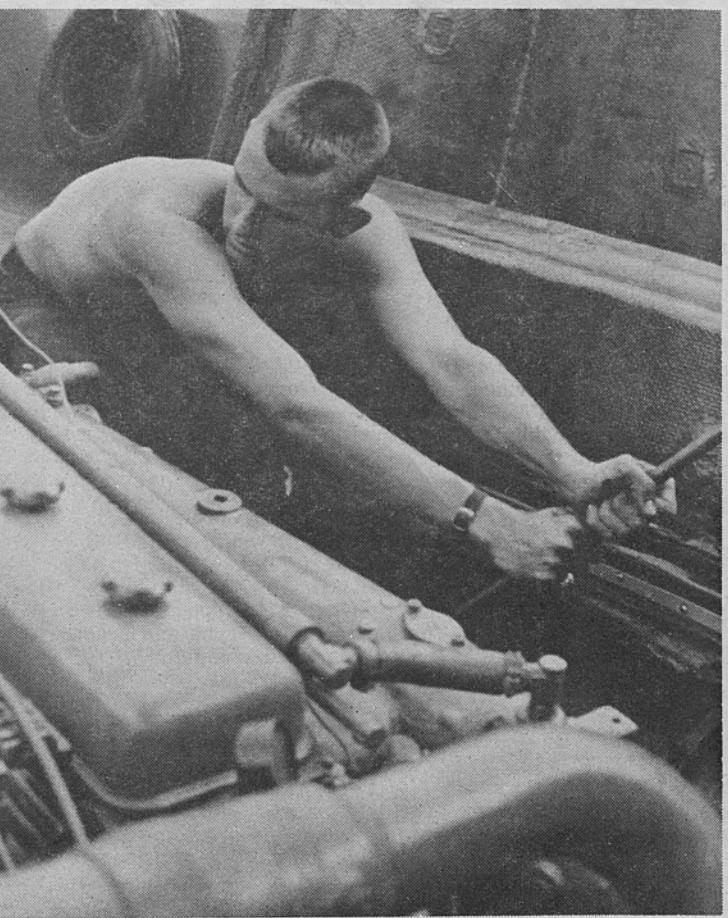
Three types of small craft are used in "Stable Door:" 17-foot, two-man Boston Whalers, or Skimmers; 36-foot Landing Craft Personnel Light (LCPLs); and 45-foot, six-man Harbor Picket Boats.

Operational control of the Harbor Control activities are centered at a Harbor Entrance Control Post (HECP) which is equipped with several searchlights, ranging from 18-inch signalman's lights to huge 60-inch lamps originally designed for anti-aircraft use, radios, radar and several lookout points.

Patrolling of the harbors is usually done by the LCPLs and their six-man crews. The extremely fast Skimmers and the more heavily-armed Picket Boats are used to augment the LCPLs.

Charged with the protection of the merchant ships in harbor—the final link in a worldwide chain of supply to Free World Forces in Vietnam—the men of "Stable Door" stand ready to insure that this vital link remains secure.

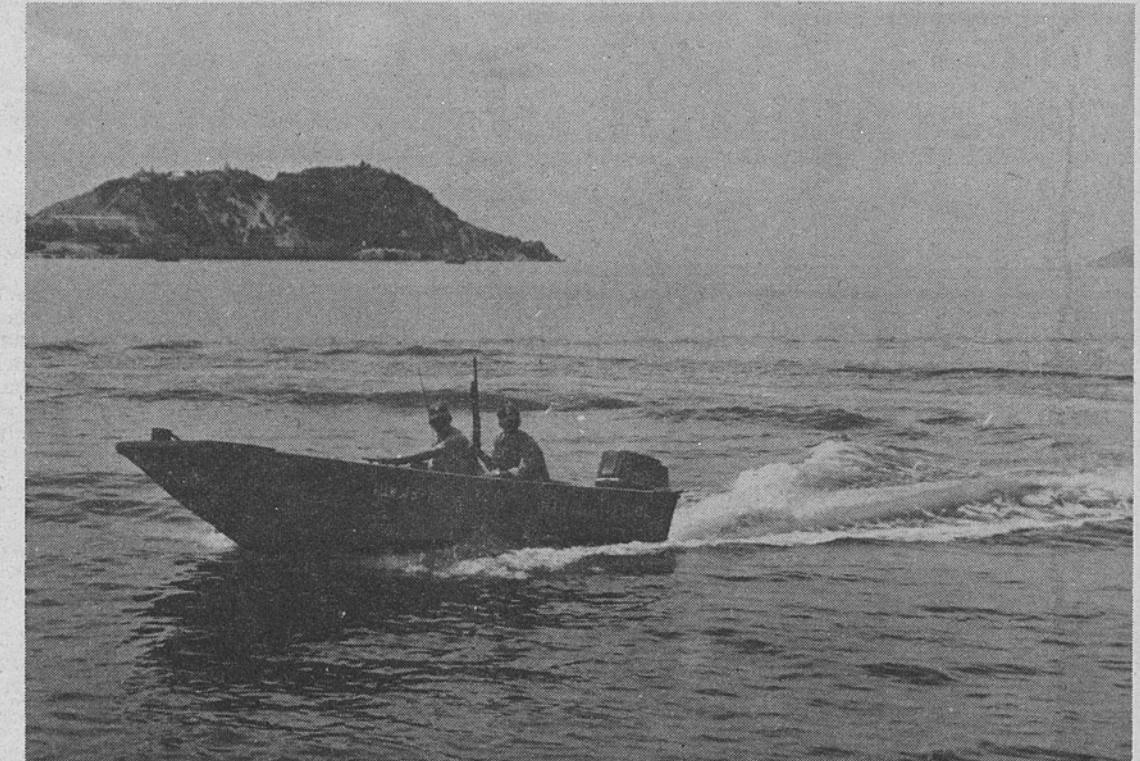
Story and Photos
by
JO2 Albert S. Robbins
(USN)



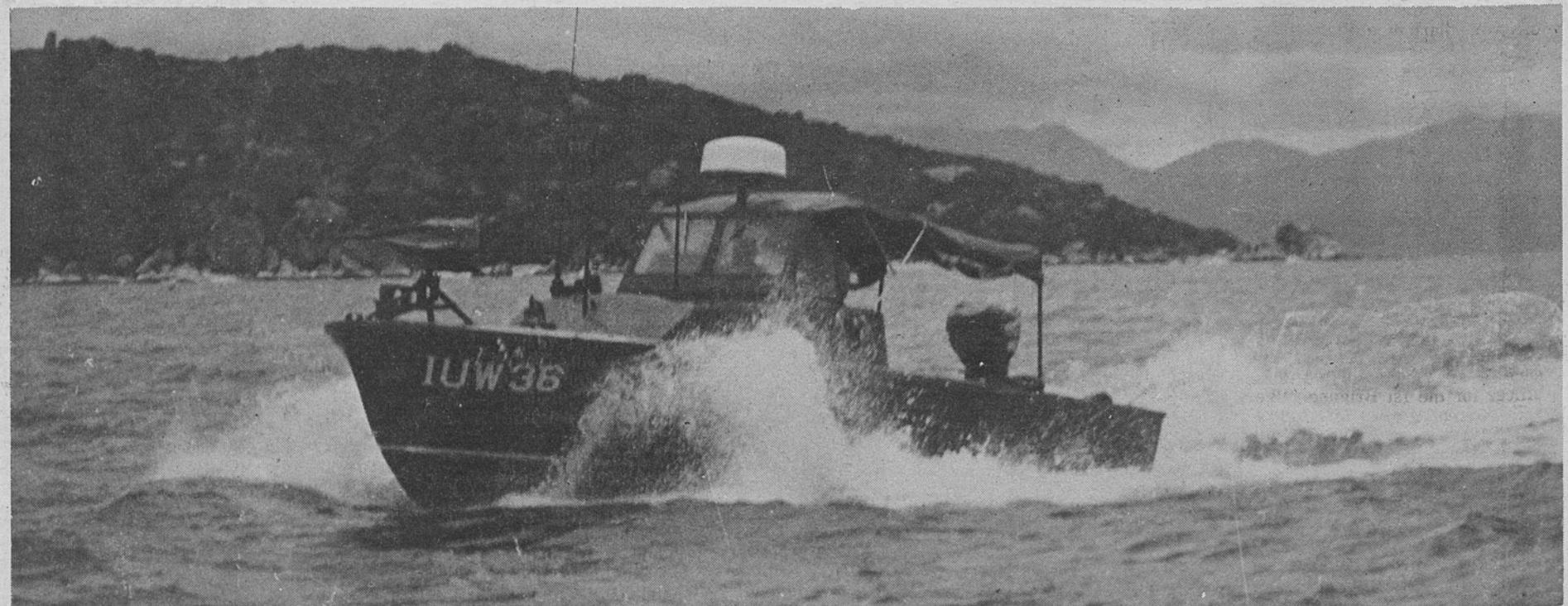
Crewman adjusts engine of LCPL before the craft sets out.



Sailors check papers of local fisherman in search of Viet Cong.



Far from the shores of Cape Cod, a Boston Whaler skims across Vietnamese waters on patrol.



Speeding through the harbor, LCPL-36 heads for a rendezvous with another craft of her type at a speed of more than 25 miles per hour.

Relocation Effort Moves 12,000

CUA VIET (USMC) — An estimated 12,000 South Vietnamese villagers along the Gulf of Tonkin recently began moving to Gia Long ten miles south of here.

Nineteen coastal fishing hamlets to the south are being relocated in a central resettlement village. This is the largest such project undertaken in Quang Tri Province, northernmost province of South Vietnam, since the villages and hamlets in and along the Demilitarized Zone began.

The project is a joint Marine, Vietnamese Regional Force (RF) and MACV effort.

"The reason for this move," said Army Captain Ted L. Baldwin, MACV advisor, "is to gather all the coastal fishermen into one area, where we can protect them from Viet Cong activities."

"Previously," he added, "they were located in isolated hamlets over which the VC had almost a complete stranglehold."

Richard Cummings, a Foreign Service Officer and refugee advisor for Quang Tri Province, stated that the people were quite happy about the

"They are happy," he explained, "because once we get them into an area we can control, they will get their fishing rights back."

The villagers have been denied the right to fish because of excessive waterborne activities by local VC in their area. Mr. Cummings added, "The Government of Vietnam will allocate an area in which these people will be allowed to fish. The U.S. Coast Guard and Vietnamese patrols will protect their interest from acts of insurgency."

Assault

The resettlement project began with a combat assault into the area by two RF companies, accompanied by their MACV advisors. They were successful and met with light opposition.

A small base camp was built and the resettlement program was underway.

Leathernecks of the 1st Amphibious Tractor (AmTrac) Battalion brought their huge vehicles down each day to help the villagers move. Each morning AmTracs arrive bearing loads of cement for the construction of the resettlement village and spend the day helping the villagers move.

Roofing Material

At Gia Long each new family is supplied with eight sheets of roofing material, a valuable commodity to the Vietnamese. Grass huts and shacks are disappearing and in their place, a neat, well designed town of aluminum roofed houses is rapidly growing.

Each hamlet is moved intact to preserve original administrations. The senior man from each hamlet will represent his people at a central Gia Long council.

Mr. Cummings explained, "Eventually the people will form a fisherman's co-operative to control the sale of their catch at markets in Quang Tri and Hue."

"The whole resettlement program is well ahead of schedule," said Mr. Cummings, "and the hardest part, moving the people, should be completed soon."

"Win the confidence of the people and you've beaten the VC," concluded Mr. Cummings.

Program

The mass inoculation MEDCAP was part of a Vietnamese program to inoculate all Vietnamese by mid-January 1969 as decreed by the Vietnamese Minister of Health.

Tay Ninh officials have inoculated 11 per cent of the province's 337,000 inhabitants, exclusive of the 1st Brigade. Four province health teams will be combined with future 1st Brigade MEDCAP teams, giving the teams the potential of inoculating 15,000 to 25,000 per day.

Future Medcaps

"Today's effort was just the beginning," stated Major Clarence M. DeYoung, civil affairs officer for the 1st Brigade. "We will immunize on all future MEDCAPs, in an effort to help the provinces reach their target date."

The inoculation of the 1st Brigade Vietnamese labor forces has other ramifications according to Major DeYoung. "Besides the obvious effects, the inoculations show our interest in the people. It also shows them how to improve their own health standards."



GIFTS—The wives of Vietnamese officers and civilian personnel prepare some 5,000 pounds of gifts which were distributed during the holiday season to 3,000 children of Army Republic of Vietnam servicemen in various Vietnamese cities. The civic action program was initiated by the RVNAF Department of Commissary. Aiding in the project were Lieutenant Colonel Harry H. Fuchigami, MACV advisor to the Department and Captain Charles L. Field, Depot Advisor to the Department. Many of the gifts were donated by citizens in Hawaii and Riverside, Calif. Donations from Hawaii came following an appeal by Governor John A. Burns on TV, Radio and the news media. In conjunction with the distribution of gifts, parties were held for children in the cities of Da Nang, Quin Hoa, Nha Trang, Can Tho, Saigon and Bien Hoa. (MACV PHOTO)

'Dumb Rabies' Can Be Avoided

squadron, had been handled by the men and had introduced saliva into the cuts by licking their hands and during feeding.

"More than 1,100 Army and Air Force personnel have been treated for rabies since January of this year. Most of the patients contacted the disease from pets, not stray animals," Colonel Dunn explained.

The best way to prevent rabies is to leave animals alone and to have mascots vaccinated. This insures that they do not become infected and in turn infect their owners.

"There are three critical areas of the body—the head, neck and finger tips. The rabies virus travels to the brain through the nerves and should

one of these areas become infected by the virus, you may have less than three hours in which to begin preventive treatment.

"There is no cure for rabies. The medical treatment consists of a series of inoculations making the person immune to the disease. Once a person has allowed the virus to reach the brain, the disease becomes 100 per cent lethal," he added.

Twenty-five to 30 per cent of all dogs examined by the 9th Field Lab check out as definite virus carriers. Fifty per cent of all the dogs examined who have bitten personnel have rabies.

Orphans Get Water Again

DAK TO (USA) — Company A, 299th Combat Engineer Battalion, came to the aid of the orphanage in the village of Dienh Binh recently when two broken pumps threatened its water supply.

"Because of the broken pumps the orphanage was without water for a week," explained First Lieutenant Michael E. Horejsi, commanding officer of Company A. "We had two mechanics repair the pumps, and while they were being fixed we brought down water in trailers."

"One of the pumps that had to be repaired," continued the Lieutenant, "was a model that dated back to 1920."

This is one of the many services Company A has performed for its "adopted" orphanage. It has also donated cement for the construction of a dispensary and provides transportation for the nuns that run the home.



TUG-OF-WAR—Youngsters from a hamlet in Tri Tam district compete for prizes in a game of tug-of-war, part of a civic action operation of the 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division. Winners received T-shirts emblazoned in the colors of the Vietnamese flag. (USA PHOTO)



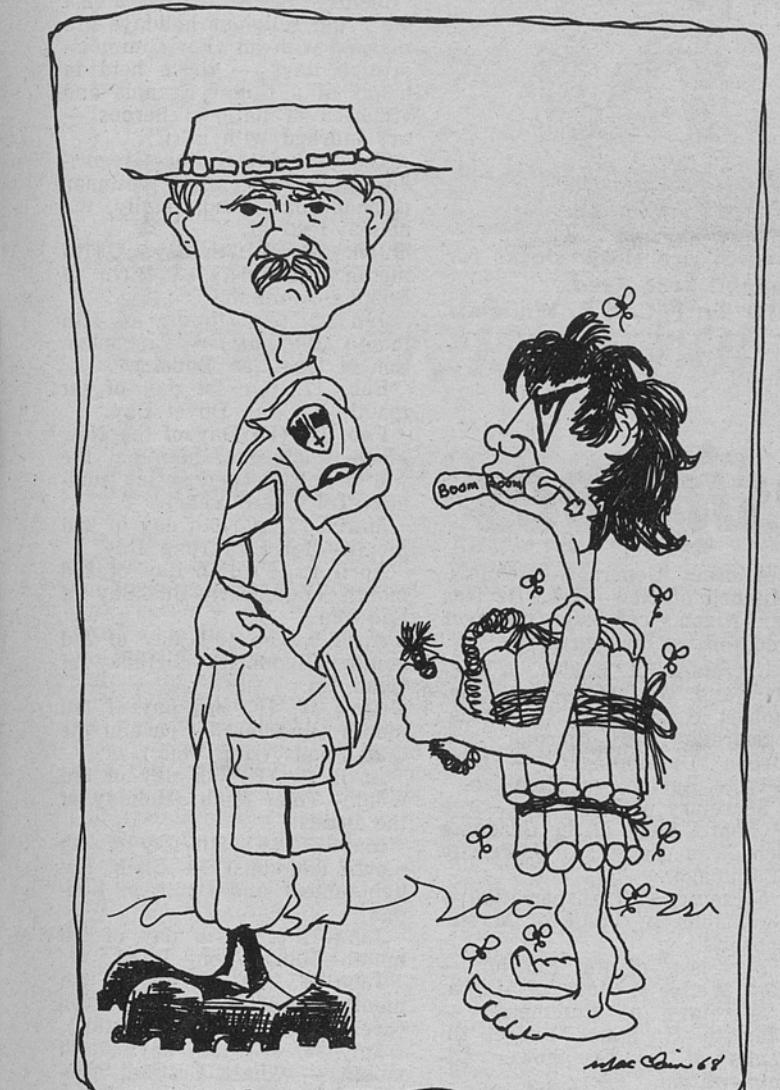
BUNKER BUNNY OF THE WEEK—Sex, "Do you know what I use this sofa for? Uh, uh, silly. I'm using this sofa to remind all you gentlemen of something you should be aware of—SOFA (Status of Forces Agreement). That's the agreement that helps solve problems that arise when one nation maintains troops on the territory of another. You as servicemen here in Vietnam have the responsibility to respect the laws of the host nation. Think about it the next time you 'barrel down' the road in that 'deuce-and-a-half' endangering the lives of the Vietnamese. Now that you know what SOFA is for you should be able to get down to business and meet your responsibilities head-on. Right?"

(PHOTO COURTESY OF PETER GOWLAND)

BUNKER BUNNY OF THE WEEK—Sex, "Do you know what I use this sofa for? Uh, uh, silly. I'm using this sofa to remind all you gentlemen of something you should be aware of—SOFA (Status of Forces Agreement). That's the agreement that helps solve problems that arise when one nation maintains troops on the territory of another. You as servicemen here in Vietnam have the responsibility to respect the laws of the host nation. Think about it the next time you 'barrel down' the road in that 'deuce-and-a-half' endangering the lives of the Vietnamese. Now that you know what SOFA is for you should be able to get down to business and meet your responsibilities head-on. Right?"

(PHOTO COURTESY OF PETER GOWLAND)

ON TOUR BY SPS. MACCLAIN



GROTTA MATH . . .

American Forces Vietnam Network—Channel 11

(Programs Subject To Change Without Notice)

(Guide For Week Of January 3-9, 1969)

Friday Jan. 3

- 1245 Turn On What's Happening
- 1428 Sign On News
- 1445 Big Valley (Re-Run)
- 1445 Dean Martin (Re-Run)
- 1445 Star Trek (Re-Run)
- 1730 Bewitched
- 1800 The Wild West
- 1900 The Monkees
- 1930 Evening News
- 2000 Weather
- 2000 Hollywood Palace
- 2100 What's Happening
- 2200 Combat
- 2200 Late News
- 2205 Friday Surprise

Saturday Jan. 4

- 1245 Turn On What's Happening
- 1328 Sign On News
- 1345 Melody Ranch
- 1435 Face Of A Nation
- 1500 Lost In Space
- 1600 Greetings From Earth
- 1700 Greetings (Re-Run)
- 1800 Nashville
- 1820 The Emperor's New Clothes (Special)
- 1930 Evening News
- 2000 Jackie Gleason
- 2050 Let's Speak Vietnamese
- 2100 What's Happening
- 2100 College Football
- 2100 Syracuse—Penn. St.
- 2100 Half Time News

Sunday Jan. 5

- 1245 Turn On What's Happening
- 1328 Sign On News
- 1345 Let's Go To The Bottom Of The Sea (Re-Run)
- 1630 Kraft Music Hall (Re-Run)
- 1730 Information Feature
- 1730 21st Century
- 1800 What's Happening
- 1830 Walt Disney
- 1930 Evening News
- 2000 The Football Scholars (Special)
- 2000 What's Happening
- 2000 Sports
- 2200 Late News
- 2205 Feature Movie

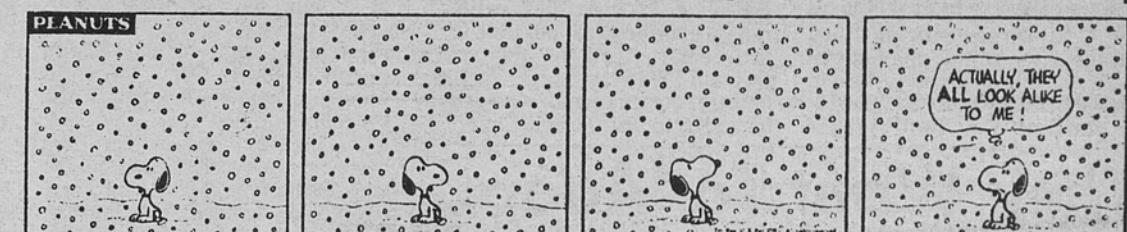
Monday Jan. 6

- 1330 Turn On What's Happening
- 1415 Sign On News
- 1415 Sports
- 1730 My Favorite Martian
- 1800 Red Skelton Hour
- 1850 Let's Speak Vietnamese
- 1900 Star Search
- 1930 Evening News
- 2000 Weather
- 2000 Kraft Music Hall
- 2100 What's Happening
- 2100 Ironside
- 2200 Late News
- 2205 Feature Movie

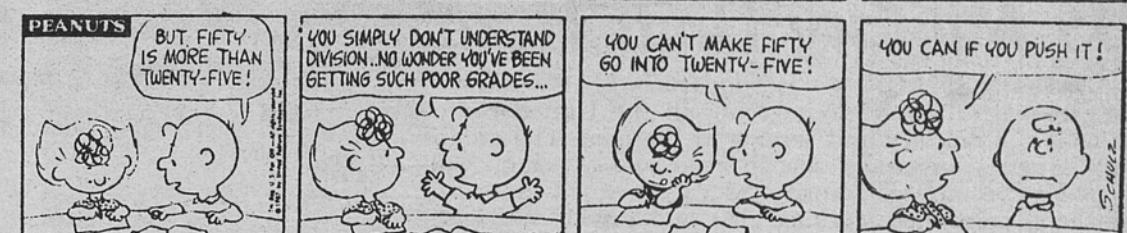
Beetle Bailey



Peanuts



By Charles M. Schulz



US-ARVN Force In Huge Operation



FIRST IN VIETNAM

THE OBSERVER

Vol. 7, No. 36

Saigon, Vietnam

January 10, 1969

Crews Praised For Impressive Record

DA NANG (USAF) — The "Spooky" crews of "A" Flight, 4th Special Operations Squadron here recently set what must stand as a Da Nang record for one night AC-47 gunship assaults against the enemy.

From the time the first scramble was sounded, and the first Spooky was launched at dusk, until the last aircraft returned to base well after dawn, the tiny unit sent 12 sorties against enemy troops in contact with friendly forces, three of them against one large enemy element.

"It sounds fantastic," said Lieutenant Colonel Wallace J. McKenzie, "A" Flight commander, "but we were launching like mad all night long."

One crew, led by Major James G. Harrod, was launched four times during the night, the

first time in support of Marine forces pinned down by an unknown size enemy force.

Another Spooky gunship, commanded by Captain Merle F. Andrews, was launched three times, twice in support of friendly forces in contact with the enemy just east of the Thuong Duc Civilian Irregular Defense Group camp.

"The Marines had reported 800 enemy troops in the open," said Captain Andrews. "They had already called in air strikes, but night had fallen when we arrived. The Marines told us to hit a sand bar by a river where the enemy was trying to cross. We made several passes."

The captain and his crew returned to the sand bar on their next launch, "sanitizing" the area for three hours to keep the enemy from crossing.

Both Major Harrod and Captain Andrews had high praise for their flight engineers, loadmasters and gunners. "We always had a gun ready to fire when the time came," said Captain Andrews, "and during the entire night, I never had a target go dark for lack of flares at the right time."

"The crew was simply great," added Major Harrod. "From their standpoint, we had four perfect missions. And four Spooky missions in one night is a lot of work!"

During the course of the night the Spooky crews raked nine enemy positions, ranging from Dong Ha south to the Thuong Duc area, and as each aircraft returned to the base, a busy ground crew, led by Staff Sergeant Riley A. Besaw, worked constantly to reload and refuel the aircraft for more launches.

Colonel McKenzie was pleased with the job turned in by his small ground unit, as well as his air crews. "Our maintenance people worked like demons to load and turn our aircraft around," he said. "Sergeant Besaw and his crew rate an A-plus for one of the most amazing jobs I've ever seen."

SAIGON (MACV) — Four American servicemen had a special Christmas dinner and one wounded soldier received \$150, thanks to Mr. Alex Ostoja Starzewski, a naturalized American citizen who lives and works in Saigon.

In a letter to General Creighton W. Abrams, COMUSMACV, Mr. Starzewski invited four servicemen to Christmas dinner at his home. He also forwarded a check for \$100 to be sent to a disabled American serviceman and his family.

He later forwarded \$50 more to the serviceman selected.

Mr. Starzewski, a former member of the Polish Secret Army during World War II, wrote, in part, "... It was a different war than the one in Vietnam, but the cause was the same — to assist other nations in their fight against aggression. The sacrifice of the American nation and the graves of American men everywhere — Africa, Normandy, Monte Casino, Korea, and now in Vietnam — are the significant sign of your greatness."

In a letter to Mr. Starzewski, General Abrams wrote, "I would like to thank you for your kind expression of support for the American forces in Vietnam. I agree that our cause in Vietnam is the same as it was in Europe."

Mr. Starzewski is employed by Page Communications Engineers, Inc., and has been in Vietnam for three years.



VROOM! — The sound of this 4.2 inch howitzer going off makes Marines of "W" Battery, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, plug their ears.

(USMC PHOTO By: Cpl. W. A. Oberg)

Marines' Special Diet Takes Weight Off Charlie

AN HOA (USMC) — The 5th Marine Regiment, ignoring all of the advertisements for weight reducing machines and diets, has initiated its own special diet. It's called "Rice Denial."

The program — sometimes called "Starvation Diet" — has been set up to deny the enemy his daily ration of rice.

Lieutenant Denver L. Newman, the civil affairs officer for the 5th Marines, has theorized that 12,000 pounds of rice will

feed a North Vietnamese (NVA) battalion for one month.

"If the calculations are even close to correct there are an awful lot of NVA and VC losing weight and grumbling about lack of food," the lieutenant commented.

Since the Marines in the An Hoa area started their Rice Denial program the enemy has lost more than 280 tons of hidden food supply.

During the latter stages of

"Operation Mameluke Thrust," the 5th Marines found caches totalling more than 122 tons of rice.

The ball kept rolling as "Operation Henderson Hill" kicked off, taking 26 tons of rice away from Charlie in the first two weeks.

The communists thought they still had an ace in the hole, but the 1st Battalion of the 5th Marines peeped that hole card when they started a five-day search of an area north of the An Hoa

DA NANG (USMC) — Joint U.S. Marine and Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) Ranger forces are conducting a multi-battalion search-and-clear operation, tabbed "Taylor Common," in the An Hoa basin and surrounding mountains approximately 19 miles southwest of Da Nang.

During the first 11 days of the operation, Marine and ARVN forces accounted for 272 enemy soldiers killed and 7 captured. The operation began in early December, with elements of the 3rd, 5th and 7th Marine Regiments under the operational control of the 1st Marine Division's Task Force Yankee. The three ARVN Ranger battalions refer to their portion of Taylor Common as "Operation Le Loi."

Task Force Yankee is commanded by Brigadier General Ross T. Dwyer Jr., assistant commander of the 1st Marine Division, and is headquartered at the An Hoa combat base.

The boundaries of Taylor Common include a mountainous area with jungle canopy ranging as high as 80 feet. The area has long been known as one in which elements of the 2nd North Vietnamese Army Division have been operating. Intelligence gained during "Operation Meade River" further substantiated much data previously gathered on enemy activity in the Taylor Common area.

The first phase of the operation involved sweeping south from the Vu Gia River through an area known as "Arizona Territory." The second phase, that of establishing fire support bases in the mountains sur-

(Continued on Back Page)

American Prisoners Released

SAIGON (MACV) — Three American prisoners of the Viet Cong were released Jan. 1. Another, held prisoner for five years, was recovered during an operation conducted by elements of the ARVN 21st Infantry Division 38 miles south-southeast of Rach Gia.

Major James N. Rowe was captured as a first lieutenant when an unknown size enemy force overran a Government outpost 13 miles northeast of Ca Mau in An Xuyen Province, Oct. 29, 1963.

At the time of his capture he was serving on temporary duty as an advisor with the 5th Special Forces Group. His con-

(Continued on Back Page)

Combat Base. The search began with a night assault on the enemy-infested area. During the assault the enemy avoided contact and took to the hills, but they left what the Marines had come for — rice.

The next morning the Leathernecks started combing the area and began finding hordes of rice above and under the ground. As the discoveries increased, the 1st Marine Division Leather-

(Continued on Back Page)

Editorial 1968 Eventful

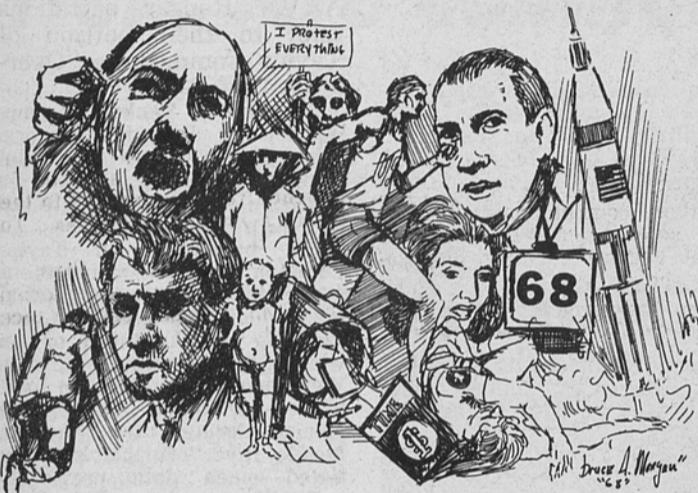
"What is past is prologue." So goes the inscription chiseled into the granite of the National Archives in Washington, D.C. And the year 1968, fortunately or unfortunately, is now a part of the past.

Whether the events of the year will, in fact, take their place in the prologue of future history, only time will tell. Certainly 1968 was an eventful year.

In the short span of its 12 months, we saw transpire events of national and international significance.

At home, we witnessed the election of a new administration to guide our country for the next four years. We were shocked by the brutal assassinations of two prominent leaders. We were subjected to the unusual, and sometimes violent, cross-currents of social and political demonstrations and given cause for serious thought regarding their basis.

We were heartened by the strides made in science and technology, the prowess of our athletes at the Olympics and the indomitable courage of our fighting men



at Khe Sanh, Hue, Pleiku and in the Delta.

We were shocked by the blatant displays of totalitarian brutality in other areas of the world that sharply indicated we must never relax our military preparedness or become complacent in our dealings with those who seek to enslave the free people of the world.

The events of 1968 could, and no doubt will, fill many volumes. The importance of these events will be studied, discussed and debated by men for generations to come.

If the events of the past year are, in fact, to become a prologue—a foreshadowing of greater events to come—we must all learn from the events of the past year and put this knowledge to full use.

We must learn from our successes and our failures to help our nation grow and prosper—fulfilling the dreams of countless past generations of Americans to make our country the bulwark of democracy and freedom, where every citizen has the opportunity to grow and succeed to the limits of his ability and a nation from which the shining light of freedom and dignity will light the dark corners of the world. (AFPS)



The OBSERVER is an authorized newspaper published weekly by the Command Information Division, Office of Information, Military Assistance Command Vietnam for United States Forces in Vietnam. Opinions expressed here do not necessarily reflect policies or positions of the Department of Defense or any of the Armed Forces. The OBSERVER, printed offset at Pacific Stars and Stripes in Tokyo, uses material from the Armed Forces Press Service, Armed Forces News Bureau and other Department of Defense agencies. Direct mail to: Editor, The OBSERVER, HQ MACV, APO 96222. The OBSERVER has a circulation of 100,000.

GEN C.W. Abrams, USA
BG W. Sidle, USA
LTC R.B. Solomon, USA
Chief, Command Information

1LT D.E. Boudreaux, USA
SFC D.D. Perez, USA
TSgt G.K. Fears, USAF
SP5 J.L. Klop, USA

Sgt E.J. Sargent, USMC
SP5 J.S. De Priest, USA
SP4 D.M. Gerrol, USA

SP4 T. Tynes, USA
PFC C.B. Feldpausch
SP5 Mac Clain, USA

Just In Case You Have Not Heard

★ ★ ★ Six States Give Bonus For Service

WASHINGTON (NAVNEWS)
— Pennsylvania has become the sixth state to enact a Vietnam bonus.

The other five states are: Illinois, Connecticut, Louisiana, Delaware and Massachusetts.

Payment of the Pennsylvania bonus, (\$25 per month for each month of service in Vietnam, up to a \$750 maximum), however, is about six months away, at which time claim forms will be available.

To be eligible for the bonus you must be eligible to wear the Vietnam Service Medal, must not have renounced your citizenship, must have in your service record a specific place in Pennsylvania listed as your residence or home of record, and must be honorably separated if not on active duty.

To obtain payment you must attach your original DD 214 (Armed Forces of the United States Record of Transfer or Discharge) to your bonus request form. DD 214's will be returned to you as soon as possible. To obtain a certified, true copy of your DD 214, in case the original has been lost, write: National Records Center, FSA, 9700 Page Blvd., St. Louis, Mo. 63132.

Bonus application forms and additional information can be obtained by writing: Adjutant General of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Harrisburg, Pa. 17120.

For other states offering bonuses, application forms and additional information may be obtained by writing the following:

Illinois Veterans' Commission, 221 West Jefferson St., Springfield, Ill. 62704.

State of Connecticut, Office of the Treasurer, Vietnam Bonus Division, 15 Lewis St., Hartford, Conn. 06115.

Louisiana Department of Veterans' Affairs, Vietnam Bonus Division, 150 North 3rd St., Baton Rouge, La. 70801.

Department of Veterans' Affairs, State of Delaware, Dover, Del. 19901.

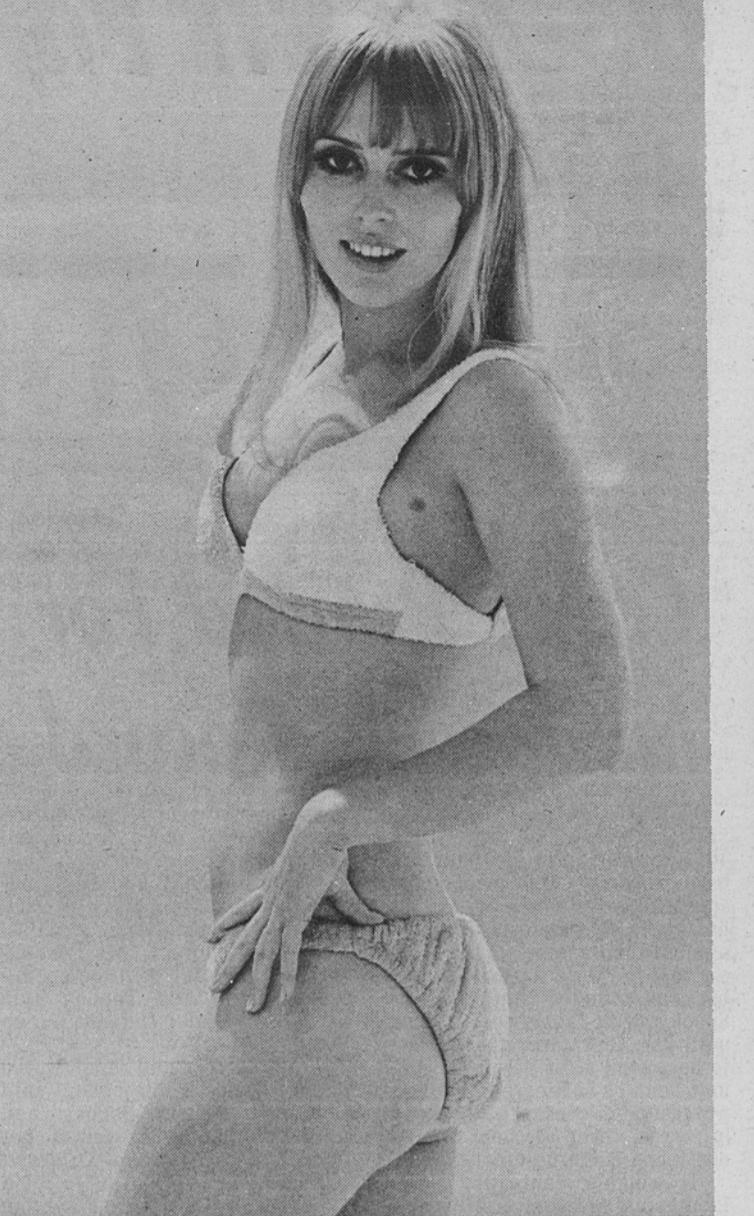
Commonwealth of Massachusetts, State Treasurer, Bonus Division, Room 227 State House, Boston, Mass. 02133.

Nod To 'Pic'

WASHINGTON (ANF) — The U.S. Army's "Big Picture," the oldest continuous documentary series on television, has received an "Emmy" award for excellence for its presentation entitled "The Song of the Soldier."

The award was presented to the Army by the Washington chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences at the chapter's eighth annual awards banquet.

A 29-minute color film, "The Song of the Soldier" features the U.S. Army Band and Army Chorus in a presentation of songs of the American soldier from the Revolutionary War to Vietnam.



EFFECTIVE NOW — "Be careful how you mail that parcel post package," says Majken Haugedal, a native of Denmark. Mike —as she likes to be called—reminds us that when we mail a package home it's subject to random fluoroscope inspection. If there's magnetic recording tape, unexposed or unprocessed film in that package, label it: "Do Not X-Ray, Contains Film (or Recording Tape)." This will keep you from putting a lot of good effort to waste, says Mike.

(PHOTO COURTESY PLAYBOY)



By ILT David E. Boudreaux

A craft that has excited many visitors to Vietnam is that of the goldsmith, or jeweler. French and American visitors have been dazzled by the jewelry arcades in Saigon, and for good reason: the Vietnamese goldsmiths have been known for their ability to copy or create any design a customer may desire.

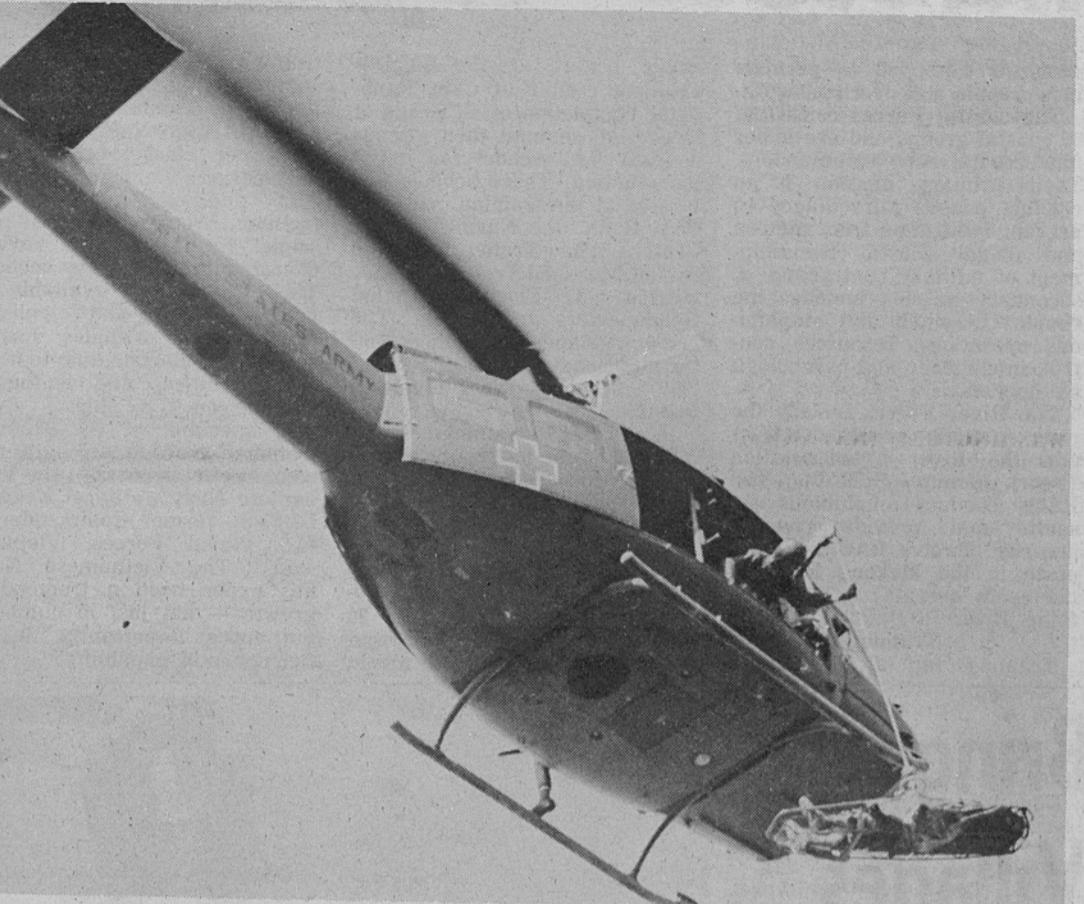
Some of the popular items created by the goldsmiths are the sets of seven bracelets, the matching sets of seven rings, and drops varying from Chinese good luck symbols to fish which are actually flexible. At the present, stones are not among the good buys in Vietnam. Almost all stones are imported already cut and polished. As a result, they are more expensive than one would expect. Some Americans have bought stones elsewhere and have had them set in Vietnam.

The war has not been kind to the crafts of Vietnam. The goldsmith craft has made its sacrifices. Labor is harder to acquire, inflation has raised the prices, and talented craftsmen are needed in the service of their country. Still the craft is surviving, and Vietnam should one day again produce the beautiful jewelry on a scale that it once did.

"Every soldier, airman, Marine and coast guard—every citizen—can be confident that he is fighting for, or supporting, aims that are consistent with the American principle of freedom of choice."

GENERAL WILLIAM C. WESTMORELAND
Chief of Staff, U.S. Army

Dust-Off Big Job In The Highlands



Dust-Off helicopter plucks wounded soldier in a litter from tangled jungle below.

CAMP ENARI (USA)—In the sprawling 12,000 square miles of rugged highlands that comprise the Ivy Division's area of operations, aeromedical evacuation meets its toughest test.

Covering the largest land area in Vietnam, the 283rd Air Ambulance Detachment in Pleiku (Dust-Off) supports not only the 4th Division, but also ARVN and local forces.

Within 10 minutes after a soldier is wounded, Dust-Off is on its way. The five-man crew is briefed in flight: "Pappa Charlie hit by mine, two ambulatory, three litter, one with severe leg wound."

On the ground, five wounded men wait. Soon the "whup-whup" of chopper blades in the distance signals help is on the way. The radio crackles, "This is Dust-Off. I see your smoke. Am approaching from the north."

"I can't say enough for the job these men are doing," commented Lieutenant Colonel John E. Persons, commanding officer of the 283rd Air Ambulance Detachment. "Nearly all my men are here on extensions." Colonel Persons has logged 5,000 hours flying time in three combat tours. "I'm on my second tour as a Dust-Off pilot and no one has died on my ship yet."

On the ground but a few seconds, Dust-Off can evacuate four litter and two ambulatory patients at a time. Once airborne, the ship becomes a flying aid station. Bandages, splints, tourniquets, a forced-air breathing apparatus and intravenous fluids are the medic's tools. In the event a Dust-Off ship is forced down, the medic is equipped with emergency suture and tracheotomy kits. The medic knows

what he is doing. He's done it all before.

A trip to the hospital in Pleiku may be too long for the seriously wounded patient. "Because of the time-distance factor in this part of Vietnam, we make systematic use of doctors along the way," said Lieutenant Colonel Carl Stracener, 4th Division surgeon. "We have fully-equipped clearing companies at Dak To and the Oasis where a team of three doctors provides every medical need, including blood, X-rays and emergency surgery."

"During the battle of Dak To, not one soldier who made it to the 4th Medical Battalion clearing company died on the way to the hospital," Colonel Stracener added.

Next stop for the seriously wounded man is the 71st Evacuation Hospital in Pleiku. The 400-bed complex boasts of more than 60 doctors, every one a specialist—from neurosurgeons to physical therapists.

Dust-Off can deliver the most seriously-wounded man from any spot in the Central Highlands to 71st Evac in less than two hours.

While under heavy enemy fire, Dust-Off once shuttled 60 patients from Firebase 29 to the clearing station at Dak To within 30 minutes.

Dust-Off is more than a helicopter. It is a specialized crew on whose performance hang the frail threads of an injured man's life.

Dust-Off is 75 missions and 140 patients a week. It is an injured Montagnard warrior whose wife and children go along to the hospital.

Dust-Off can be a C-47 flare ship, lighting the area for a night pick-up, or it can be a gunship accompanying the evacuation chopper, a gunship whose very presence keeps the enemy from revealing his positions.

Dust-Off is a hoist mission, a basket lowered 250 feet into the jungle while the chopper hovers, a motionless target for 10 dangerous and dramatic minutes.

Dust-Off is a mission of mercy because a fellow soldier needs help quickly. It is the unseen ingredient that makes a pilot go in for a pick-up when he knows he may never climb above those trees again. But he does go in and he does save lives.

"Aeromedical evacuation has proven to be one of the greatest life-saving tools available to any commander," concluded Colonel Stracener.

Cycles Make Clean Sweeps

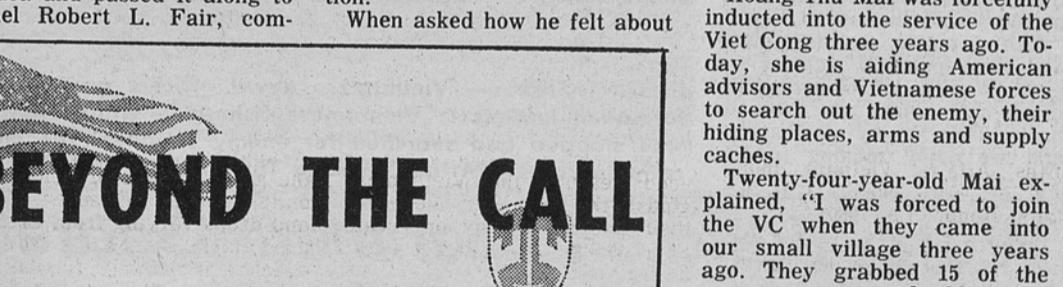
TAY NINH (USA) — Two small motorcycles, formerly owned by the Viet Cong, have been put to good use by elements of the 1st Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division. Roads are then swept for mines more quickly than ever before.

Six more motorcycles have been ordered through military supply channels.

Company B, 4th Battalion, 23rd Infantry sweeps a road in one-third the time it used to take on foot.

The cyclist is an infantryman with prior experience in riding motorcycles. He wears a helmet, a flak jacket and carries an M-16. When a suspicious object is found, the driver dismounts and signals for the demolition team to take the necessary action.

When asked how he felt about



Tobin, Thomas W. CPT USA
Voelkel, Robert L. CPT USA
Watson, Victor M. MSG USA *2

CUA VIET (USMC) — A young Vietnamese woman from a small village south of here is waging her own private war against the Viet Cong.

Hoang Thu Mai was forcefully inducted into the service of the Viet Cong three years ago. Today, she is aiding American advisors and Vietnamese forces to search out the enemy, their hiding places, arms and supply caches.

Twenty-four-year-old Mai explained, "I was forced to join the VC when they came into our small village three years ago. They grabbed 15 of the younger women and told us that if we did not help them, we would be killed and our families would suffer harm."

Her job with the Viet Cong

terrorists was to pick up wounded or lost VC and to

serve as a guide and liaison for them.

When American and South Vietnamese forces moved into her village, she turned herself in. She's been active in helping to destroy the Viet Cong infrastructure in the area. Armed with the knowledge of the VC hiding places, arms and supply caches.

Army Captain Ted L. Baldwin, military advisor for the Vietnamese Regional Forces operating in the area, said, "Hoang Thu Mai was one of the first VC to come over to our side when we began operations in this area. She has guided us to innumerable VC food and arms caches and has identified several members of the VC infrastructure living in nearby villages."

DA NANG (USMC) — A combat photographer proved that he is capable of doing more than just taking pictures during a combat situation as he risked his life to save another Marine in action 11 miles south of here.

Sergeant Wendell J. Hall, a photographer with the 1st Marine Division was attached to H Company, 2nd Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment when the action took place.

The photographer checked to see where the fire was coming from, then crawled to the wounded man.

When Sergeant Hall reached the Marine, he patched up the wound, then dragged him back to safety.

Against The VC

She Has Private War

When American and South Vietnamese forces moved into her village, she turned herself in. She's been active in helping to destroy the Viet Cong infrastructure in the area. Armed with the knowledge of the VC hiding places, arms and supply caches.

Hoang Thu Mai was forcefully inducted into the service of the Viet Cong three years ago. Today, she is aiding American advisors and Vietnamese forces to search out the enemy, their hiding places, arms and supply caches.

Twenty-four-year-old Mai explained, "I was forced to join the VC when they came into our small village three years ago. They grabbed 15 of the younger women and told us that if we did not help them, we would be killed and our families would suffer harm."

Her job with the Viet Cong

terrorists was to pick up wounded or lost VC and to

serve as a guide and liaison for them.

When Sergeant Hall reached the Marine, he patched up the wound, then dragged him back to safety.

Pot Means Go To Jail

SAIGON (MACV) — Cases have been reported of American servicemen in Vietnam carrying marijuana to R&R and leave sites. Many are being apprehended and the penalties are stiff.

In a recent case, one serviceman was arrested and charged by Hong Kong authorities with importation and possession of the weed. The suspect pleaded guilty to both charges.

He was found guilty and sentenced to five months imprisonment for the charge of importation and, concurrently, sentenced to three months imprisonment on the possession charge. The sentence is to be served in the Chi Ma Wan Prison, Lantau Island, Hong Kong, with one-third remittance of sentence for good behavior.

RVN Navy Increases Capability

SAIGON (MACV) — In its 14 years of existence, the Vietnamese Navy (VNN) has expanded from a small cadre to a well-trained force of 14,000 officers and enlisted men.

When the French withdrew from Vietnam in 1954, the Vietnamese naval forces consisted of 14 ships and six Dinassauts (river assault groups). By the end of 1967 this force had increased to 41 patrol ships, 24 logistics ships, 232 river assault group craft, 290 junks and 52 support craft.

During June 1968, VNN acquired four U.S. Navy "Swift" boats, six landing craft configured for minesweeping, and eight PBRs (river patrol boats). With the acquisition of the six minesweeping craft, the Vietnamese Navy assumed responsibility for clearing mines from the Dong Nai and Long Tau

Rivers, the major shipping channels between Saigon and the South China Sea.

Major commands

The VNN is composed of three major commands: the Fleet Command, Coastal Forces and River Forces. Operational control is vested in the respective commanders of the Corps Tactical Zones.

The Fleet Command includes "blue water" ships of the VNN and is organized into two flotillas — the Patrol Flotilla and the Logistic Flotilla. The Patrol Flotilla carries out offshore patrols and gunfire support for coastal groups or other units requiring assistance, psychological operations, light logistics and transportation of combat elements.

The Logistic Flotilla supports naval units and bases throughout Vietnam and includes the YR-24, a floating workshop

which is equipped to perform most repair and overhaul work.

The Coastal Forces consist of 25 coastal groups and are under four coastal zone commanders. Their primary mission is to conduct coastal surveillance to prevent infiltration from the sea and illegal coastal transshipment of military contraband. A secondary mission includes the support of small unit amphibious operations, resources control, intelligence and psychological operations.

The River Forces include the river assault groups (RAGs) and the River Transportation Escort Group (RTEG). The RAGs conduct amphibious assaults and provide riverine security. Twelve RAG units operate in the Mekong Delta, a thirteenth operates on the Perfume River in Hue.

Training

Training for a Vietnamese

sailor begins at the Recruit Training Center at Cam Ranh. After completion of 12 weeks of basic, the seaman then attends a Class "A" school for initial job training. These schools are located at the training center at Cam Ranh; the Naval Training Center, Nha Trang; and the Naval Advanced Training Center located at Fleet Command Headquarters in Saigon. The Naval Advanced Training Center also conducts Class "B" and "C" schools for advanced training.

In addition to training centers, a basic on-the-job training program is also set up for use on board ship.

Naval Academy

The Vietnamese Naval Academy is located at Nha Trang. Midshipmen are trained at the academy for a period of 24 months. Two classes of approximately 130 students each are

training simultaneously. Midshipmen may specialize in either line (command) or engineering. Approximately 30 students per class specialize in engineering.

In addition to in-country training, Vietnamese naval personnel receive a wide variety of training in U.S. Navy schools. This training is available to both officer and enlisted trainees and includes formal schooling, indoctrination tours of U.S. facilities, and on-the-job training on U.S. ships.

In speaking of the efficient training, growing strength and combat effectiveness of the Vietnamese Navy, Admiral Kenneth L. Veth, former Commander of U.S. Naval Forces, Vietnam, said, "The Vietnamese Navy has experienced a tremendous growth — not just in numbers, but more importantly, in efficiency and capability."

'Driving' Theater Brings Fun, Education To Villages

CAMP ENARI (USA) — Does a drive-in movie in the Central Highlands sound unbelievable?

Maybe a driving theater would be easier to imagine and a better description of First Lieutenant Richard Sarno's mobile audio-visual van. Assigned to Company B, 8th Psychological Operations Battalion, Lieutenant Sarno and Specialist 4 Jack Coady work with the 4th Infantry Division and various civic action teams to coordinate the showing of movies to eager audiences in area villages.

Resembling a neighborhood

ice cream truck and having the same impact on the Montagnard and Vietnamese villagers, the truck enters a village amid applause and laughter. Within 10 minutes Lieutenant Sarno has the projector warmed up and Specialist Coady has finished raising the screen. As the darkness provided by tarpaulins and blankets hanging from trees and stakes is pierced by the first glimpses of a cartoon character, the audience bounces with laughter.

"Cartoons seem to have a universal appeal," explained

Lieutenant Sarno. "Language poses no barrier when Mickey Mouse is on the screen."

"We have been working with the 4th Division for over a month and have shown about 100 movies to approximately 10,000 people," said Specialist Coady. "We have averaged about 90 per cent of the population of each village at each showing."

In order to meet the problem of differences in language from village to village, the team uses taped explanations of the movie in conjunction with the film. When tape is not available a translator may be used to interpret the message of the movie.

The versatility of the van does not end with movies. The van carries a slide projector, tape recorder, AM/FM radio, a polaroid camera and its own generator.

"Taped music and tapes of their voices also fascinate these people," said Lieutenant Sarno.

"With a movie, a little music and some polaroid pictures we give them a lot of entertainment and some education to boot. They enjoy themselves and we enjoy making friends with them."



INFORMATION — Vietnamese naval officers pass out information leaflets to Vietnamese fishermen whose sampan was stopped and searched for enemy supplies. The ship's crew searches craft on the Long Tau River. (USN PHOTO)

VI THANH (MACV) — When families of Regional and Popular Forces (RF/PF) refugees in Chuong Thien Province are in trouble, chances are they will go directly to Mrs. Le Minh Dao, wife of the province chief.

Mrs. Dao is president of the Chuong Thien Province Officers Wives Club, a group devoted to the betterment of RF/PF fam-

ilies and all others in the province whose lives have been touched by tragedy.

For example, the wife of a RF soldier killed in combat claimed his body but had no funds to take the body to their family burying plot in Long Xuyen.

She would, of course, get funds from the Republic of Vietnam, but there were forms to fill out and the wife could hardly read or write.

The Officers Wives Club came to her rescue.

The woman was given advance funds to take her husband's body home for burial and was later helped in filling out the necessary papers to get gratuity funds.

The Club operates a tailor and barber shop and the proceeds go to further the club's efforts.

Each morning a committee from the club shops for food and then travels to one of four districts in the province where the members prepare and serve a meal for refugees or simply poor people who cannot help themselves.

Two of the best friends of the Officers Wives Club are MACV Advisory Team 58 here and Lieutenant Nghiêm Phu Cuong, S-5 for Chuong Thien Province.

The advisors helped the women procure pots, pans and other cooking utensils for their community kitchen, while Lieutenant Cuong has helped them cut through official red tape to initiate and keep going their many charitable projects.

9th Unveils New Effort

DONG TÂM (USA) — Helping the Vietnamese to help themselves is the aim of a new medical program molded by the 9th Infantry Division's 9th Medical Battalion.

Coordinating with the district chiefs of Long Dinh and Chan Thanh Districts, the Medical Battalion is training Vietnamese citizens in some basic medical skills.

The desired goal of this program is to increase the medical capability of the districts involved and increase the villagers' confidence in the Vietnamese personnel who work in local dispensaries," explained Captain Robert J. Hermannutz, executive officer for Company A.

Several Vietnamese are participating in the first course consisting of training in patient care and treatment, use of painkillers, preventive medicine, sanitation and animal care.

Experts from three countries are trying to save one sick water buffalo at the Pasteur Institute at Nha Trang.

If they save it they might save all the water buffalo they use as hosts to prepare smallpox vaccine for all of Vietnam.

Involved in the project are Dr. Nguyen Van Liem, a veterinarian from the Pasteur Institute in Saigon; Michele Jullien, a French microbiologist with the World Health Organization who is now assisting the Pasteur Institute as a vaccine controller, and Captain George R. McCahan Jr., veterinarian for the 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) in Nha Trang.

The advisors helped the women procure pots, pans and other cooking utensils for their community kitchen, while Lieutenant Cuong has helped them cut through official red tape to initiate and keep going their many charitable projects.

Recently Dr. Liem and Miss Jullien called Captain McCahan

and asked for his assistance in helping save the lives of the water buffalo which help save the lives of so many through smallpox prevention.

Enough vaccine can be made from a single animal to protect 200,000 Vietnamese for a year from smallpox. All the smallpox vaccine for Vietnam comes from the Pasteur Institute at Nha Trang.

Each month Pasteur Institute personnel scrape clear the abdomens of about 15 water-buffalo. The exposed skin is infected with cowpox, which grows on the flesh of the animal for about four days. It is scraped off and processed into smallpox vaccine for human immunization.

"This is just an experiment and we aren't sure it will work," he said. "Even if it doesn't, we'll learn what not to try next time. If it does work, we'll save a lot of useful animals."

After the cowpox had been scraped, the institute had no

practical way to save the weakened and infected animals.

"In a year we spend two million piasters for water buffalo. If we can save the buffalo they will be useful again for reproduction and working in the fields."

"What we are trying to do," said Captain McCahan, "is replace the body fluids of the animal with a saline solution and at the same time inject enough antibiotics in the solution to prevent general infection on the animal after it has been scraped of cowpox."

"This is just an experiment and we aren't sure it will work," he said. "Even if it doesn't, we'll learn what not to try next time. If it does work, we'll save a lot of useful animals."

After the cowpox had been scraped, the institute had no



Before painting, rough edges of stove must be filed down.



Worker starts to cut into top of stove to create legs, grill.



A member of the Labor Office installs the wick mechanism into the base of a stove.

Hot Idea: Keg To Stove

TAY NINH (USA) — Creating jobs in South Vietnam is a problem confronted by most province officials. The Labor Office in Tay Ninh recently came up with an idea to help solve their problem. By using a waste product of war, jobs could be created, and the poor people of Hiep-Anh hamlet would gain useful household appliances.

During early November 1968, Vo Van Sua and Le Thanh Cuu of the Tay Ninh Labor Office requested from the civil affairs officer of the 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, damaged 175mm powder canisters.

"I was a little apprehensive at first, knowing that a metal canister can be made into a weapon of war. I was curious as to how they could be made into implements of peace," said Major Clarence De Young, 1st Brigade civil affairs officer.

Vo Van Sua then proceeded to explain to Major De Young the objectives of his request by showing him a stove he made from a 175mm canister. Sua then demonstrated how one canister can be cut into two pieces, creating a base and a top for a useful Vietnamese stove.

The stove will be used for household cooking. The excess metal could be used for drain pipes, construction pillars or metal sheeting. Sua stated that he could hire 20 Vietnamese laborers through the Labor Office and pay them with profits from the sale of the stoves on the open market. Each stove will sell for 400 piasters (\$3.40). The 400 piasters will not only cover the laborers' wages, but pay for paint and the wick-filter mechanism that each stove requires. The wick-filter mechanism has to be purchased on the local economy. Many of the stoves will also be given to the poor of Hiep-Anh hamlet.

"Their request showed much planning and ingenuity," commented Major De Young. "The important thing was that they were helping themselves. All they needed from us were the canisters. I was all for it."

Permission to give damaged canisters for this special-purpose project was granted by USARV Headquarters, and 1,343 damaged canisters were picked up by Tay Ninh Labor Office officials.

Of the 1,343 stoves made, approximately 800 will be given to the poor of Hiep-Anh hamlet. The other 543 will be sold to cover workers' wages and material costs.



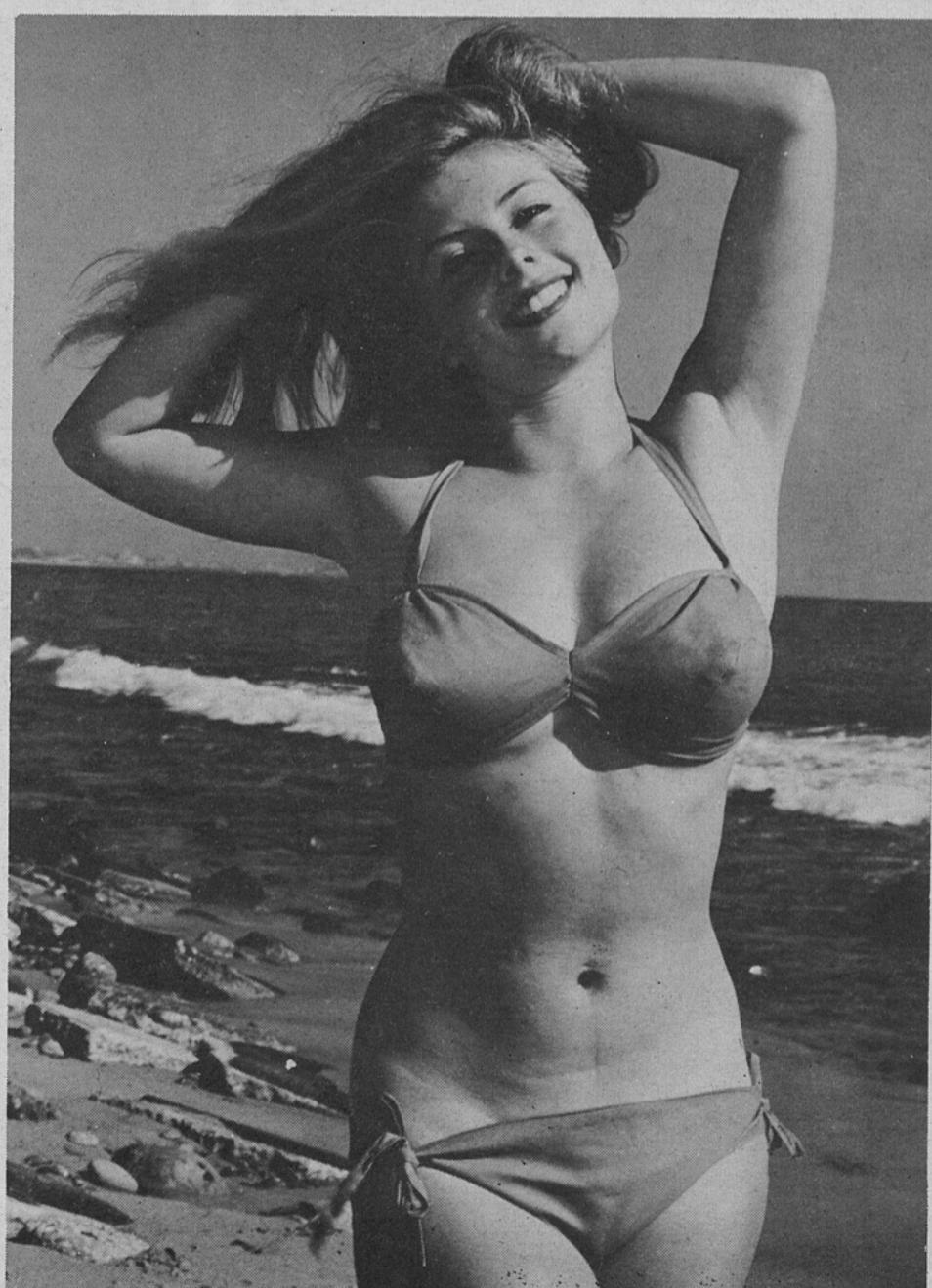
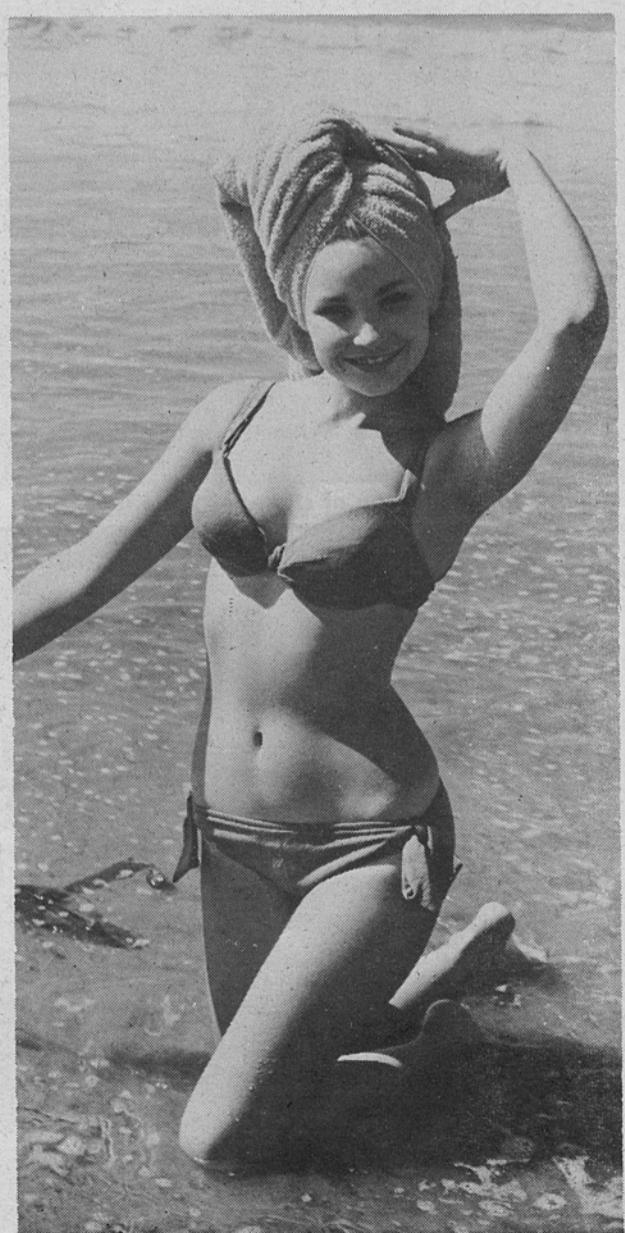
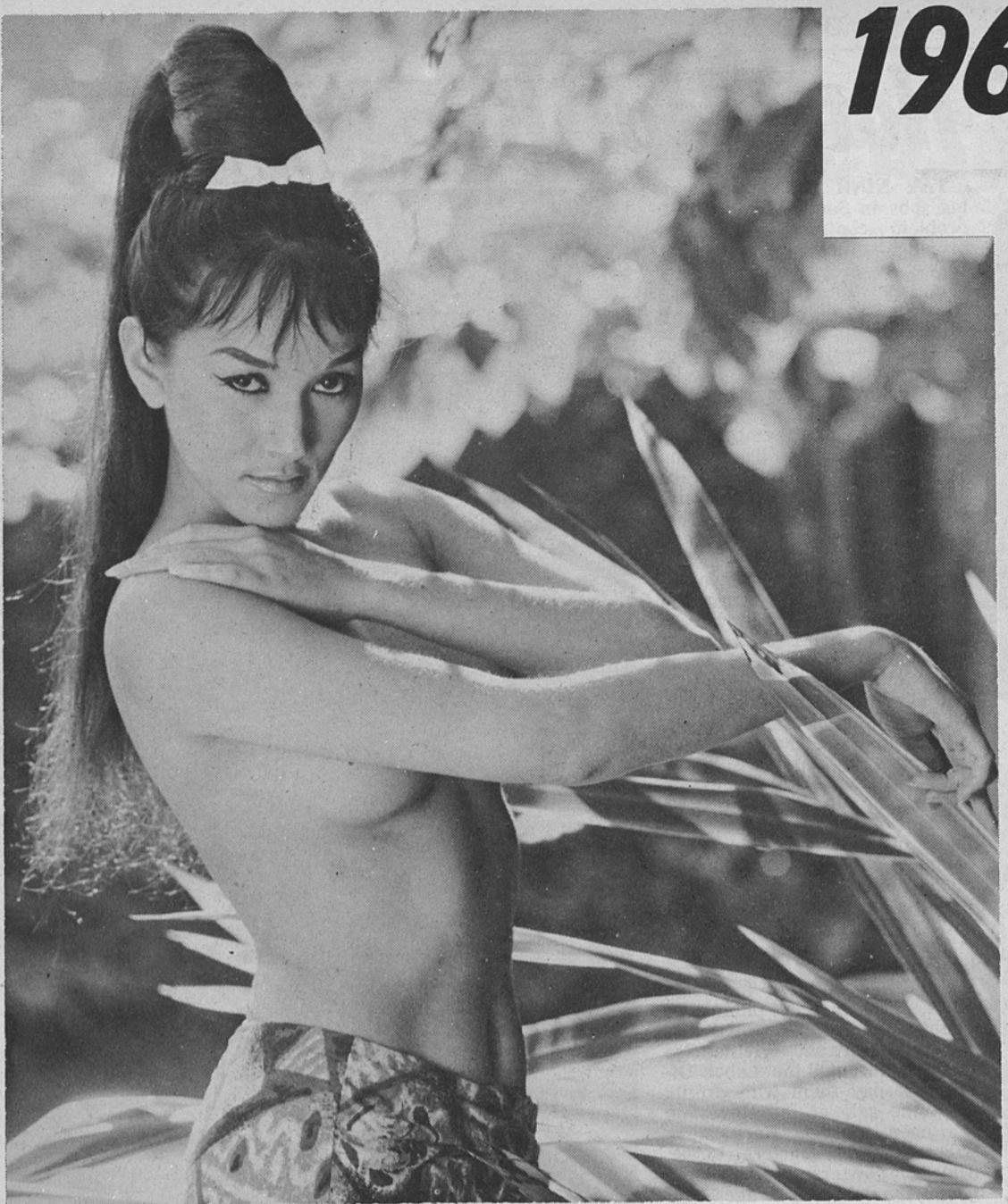
Story & Photos

By
CPT Les Raschko



This young worker molds the legs and grill work of stove.

1968 Bunker Bunnies Pass In Review



Waters Of Dak Ayunh Have Air Of Mystery

CAMP ENARI (USA) — The Dak Ayunh River is born in the foothills north of Highway 19 and nourished by numerous Central Highland streams as it rushes south, then east, to the South China Sea.

Historically, it has been an avenue of water transportation for Viet Minh forces during the French-Indochinese War and, more recently, for Viet Cong and NVA units.

Today, the waters of the Dak Ayunh retain much of their mysterious aura.

Shaded by overhanging, matted, jungle terrain, the river's regular flow is interrupted by fallen trees, hidden snags, seemingly bottomless whirl-pools and treacherous eddies.

There are also signs of man's presence. Enemy bridges, bunkers and landing facilities are plentiful. Their existence presents a direct threat to the surrounding areas and to 4th Division convoys, laden with supplies, using Highway 19.

For the 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry, whose mission it is to see that the Highway 19 lifeline remains open, a Long Range Patrol (LRP) assault platoon, accompanied by elements of the 4th Engineer Battalion, at-

tempts to keep the river free of enemy activity.

Acrobatic and aquatic skill, coupled with exacting teamwork, characterize the Cavalry's LRP platoon, commanded by First Lieutenant John Morales.

At the sight of an enemy bridge or bunker complex, the rubber assault rafts are steered to shore and tethered.

Like clockwork, the LRP platoon fans out to secure the area as engineers plant demolition; then, as stealthily as they had landed, they depart.

Sometimes the tactical situation demands disassembling the bridge by hand.

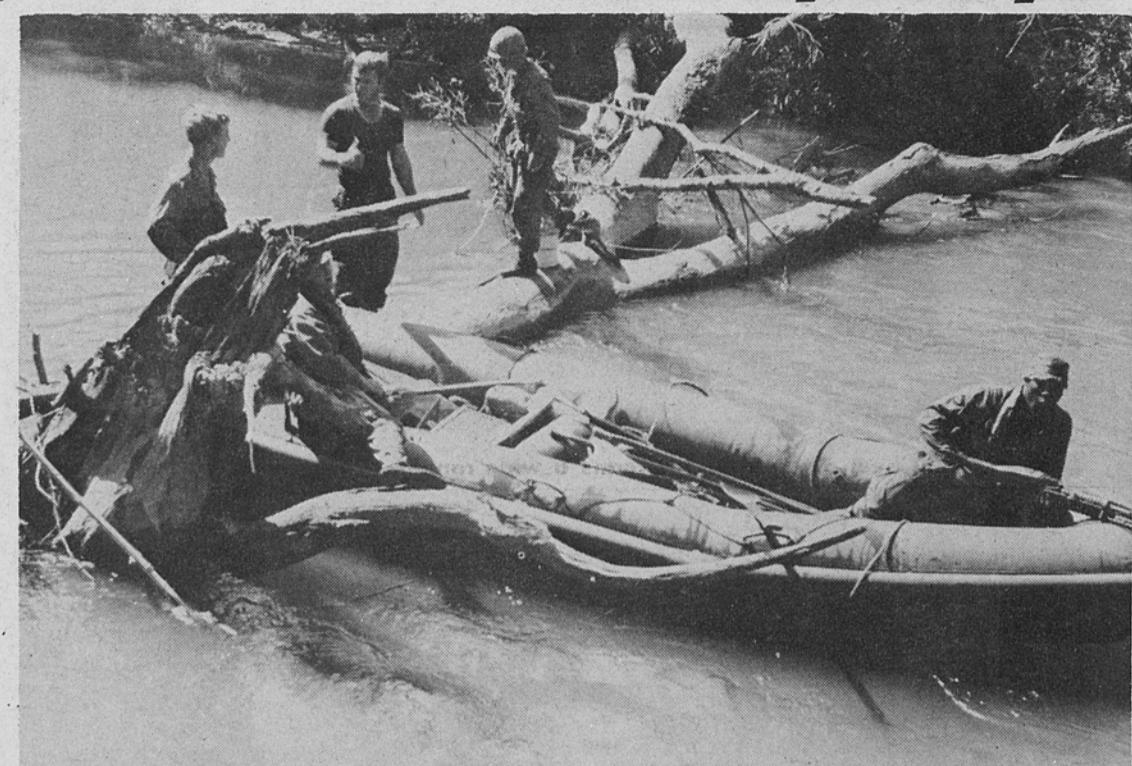
The LRP team swims out and, while bracing one another, undo all reinforcing components until the span falls limply into the water and is washed downstream.

In a day's assault, no bridge or fallen tree is left jointed. Those targets too large to handle by conventional means are plotted for artillery fire.

To date, the LRP river assault unit has destroyed numerous landing zone areas and enemy bunker complexes as well as many bamboo-type bridges. "Our activities," said Lieutenant Morales, "keep Charlie off balance."



Soldiers approach enemy bridge spanning the Dak Ayunh.



As one man keeps watch for the Viet Cong, other soldiers prepare to destroy enemy bridge.



Ivymen prepare to do some damage to the enemy's travel route on the river bank.

Story by PFC John Uhlar (USA)
Photos by SSG Frank Madison (USA)



4th Infantry Division soldiers float down the Dak Ayunh River in the Central Highlands. The ivymen had to watch for obstacles which might damage their raft.



This special fleet of choppers performs a wide range of missions. (USA PHOTO)

Marine Civic Action Program Does Battle Against Illiteracy

DA NANG (USMC) — Shadowed by the guns and tanks of military conflict, the Marine Force Logistic Command's (FLC) Civil Affairs Section is fighting a quiet war—a war of pacification.

One of the battles in the war of pacification is against illiteracy. More than 45,000 Vietnamese live in the Command's civic action area of responsibility and more than 20,000 are refugees from areas tormented by Viet Cong terrorists.

Many of the area's schools are completely dependent upon civic action support. Books, blackboards, furniture, pencils and tablets are contributed to the schools by the Marines.

More than 120 Vietnamese youngsters from the Command's civic action area attend school with the aid of General Walt Scholarships. The 500-piaster scholarships are awarded to children who would otherwise be unable to attend school.

The emphasis is on self-help. Provided the means to help themselves, the villagers in this civic action area have maintained a miraculous continued enthusiasm.

To qualify for the program, named after General Lewis W. Walt (presently assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps and former commander of Marines in Vietnam), youngsters must show promise as future leaders. Precedence is given to dependents of Vietnamese servicemen killed in action. Money for the program is furnished from the Marine Corps Reserve

Vietnamese national law requires that all children attend the first three grades of school. The law is enforced only in areas where schools are available.

To thousands of refugees living near the Force Logistic Command at Camp Books, education is a gift—a gift that is the product of the Command's Civic Action Section's battle against illiteracy.

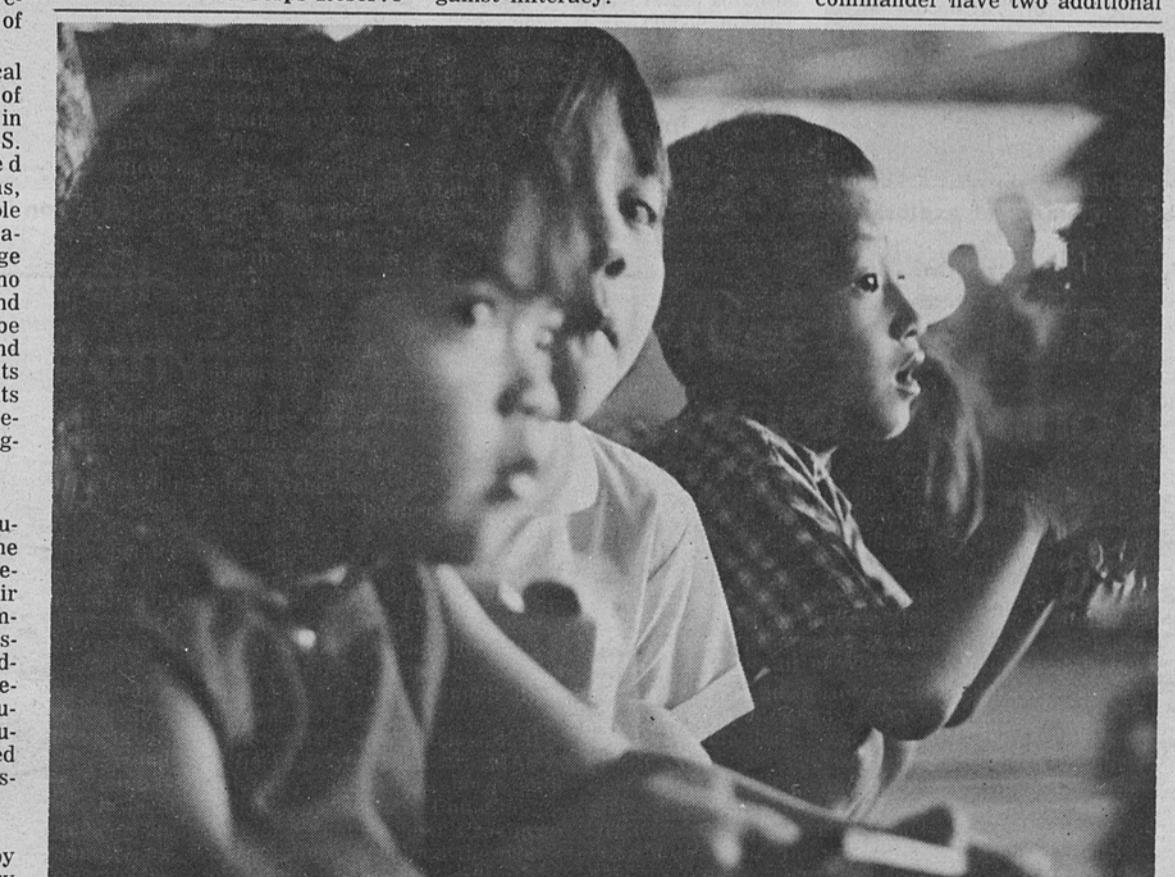
Vietnamese district medical officials had noted the lack of trained medical personnel in the hamlets and villages. U.S. Army medics have helped through civic action programs, but they often are not available during emergencies or in situations which require long-range treatment. The trainees, who are soldiers of the Regional and Popular Forces, will now be able to give emergency and follow-up treatment to patients in their villages. The students have also been trained to prevent disease among the villagers.

Studies

During their studies, the students stayed at Di An with the American units that were responsible for security in their particular hamlets. For example, men from the Di An district stayed with the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry, which is responsible for the district's security. This allowed for the students to become acquainted with U.S. personnel who will assist them later.

Classes

The classes were given by medics from the 1st Infantry Division's 1st Medical Battalion at Di An. Major Joseph Taitano, 2nd Brigade Civil Affairs officer, provided texts for the students to consult during their new assignments.



PARTY—Vietnamese children intently watch the entertainment at a Christmas party held recently at the Trai Phan Dinh Phuong Ordnance compound in Cholon. The party was for Vietnamese Army dependent children and was cosponsored by the Vietnamese Ordnance unit and the U.S. Advisory Division. It involved some 2,500 children.

(MACV PHOTO By: SP5 Joseph DePriest)

'Things Happen' With Imagination

CU CHI (USA) — A few years back, about 400 B.C., a man said, "Necessity is the mother of invention." If Plato was right, then imagination is the father of invention.

Only when the need and a feasible idea come together do things really start to happen.

Several recent projects in the 25th Infantry Division's 2nd Brigade have begun to come to light which indicate significant advances for the fighting man.

In particular these projects are in three specific areas: communications, aviation and psychological operations (PSYOPS); and in one way or another, all three seem to be interwoven.

Lieutenant Colonel Vincent Oddi, commanding officer of the 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry, proposed an idea while serving as 2nd Brigade executive officer, that could make illumination of the battlefield an easy task.

Headlamp
The device is a simple 24 volt battery-powered headlamp that gives surprising illumination.

"This system is capable of giving immediate light, especially suited for perimeter defense," said Major Paul Sposito, on whom the task of refining the device fell. "It can be placed over 50 meters away from the man who controls it by means of a cable and a switch."

The small device is under study and limited in use to the brigade now. With some further refinements, it may soon appear throughout Vietnam.

Because battalion commanders who make use of the brigade's light observation helicopters (LOH) have asked for greater communications capabilities with both ground troops and higher headquarters, the brigade's comm staff developed a new antenna system for the LOH.

The artillery liaison and the commander have two additional

nets now available through the addition of three RPC 77 section antennae along the skids of the aircraft.

The commander now has the ARC 54 AM and FM unit in front of the aircraft plus the two in the rear—new high in communications.

Four Aircraft
Four aircraft capable of a half-dozen distinct missions mark the new capability of the 2nd Brigade aviation.

Those missions: Rocket ship, minigun ship, people sniffer, PSYOPS speaker ship and leaflet drop, command and control ship and emergency resupply and passenger ship.

All these systems have existed in Army aviation for some time, but this is the first complete fleet assembled with such vast warfare capabilities.

First Lieutenant Curt Pradelt, brigade PSYOPS officer, and Sergeant First Class Antonio Ruclas, recently have produced two systems to reach the Vietnamese civilians with the allied story.

Backpack
One is a small, compact backpack with a 500 meter minimum range.

The system, weighing approximately 30 pounds, is the first of its kind to be contained in a single unit. Battery life is anticipated to be over 100 hours.

Lieutenant Pradelt also has put together a speaker unit to be carried by the LOH which provides mass coverage from the air in combination with leaflet drops.

Both systems have already accounted for dozens of Hoi Chanhs who rallied to American and ARVN forces. The systems are being tested in other divisions for further use.

It's still a question of imagination and necessity. Because the Army doesn't issue it, that doesn't mean you can't get it. There is an answer: do it yourself.

Self-Help Is In Full Swing

DA NANG (USMC) — "Marine, I'd rather do it myself!"

With that independent attitude, Project Self-Help is in full swing at Nghi-An hamlet near Da Nang.

The villagers have taken over much of the reconstruction of schools, homes, and businesses formerly handled jointly by Marines of Maintenance Battalion, Force Logistic Command, and the villagers.

"We used to supply materials and help in the construction of new buildings," said Corporal Ronald Dahl, NCOIC of the battalion's Civil Affairs section. "We supply the hamlet with salvaged and unserviceable materials—which we can't use anyway—and they are eager to do the rest."

The latest self-help project for Nghi-An hamlet is the construction of two classrooms to the presently over-crowded elementary school.

"The school only goes to the third grade now," said Dahl. "With the addition of the new classrooms, hamlet children will be able to complete their elementary education."

Navy Frogmen Keep Da Nang Harbor Clear



A satchel charge, armed and ready, is tied to the floating obstacle.

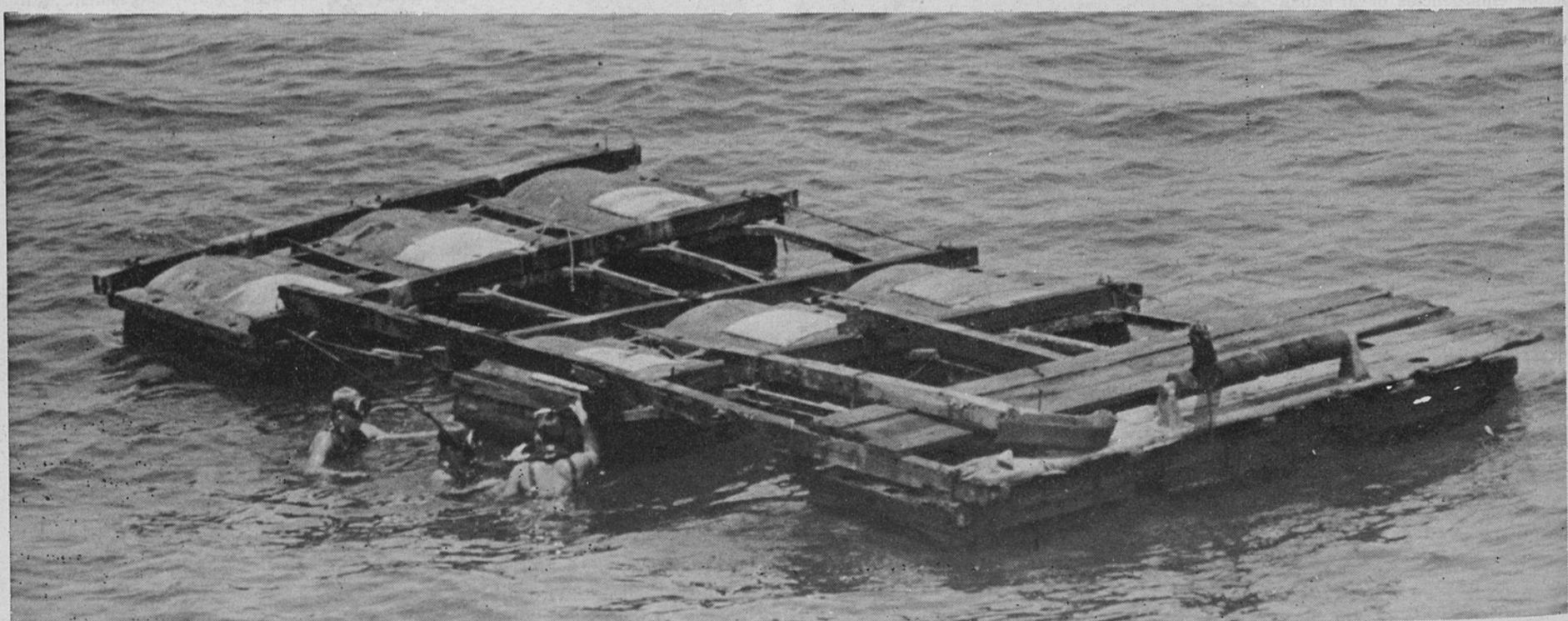


Frogman checks for best possible placement of explosive.

Story by Ensign David Flucht (USN)
Photos by USN



The pontoon bridge section is reduced to splinters.



Members of Underwater Demolition Team 11 inspect the floating segment of a pontoon bridge for possible mines and booby traps.

SAIGON (USN) — "They've spotted something floating near the Tripoli. We might have to blow it."

Lieutenant (junior grade) John Wenger, officer-in-charge of Underwater Demolition Team Eleven's Detachment Foxtrot, sets his frogmen into motion. The highly-trained swimmers disembark their home ship, USS Ogden, and ride a small rubber raft to the floating object.

As the team warily approaches the raft-like object, they check for booby traps and mines. The object appears to be a portion of a pontoon bridge.

Whatever it is, it now poses a navigational hazard for the U.S. Navy and commercial ships operating near the Da Nang harbor. It must be destroyed.

It is found that each of the pontoon barrels is filled with styrofoam. Multiple satchel charges with high-velocity fuses must be set in order to destroy the obstacle.

The powerful plastic explosive is set to go off 10 minutes later. When the explosion occurs, it is seen, then heard. Nothing but splinters remain of the floating object.

Story by Ensign David Flucht (USN)
Photos by USN

ON TOUR BY SPC XAC CLAIN



SIR, WILL YOU WATCH SUIT CASE FOR 3 MINUTES 37 SECONDS...

American Forces Vietnam Network - Channel 11

(Programs Subject To Change Without Notice)
(Guide For Week Of January 10-16, 1969)

Friday Jan. 10

- 1330 Turn On
- 1413 What's Happening
- 1415 Sign On News
- 1430 Big Valley (Re-Run)
- 1530 Dean Martin (Re-Run)
- 1630 Star Trek (Re-Run)
- 1730 The Greenies
- 1820 Wild Wild West
- 1900 Bewitched
- 1930 Evening News
- 2000 Weather
- 2035 Hollywood Palace
- 2100 What's Happening
- 2200 Late News
- 2205 Friday Surprise

Saturday Jan. 11

- 1230 Turn On
- 1313 What's Happening
- 1315 Sign On News
- 1330 American Golf Classic
- 1315 Special
- 1430 Gunsmoke (Re-Run)
- 1733 Hazel
- 1800 Nashville, Vietnam
- 1830 Special
- 1930 Evening News
- 2000 Jackie Gleason
- 2050 Let's Speak Vietnamese
- 2100 What's Happening
- 2130 Sports
- 2130 Halftime News

Sunday Jan. 12

- 1230 Turn On
- 1313 What's Happening
- 1315 Sign On News
- 1330 Red Skelton Hour (Re-Run)
- 1430 Kraft Music Hall (Re-Run)
- 1430 Ironside (Re-Run)
- 1530 21st Century Feature
- 1730 Window On Vietnam
- 1830 In Town Tonight
- 1830 Walt Disney
- 1930 Evening News
- 2000 Special
- 2100 Let's Speak Vietnamese
- 2100 What's Happening
- 2130 Sports
- 2130 Halftime News

Monday Jan. 13

- 1330 Turn On
- 1413 What's Happening
- 1415 Sign On News
- 1430 Wild Wild West (Re-Run)
- 1530 Jackie Gleason (Re-Run)
- 1630 Combat (Re-Run)

Wednesday Jan. 15

- 1330 Turn On
- 1413 What's Happening
- 1415 Sign On News
- 1430 Auto Racing
- 1730 Pentagon Forum
- 1800 Carol Burnett Show
- 1900 Strawberry, Four
- 1930 Weather
- 2000 Weather
- 2005 Operation: Entertainment
- 2100 What's Happening
- 2200 Late News
- 2205 Feature Movie

Thursday Jan. 16

- 1330 Turn On
- 1413 What's Happening
- 1415 Sign On News
- 1430 Sports
- 1730 My Favorite Martian
- 1800 Red Skelton Hour
- 1850 Let's Speak Vietnamese
- 1900 Benji
- 1930 Benjamin News
- 2000 Weather
- 2005 Kraft Music Hall
- 2100 What's Happening
- 2130 Ironside
- 2200 Late News
- 2205 Feature Movie

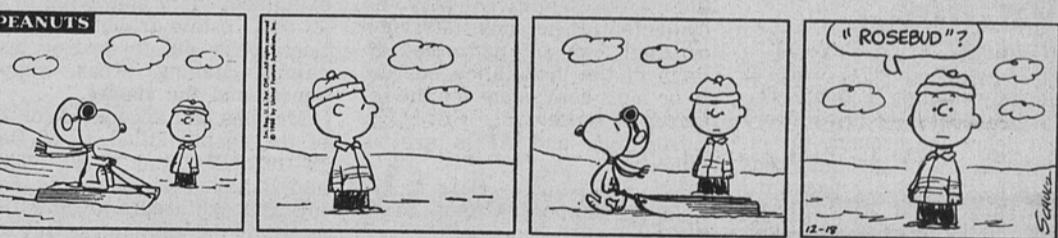
Beetle Bailey



Peanuts



By Charles M. Schulz



Probing Marines Find Enemy Hideaways

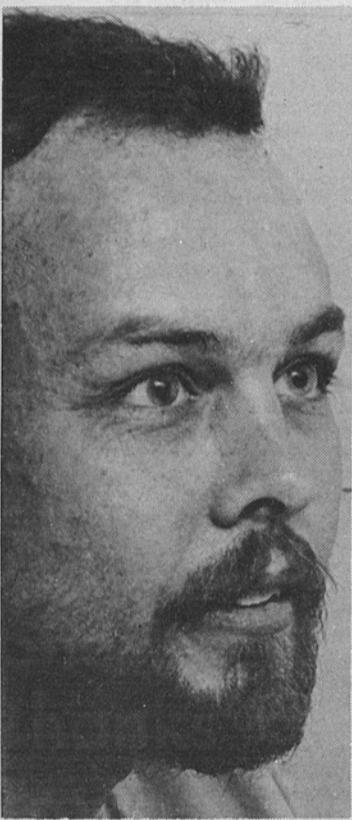
DA NANG (USMC) — Marines from Company G, 2nd Battalion, First Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, robbed the Viet Cong of eight 122mm rockets recently when

Prisoners...

(Continued From Page 1)
dition upon his release was reported as satisfactory.

The three prisoners were released by military forces to U.S. military control at a prearranged discussion site six miles southwest of Tay Ninh City.

The prisoners released were Specialists 4 James W. Brigham Jr., Thomas N. Jones, and Private First Class Donald G. Smith.



Major Rowe

Marines...

(Continued From Page 1)
necks became vividly aware of the enemy's hiding techniques.

Large crocks of rice were found below the ground; the inner structures of the numerous haystacks yielded rice packaged in all shapes and sizes of containers; thick foliage camouflaged bags of rice covered with plastic to protect it from the rains.

Even old abandoned pig pens were checked. Official enemy documents, sealed in metal ammunition boxes, were unearthed from muddy floors.

"Not only do we deny rice to the enemy," said Lieutenant Newman, "but all the rice found is taken back to An Hoa for storage and later distributed to the local civilian populace."

RF/PF Forces Surprise Viet Cong

NGOC HOA (MACV) — A recent airmobile operation northeast of here, involving regional and Popular Forces and elements of the 164th Combat Aviation Group, netted three Viet Cong killed, 51 suspected VC captured and 13 prisoners of the VC released.

Three RF companies, one PF platoon, the province reconnaissance unit, and the province

they discovered a cache under two feet of earth in a hedge grove south of here.

Later in the morning, the Marines found 18 large living bunkers. They were constructed of brick and heavy timber reinforcements. Two thousand pounds of rice were also located.

Continuing with a search of the area in the afternoon, the company discovered two more large bunkers, two tunnels reinforced with brick walls, and an additional 2,500 pounds of rice.

After a relatively quiet night, Company G men continued searching the VC area. They found 15 more living bunkers, slightly larger than those found the previous day. They were of an "A" frame design and covered by about four feet of earth.

Various ordnance and two more tons of rice were located. Some of the ordnance found included two M-26 grenades, two 82mm mortar rounds and four fuses for them, three 155mm artillery rounds and 105mm rounds as well as AK-47 ammunition.

In all, 35 reinforced bunkers were destroyed, four and a quarter tons of rice were confiscated and a quantity of ordnance was taken from the Viet Cong arsenal.

Captain Clyde Woods, Company G commander, said "It was a harbor for the Viet Cong. The bunkers were as well constructed as any I have seen. Some of them would probably have been able to withstand a direct hit by eight-inch artillery."

VA Has Reps Here

SAIGON (MACV) — Veterans Administration (VA) officials reminded personnel here recently that VA representatives are on duty in Vietnam. They said that these representatives may be contacted for personal interview or mail can be addressed to them at the installation nearest to or most convenient for the inquirer or writer.

Locations and APOs are as follows:

Tan Son Nhut — Care of 377 Combat Support Group, APO 96307.

Bien Hoa — Care of 3rd General Support Group, APO 96227.

Long Binh — Care of 90th Replacement Battalion, APO 96491.

Cam Ranh Bay — Care of 22nd Replacement Battalion, APO 96377 (Army); Care of 12th Combat Support Group, APO 96326 (Air Force).

Da Nang — Care of 366th Combat Support Group, APO 96337 (Air Force); Support Company Transient Facility, H&S Bn, 1st FSR/FLC, FPO 96602 (Marine).

intelligence platoon, all led by Lieutenant Colonel Le Minh Dao, the province chief, commenced the operation.

It had been mounted after intelligence indicated that a considerable VC force was operating a prison in the area.

One RF company traveled by sampan into a blocking position in the target area.

Seven members of MACV Advisory Team 73 at Vi Than, under over-all control of Major



MOVING OUT — Paratroopers of the 173rd Airborne Brigade conduct a heliborne assault on a Reconnaissance-In-Force operation near Bong Son in the Central Highlands.

(USA PHOTO By: 1LT John Emmert)

At Long Binh, Nha Trang

Training Facility's Big Job

LONG BINH (USA) — Except for the sandbags, the students at the U.S. Army Training Facility, 1st Signal Brigade here might well think they were back at Ft. Gordon, Ga.

The facility, which holds classes in Nha Trang and Long

US-ARVN...

(Continued From Page 1)
rounding the An Hoa basin, was in progress in mid-December. Three fire support bases were already operating.

Heavy air and artillery bombardments preceded the establishment of each fire base. Marine ground units were then helilifted into the landing zone and artillery pieces and support material followed.

Taylor Common is a sweep and clear operation, but as one 1st Marine Division staff officer explained, "It is not going to be a real estate-grabbing operation. We're out to destroy base camps, staging areas, supply depots and the enemy."

Marines had accounted for 171 of the enemy killed as of Dec. 18—102 NVA and 69 VC. They had detained 48 suspected enemy and captured two classified as VC by the Vietnamese Government and 1 NVA. One NVA soldier had rallied to the GVN side as a Hoi Chanh. Additionally, 21 individual and one crew-served weapon had been captured by Marines.

ARVN cumulative figures Dec. 18 showed 101 enemy killed—72 NVA and 29 VC. The ARVN Rangers had detained 30 suspected enemy.

They had also captured 21 individual and 4 crew-served weapons.

Binh, offers short courses of technical instruction to signalmen of all allied forces in Vietnam.

Designed to meet the increasing need for qualified communications technicians in Vietnam, the school trains American signalmen to use new equipment and provides cross-training to meet in-country needs. Also, the facility offers instruction on U.S. equipment to allied personnel using it.

"The major problem in running an operation of this type in Vietnam," according to Lieutenant Colonel Joseph F. Rankin, commandant, "is the rapid rotation of personnel which necessitates a constant selection and training of qualified instructors."

Colonel Rankin also cited what he termed the "double load" placed on his instructors in preparing their own lesson plans and training aids.

"In a stateside environment, we'd be able to call upon a training aids facility for assistance, but here our people have to design and make their own in addition to the actual teaching of classes," he said.

"From an instructor's standpoint, teaching here is more rewarding than teaching in the United States because the students have the benefit of some field experience with the equipment before arriving at the school," said Specialist 5 Gerald L. McAtee, an instructor in the technical facilities con-

troller course.

The students agree that the practical exercise emphasis is beneficial. "The extra practical application here is worth two or three months of on-the-job training," according to Specialist 4 Terrance E. Olsen, a student in the technical facilities controller course.

The school, under the operational control of the 160th Signal Group here, now offers 18 courses in various communications skills. Courses range in length from the three-day audio-visual equipment operators course to the 21-day cryptographic repair course.

Most unusual of the classes is the 16-day switchboard operator class, whose students are entirely Vietnamese women. The women, recruited from all over South Vietnam, receive two weeks of basic English instruction before arriving at the school and eight weeks of on-the-job training at one of the 1st Brigade's Dial Central Offices after completing the course. After the months of training, the women are ready to free U.S. military personnel for other duties by replacing them at the switchboards.

The facility currently has 40 instructors and a capacity of 260 students, according to Colonel Rankin. Included on the faculty is a Vietnamese sergeant and switchboard supervisor to assist with technical translation for Vietnamese students at the school.

Mail THE OBSERVER Home

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

From:

Place Stamp
Here

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

TO:



FIRST IN VIETNAM

The

THE OBSERVER

Vol. 7, No. 37

Saigon, Vietnam

January 17, 1969

Rice Captures Hurt Enemy

NVA Short On Cash

AN HOA (USMC) — If any of the North Vietnamese Army (NVA) soldiers operating near this combat base find themselves running short of cash, they can blame it on Company C, 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment.

The Marines, escorted by two tanks, recently formed an armored column and began carefully combing an area three miles northeast of An Hoa.

Reaching the secondary jungle terrain, the 1st Division Leathernecks started probing the damp ground — a favorite spot for the NVA to hide rice — and inspecting abandoned houses.

The company uncovered seven tons of the enemies' food supply. The big find for the company, though, came when they discovered two million North Vietnamese piasters hidden in an abandoned structure.

1st Crashes VC Shindig

LAI KHE (USA) — A Viet Cong moonshine drinking party turned into a bust recently when a group of American soldiers decided to crash the doings.

The uninvited guests, troops of the 1st Infantry Division's 4th Cavalry, stumbled onto the jungle party after a former VC "Kit Carson" Scout uncovered an unusual number of tracks leading into a densely-vegetated bunker complex.

As the 1st Squadron's rifle platoon crashed the party with small arms fire, grenades and assistance of a cobra gunship, the VC fled, leaving behind the party fixin's — a large jug of home brew whiskey. Even though none of the party goers were killed, the Big Red One troops discovered 450 rounds of 7.62 ammunition, six Chicom rifles, a can of fragmentation grenades, and some enemy documents.

Chieu Hoi Came Groovin' Along Trail

CHU LAI (USA) — He didn't sound like Frank Sinatra, but he was a "stranger in the night" and he was singing.

No one knew whether he was a Vietnamese soul singer or a "Grand Ol' Opry" serenader from the country rice paddies.

He came groovin' down a trail after sundown outside a defensive position set up by a "Charger" platoon from the



4th Infantry Division soldiers load part of nearly 212,000 pounds of rice seized since Dec. 1.

Second Month Of Operation

'Slingshot' Stinging Viet Cong

SAIGON (USN) — The Navy's "Operation Giant Slingshot" recently moved into its second month of patrols aimed at interdicting the movement of enemy troops and supplies along the western approaches to Saigon. U.S. Army and Navy forces have killed 49 enemy troops and captured 26 enemy munitions caches since the operation began in early December.

1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) units and U.S. Navy river patrol boat (PBR) crewmen

recovered two of the most recent caches on the Vam Co Tay River, southwest and west of the capital city, while a third was uncovered on the Vam Co Dong River, northwest of the city.

The caches contained 31,380 rounds of 7.62mm ammunition, 680 rounds of 12.7mm ammunition, 263 82mm mortar rounds, 272 60mm mortar rounds, 280 Chinese Communist grenades, 98 rifle grenades, 158 57mm recoilless rifle rounds, 39 Bangalore

torpedoes, 40 claymore mines, 76 anti-tank grenades with 20 detonators, 28 land mines, 300 pounds of plastic type explosives 4 boxes of TNT, a 122mm rocket, a B-4 rocket grenade launcher, 4 grenade launchers and various other detonators and blasting caps.

"Slingshot" is derived from the "Y" shape complex of the two major rivers which extends from the head of the Vam Co River at Xa Bay south of Saigon. The Vam Co Dong runs northwest for approximately 100 miles, while the Vam Co Tay runs in a more westerly direction for 80 miles.

By controlling traffic on these waterways, the operation has seriously hampered the enemy's previously heavily traveled routes of communication and infiltration, and his movement of troops, arms and supplies.

It is the first time that the Navy has penetrated so deeply into this particular area of South Vietnam.

CAMP ENARI (USA)

— The rice harvest for Montagnards of the Central Highlands ended weeks ago, but for 4th Division soldiers, the harvest was still in full swing at the close of 1968.

From Dec. 1 through the opening days of January, 4th Division units uncovered nearly 212,000 pounds of rice from camouflaged caches throughout the Central Highlands.

The recent string of significant rice discoveries began when Company D, 3rd Battalion, 8th Infantry, found 400 pounds of rice along the east bank of the Dak Payou River in VC Valley. Further searching by the same unit the next day uncovered another 400 pounds along the west bank of the Song Ba River.

Again, on Dec. 22, the company located 10,300 pounds of rice hidden in the jungle terrain of VC Valley.

Company A, 2nd Battalion, (Continued on Back Page)

Silver Star Presented To ARVN Officer

VI THANH (USA) — The Silver Star Medal was recently presented to Lieutenant Colonel Le Minh Dao, Chuong Thien Province chief in an awards ceremony here.

Major General George S. Eckhardt, IV Corps Tactical Zone senior advisor, made the presentation.

Lieutenant Colonel Dao received the award for three separate instances of gallantry while under hostile fire.

In the first, Feb. 13, 1968, he repeatedly exposed himself to fire from the enemy, located in well-concealed bunkers, in order to direct the assault on the Viet Cong position.

"Through his aggressive action and voluntary exposure to hostile fire," the citation read in part, "the enemy was flanked and routed."

Feb. 16, while Lieutenant Colonel Dao and the province senior advisor were returning from an operation, their jeep was ambushed. Lieutenant Colonel seized a grenade launcher and fired on the enemy from an exposed position, forcing them to withdraw.

On the last cited occasion — Mar. 3 — he took personal command of a composite platoon and routed an enemy force attempting a ground probe of the MACV compound in Vi Thanh, thus preventing any damage to the compound or injury to American personnel.

loud and waving a Chieu Hoi leaflet in his hand."

The lieutenant said the Hoi Chanh was singing and smiling at everyone as he was searched.

Not one of the "Chargers" from the American Division could agree on what he was singing, but "music to Chieu Hoi by" seemed appropriate.

They did agree on one thing: a Frank Sinatra he'll never be.

Editorial

Honor, Integrity

All enduring structures are built on firm and lasting foundations comprised of many elements. Our American military establishment is such a structure — built of strong material, remodeled and modernized when necessary, and resting solidly on a foundation of honor and integrity.



These words represent standards of conduct and performance of duty spanning the history of our nation as well as the history of each branch of the armed forces.

Unfortunately the ideals represented by these two words — honor and integrity — are too often overlooked, sometimes misunderstood and frequently ridiculed. Far too many people look upon these as outmoded — useless carryovers from a past era.

Too many Americans have adopted the "hooray for me, the devil with you" outlook. They are more interested in feathering their own nests at the expense of others than in performing honorable service in their particular jobs or professions.

Fortunately, the hallmark of the military man is his honor and integrity. If there is any doubt, leaf through the pages of history and recall such places as Valley Forge, Gettysburg, Belleau Wood, Midway, Bastogne, Iwo Jima, Chosin Reservoir, Hill 881 and Khe Sanh.

It is not in the makeup of a military man to gain personal advantage at the expense of his comrades, to shirk his duty or to seek the easy way out at the expense of his assigned mission.

The greatness and success of America's armed forces do not lie solely in our superior weapons, logistic capability or masses of men. The greatness and success have come from the individuals who have served with honor and integrity.

For as long as we have men wearing the uniform of our country to whom honor and integrity are a way of life rather than mere words, our military structure will remain strong and secure.

Your honor and your integrity are your most cherished possessions — the mark of a true man. Guard them well and never let them be compromised. (AFPS)

Medical Care For Civilians Stressed

DETROIT (ANF) — Medical care for Vietnamese civilians is becoming an important responsibility of the U.S. Army Medical Department.

Major General Glenn J. Collins, deputy surgeon general of the Army, outlined the department's growing civilian-oriented activities in Vietnam during a recent meeting of the American Public Health Association here.

The civilian medical care program in Vietnam is more

familiarly known as Army medical civic action.

The first organized program, which began last July, provides hospitalization for Vietnamese civilian war casualties at established military hospitals and at medical care centers specially constructed for handling civilian war casualties.

At the request of President Johnson, General Collins said, military medical teams were provided to work in Vietnamese civilians hospitals, beginning in late 1965. These teams rotate as needed and work under the direction of the U.S. Agency for

International Development.

The most recent program, which began last July, provides hospitalization for Vietnamese civilian war casualties at established military hospitals and at medical care centers specially constructed for handling civilian war casualties.

General Collins emphasized that providing these services "takes people and supplies."

He praised the work of "a large group of unsung heroes — the supply personnel of the Army Medical Department."

Save Money, Help RVN

SAIGON (MACV) — Through your efforts to help reduce paster spending while in South Vietnam, you will be fostering one of the U.S. objectives here — to help build a strong economy.

One of the most damaging

outside influences is the influx

of large amounts of foreign-produced cash.

DOD Pamphlet FS-56 passes

the word: "Save that cash."

It lists good ways — the Uniformed Services Savings Deposit Program, Savings Bonds, buying through Government-operated exchanges and commissaries.

If you're interested in helping

yourself — and helping our effort here — check out the pamphlet or see your first sergeant.

It lists good ways — the Uniformed Services Savings Deposit Program, Savings Bonds, buying through Government-operated exchanges and commissaries.

If you're interested in helping

yourself — and helping our effort here — check out the pamphlet or see your first sergeant.

It lists good ways — the Uniformed Services Savings Deposit Program, Savings Bonds, buying through Government-operated exchanges and commissaries.

If you're interested in helping

yourself — and helping our effort here — check out the pamphlet or see your first sergeant.

It lists good ways — the Uniformed Services Savings Deposit Program, Savings Bonds, buying through Government-operated exchanges and commissaries.

If you're interested in helping

yourself — and helping our effort here — check out the pamphlet or see your first sergeant.

It lists good ways — the Uniformed Services Savings Deposit Program, Savings Bonds, buying through Government-operated exchanges and commissaries.

If you're interested in helping

yourself — and helping our effort here — check out the pamphlet or see your first sergeant.

It lists good ways — the Uniformed Services Savings Deposit Program, Savings Bonds, buying through Government-operated exchanges and commissaries.

If you're interested in helping

yourself — and helping our effort here — check out the pamphlet or see your first sergeant.

It lists good ways — the Uniformed Services Savings Deposit Program, Savings Bonds, buying through Government-operated exchanges and commissaries.

If you're interested in helping

yourself — and helping our effort here — check out the pamphlet or see your first sergeant.

It lists good ways — the Uniformed Services Savings Deposit Program, Savings Bonds, buying through Government-operated exchanges and commissaries.

If you're interested in helping

yourself — and helping our effort here — check out the pamphlet or see your first sergeant.

It lists good ways — the Uniformed Services Savings Deposit Program, Savings Bonds, buying through Government-operated exchanges and commissaries.

If you're interested in helping

yourself — and helping our effort here — check out the pamphlet or see your first sergeant.

It lists good ways — the Uniformed Services Savings Deposit Program, Savings Bonds, buying through Government-operated exchanges and commissaries.

If you're interested in helping

yourself — and helping our effort here — check out the pamphlet or see your first sergeant.

It lists good ways — the Uniformed Services Savings Deposit Program, Savings Bonds, buying through Government-operated exchanges and commissaries.

If you're interested in helping

yourself — and helping our effort here — check out the pamphlet or see your first sergeant.

It lists good ways — the Uniformed Services Savings Deposit Program, Savings Bonds, buying through Government-operated exchanges and commissaries.

If you're interested in helping

yourself — and helping our effort here — check out the pamphlet or see your first sergeant.

It lists good ways — the Uniformed Services Savings Deposit Program, Savings Bonds, buying through Government-operated exchanges and commissaries.

If you're interested in helping

yourself — and helping our effort here — check out the pamphlet or see your first sergeant.

It lists good ways — the Uniformed Services Savings Deposit Program, Savings Bonds, buying through Government-operated exchanges and commissaries.

If you're interested in helping

yourself — and helping our effort here — check out the pamphlet or see your first sergeant.

It lists good ways — the Uniformed Services Savings Deposit Program, Savings Bonds, buying through Government-operated exchanges and commissaries.

If you're interested in helping

yourself — and helping our effort here — check out the pamphlet or see your first sergeant.

It lists good ways — the Uniformed Services Savings Deposit Program, Savings Bonds, buying through Government-operated exchanges and commissaries.

If you're interested in helping

yourself — and helping our effort here — check out the pamphlet or see your first sergeant.

It lists good ways — the Uniformed Services Savings Deposit Program, Savings Bonds, buying through Government-operated exchanges and commissaries.

If you're interested in helping

yourself — and helping our effort here — check out the pamphlet or see your first sergeant.

It lists good ways — the Uniformed Services Savings Deposit Program, Savings Bonds, buying through Government-operated exchanges and commissaries.

If you're interested in helping

yourself — and helping our effort here — check out the pamphlet or see your first sergeant.

It lists good ways — the Uniformed Services Savings Deposit Program, Savings Bonds, buying through Government-operated exchanges and commissaries.

If you're interested in helping

yourself — and helping our effort here — check out the pamphlet or see your first sergeant.

It lists good ways — the Uniformed Services Savings Deposit Program, Savings Bonds, buying through Government-operated exchanges and commissaries.

If you're interested in helping

yourself — and helping our effort here — check out the pamphlet or see your first sergeant.

It lists good ways — the Uniformed Services Savings Deposit Program, Savings Bonds, buying through Government-operated exchanges and commissaries.

If you're interested in helping

yourself — and helping our effort here — check out the pamphlet or see your first sergeant.

It lists good ways — the Uniformed Services Savings Deposit Program, Savings Bonds, buying through Government-operated exchanges and commissaries.

If you're interested in helping

yourself — and helping our effort here — check out the pamphlet or see your first sergeant.

It lists good ways — the Uniformed Services Savings Deposit Program, Savings Bonds, buying through Government-operated exchanges and commissaries.

If you're interested in helping

yourself — and helping our effort here — check out the pamphlet or see your first sergeant.

It lists good ways — the Uniformed Services Savings Deposit Program, Savings Bonds, buying through Government-operated exchanges and commissaries.

If you're interested in helping

yourself — and helping our effort here — check out the pamphlet or see your first sergeant.

It lists good ways — the Uniformed Services Savings Deposit Program, Savings Bonds, buying through Government-operated exchanges and commissaries.

If you're interested in helping

yourself — and helping our effort here — check out the pamphlet or see your first sergeant.

It lists good ways — the Uniformed Services Savings Deposit Program, Savings Bonds, buying through Government-operated exchanges and commissaries.

If you're interested in helping

yourself — and helping our effort here — check out the pamphlet or see your first sergeant.

It lists good ways — the Uniformed Services Savings Deposit Program, Savings Bonds, buying through Government-operated exchanges and commissaries.

If you're interested in helping

yourself — and helping our effort here — check out the pamphlet or see your first sergeant.

It lists good ways — the Uniformed Services Savings Deposit Program, Savings Bonds, buying through Government-operated exchanges and commissaries.

If you're interested in helping

yourself — and helping our effort here — check out the pamphlet or see your first sergeant.

It lists good ways — the Uniformed Services Savings Deposit Program, Savings Bonds, buying through Government-operated exchanges and commissaries.

If you're interested in helping

yourself — and helping our effort here — check out the pamphlet or see your first sergeant.

It lists good ways — the Uniformed Services Savings Deposit Program, Savings Bonds, buying through Government-operated exchanges and commissaries.

If you're interested in helping

yourself — and helping our effort here — check out the pamphlet or see your first sergeant.

It lists good ways — the Uniformed Services Savings Deposit Program, Savings Bonds, buying through Government-operated exchanges and commissaries.

If you're interested in helping

yourself — and helping our effort here — check out the pamphlet or see your first sergeant.

It lists good ways — the Uniformed Services Savings Deposit Program, Savings Bonds, buying through Government-operated exchanges and commissaries.

If you're interested in helping

yourself — and helping our effort here — check out the pamphlet or see your first sergeant.

It lists good ways — the Uniformed Services Savings Deposit Program, Savings Bonds, buying through Government-operated exchanges and commissaries.

If you're interested in helping

yourself — and helping our effort here — check out the pamphlet or see your first sergeant.

It lists good ways — the Uniformed Services Savings Deposit Program, Savings Bonds, buying through Government-operated exchanges and commissaries.

If you're interested in helping

yourself — and helping our effort here — check out the pamphlet or see your first sergeant.

It lists good ways — the Uniformed Services Savings Deposit Program, Savings Bonds, buying through Government-operated exchanges and commissaries.

If you're interested in helping

yourself — and helping our effort here — check out the pamphlet or see your first sergeant.

It lists good ways — the Uniformed Services Savings Deposit Program, Savings Bonds, buying through Government-operated exchanges and commissaries.

If you're interested in helping

yourself — and helping our effort here — check out the pamphlet or see your first sergeant.

It lists good ways — the Uniformed Services Savings Deposit Program, Savings Bonds, buying through Government-operated exchanges and commissaries.

If you're interested in helping

yourself — and helping our effort here — check out the pamphlet or see your first sergeant.

It lists good ways — the Uniformed Services Savings Deposit Program, Savings Bonds, buying through Government-operated exchanges and commissaries.

If you're interested in helping

</div



MEDCAP—Children in a Mekong Delta village look on in fascination as a 9th Infantry Division MEDCAP team administers medical aid to their parents and playmates. The MEDCAP is a big moment for them because it is not often they receive formal medical aid.

(USA PHOTO)

Conversion Limit For R&R Raised From \$200 To \$500

SAIGON (MACV)—Going on R&R? Is that \$200 limit on conversion from MPC to U.S. currency putting a squeeze on you? Don't worry about it.

Recently-changed MACV directive 37-6, covering the subject, says that you now can take \$500.

A valid commander's or supervisor's certification as to the legitimacy of the acquisition of the MPC, issued prior to the individual's departure from his unit, is required before a con-

version of more than \$500 can be made. R&R processing centers will not issue such certifications.

The following conditions apply to this new conversion limitation:

The directive applies to U.S. military personnel and direct hire U.S. citizen civilian employees of the U.S. government. The \$500 limitation applies only to conversions made for the personnel defined, upon departure for R&R and at R&R pro-

cessing centers.

An individual departing on R&R is limited to one conversion.

MACV Directive 28-2 requires that personnel departing on R&R have a minimum of \$200 in their possession. This amount must be in a negotiable form — cash, traveler's checks, personal check, etc. If meeting a dependent, the individual who does not possess this minimum may certify that the amount of negotiables that he and his dependent jointly possess meets the \$200 requirement.

Commissioned and non-commissioned officers will not be required to produce proof of monetary sufficiency for R&R. The lower four grades of enlisted personnel will be required to produce evidence of minimum funds if conversion of less than \$200 is accomplished during processing. The OIC of the Processing Center is delegated authority to waive this requirement on an individual basis when the circumstances warrant.

Adopt

The medical team has "adopted" one young girl as an assistant and taught her many of their basic treatment techniques. The girl first came to them as a patient.

After

After recovering from her injury, she expressed a desire to aid the medics in their work and they began teaching her how to clean sores, apply bandages and

Self-Help Project Plans New School

DA NANG (USMC)—Le Van Thu is a teacher with 180 students and no school. In the early morning darkness last summer, Le Van Thu's school was destroyed by artillery fire.

Today, Le Van Thu teaches school in a tin lean-to which must accommodate his 180 elementary students from Xuan Duong hamlet, 12 miles northwest of Da Nang.

"Building an elementary school for Xuan Duong is a self-help project," explained Marine First Lieutenant Gary E. Webster, a civil affairs officer with Marine Force Logistic Command (FLC). "If we can provide money or a source of income for the hamlet, the villagers will build the school."

The Marine lieutenant's civil affairs team built Xuan Duong's first hamlet school. Rebuilding the school is only a small portion of reconstruction plans being developed by Xuan Duong hamlet and nearby Nam-O village.

Trucks provided by the civic action team collect unusable and surplus lumber from military bases and the Vietnamese sell the scrap wood to help Xuan Duong's school fund.

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

Each month Lieutenant Webster's civic action team presents a scholarship of 500 piasters to five students who, without financial aid would be unable to attend school. The money is obtained through donations made to Marine Corps Reserve organizations in the United States.

As Le Van Thu conducts school, his students write with pencils, in notebooks donated by the Marines.

Trucks provided by the civic action team collect unusable and surplus lumber from military bases and the Vietnamese sell the scrap wood to help Xuan Duong's school fund.

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

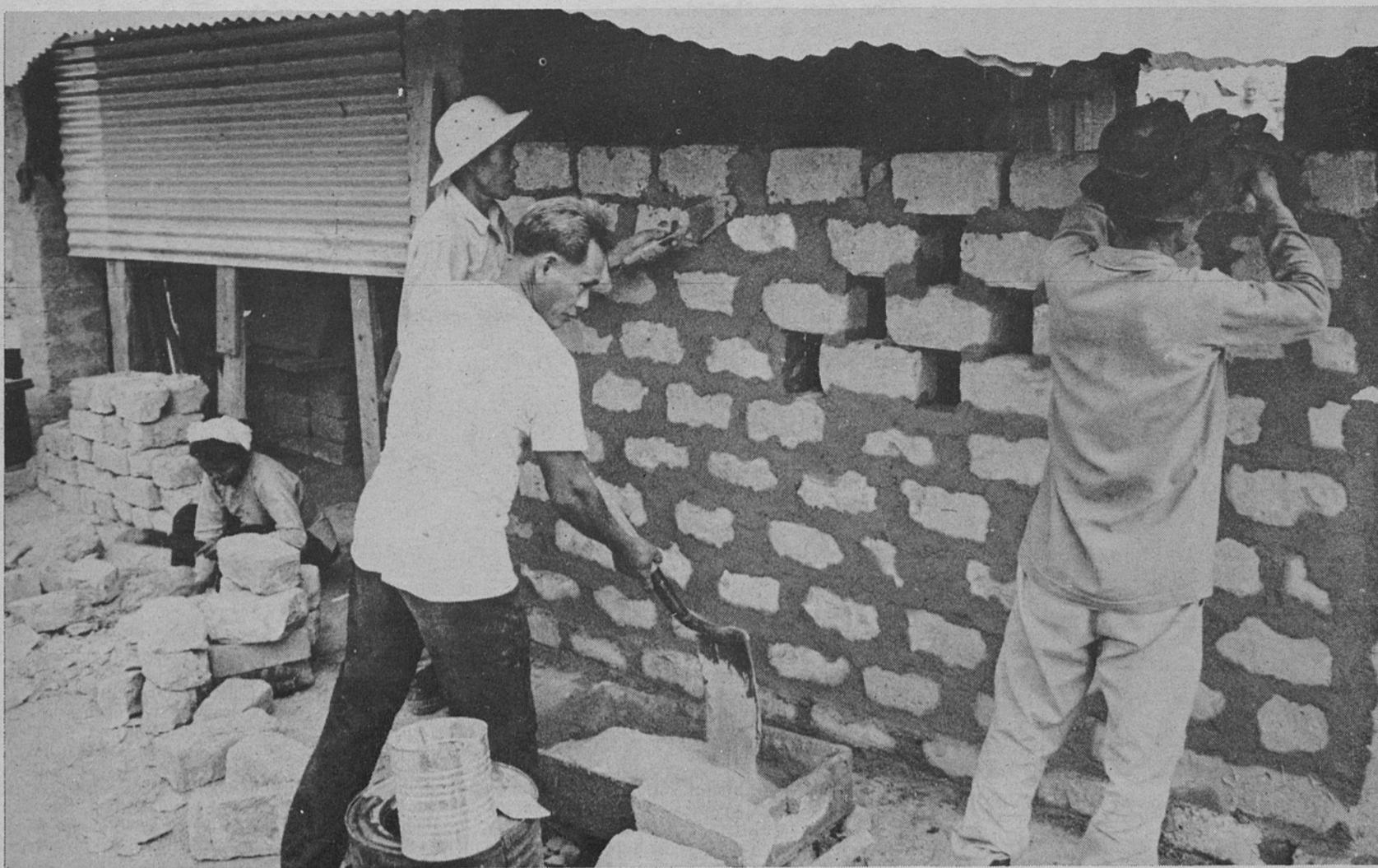
"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"The villagers have collected \$115 so far for the school fund," Lieutenant Webster said. "They want to build."

"

'WHAM'-A Program With Socko!



Hamlet inhabitants build new homes with GVN supplies and leadership of Vietnamese teams in Revolutionary Development program.



Vietnamese local militia of the People's Self-Defense program prepare to protect their village from possible VC attack.



The Refugee Welfare program has provided homes and food for one million refugees made homeless by the VC.

SAIGON (MACV) — you take some MALTS, RF, and NP, mix in a little CC, NPFF, and add some ECA, CDPC and CORDS, you've WHAM! What is WHAM? It's the most powerful and effective formula for blasting the VC and communism off the face of South Vietnam permanently. For the U.S. Forces, the quickest ticket home. It's a program which all Americans should know about.

There have been numerous attempts at WHAM—sung the Hearts And Minds of the Vietnamese people—but for various reasons none were completely successful until. Several years ago the government of Vietnam (GVN) set an accelerated plan to rule the people with protection, helping them meet their aspirations for a better life and win their hearts and minds. This plan is called Pacification and the basic concept is construction as well as destruction, eliminating the communists' hold on rural Vietnamese, while building a better nation amid the flames of war.

Actually, Pacification existed since 1954 under many names. Some referred to it as Revolutionary Development, others called it CACs, while many did not know what to name it. In any case, Pacification involves inter-related programs elaborated by the GVN with the substantial support from the United States' contribution to these Pacification programs is coordinated by Civil Operations and Revolutionary Development Support (CORDS). CORDS encompasses all the programs of Pacification, but does not actively operate them. Instead, CORDS advises and assists the GVN and helps tie in the American economic aid aspects with the know-how that will help the Vietnamese people accomplish the goals they have set for themselves.

That's what Pacification is all about—the eight programs, the jargon, the terms, the effort, all designed to enhance the security and well being of the countryside and thus strengthen its commitment to the GVN.

Government and the Free World Forces.

These various programs include: **Territorial Security**—building effective Regional and Popular Forces (RF/PF); the **Phung Hoang (Phoenix)**—eliminating the VC Infrastructure (VCI); **People's Self-Defense**—enabling the hamlets to protect themselves; **Local Government**—building a strong, effective and honest local administration; **Revolutionary Development (RD)**—reconstructing hamlets and villages through self-help projects; **Economic Revival**—building a working economy and public projects; **Refugee Social Warfare**—caring for and resettling thousands of refugees; and the already proven program of **Chieu Hoi**—rallying VC to a constructive rather than destructive way of life.

The United States' contribution to these Pacification programs is coordinated by Civil Operations and Revolutionary Development Support (CORDS). CORDS encompasses all the programs of Pacification, but does not actively operate them. Instead, CORDS advises and assists the GVN and helps tie in the American economic aid aspects with the know-how that will help the Vietnamese people accomplish the goals they have set for themselves.

That's what Pacification is all about—the eight programs, the jargon, the terms, the effort, all designed to enhance the security and well being of the countryside and thus strengthen its commitment to the GVN.



Territorial Security is the first prerequisite for Pacification. RF/PF protect hamlets after conventional forces drive out VC.

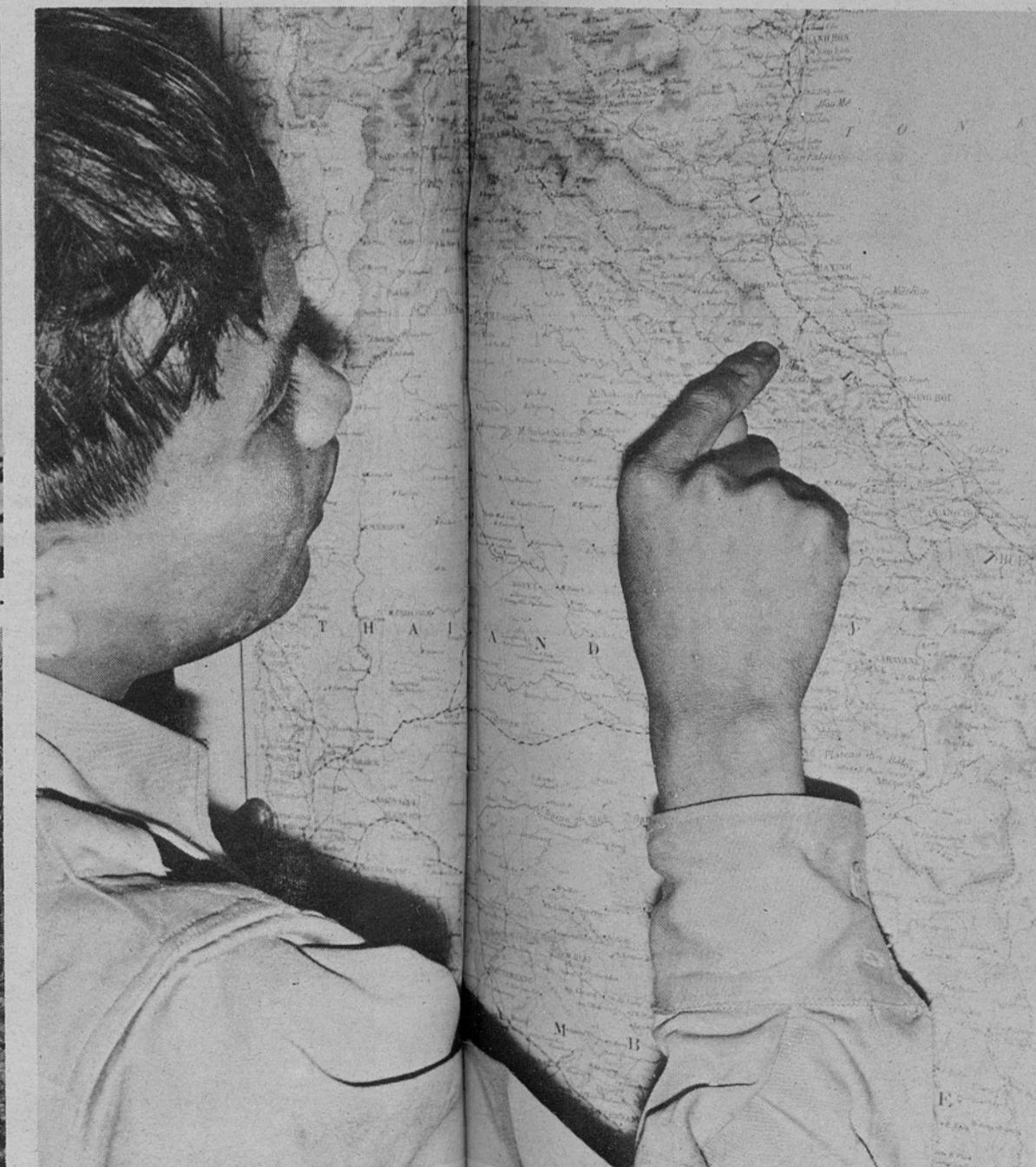
Story By
Maj. Gloria A. S.
Olson
Photos By
MACV



ARVN capture suspected Infrastructure member.



Revival program includes Animal Husbandry.



A Hoi Chanh reveals VC infiltration routes DMZ after defecting to GVN through Chieu Hoi program.



Village women help establish a Strong Local Government by voting for a competent local administration.

Ivymen Help Montagnards Move To Safety



Lt. Doggett makes plans with Montagnard tribesmen and an interpreter for a village move.

SAIGON (MACV) — For many years, Viet Cong operating in the Central Highlands have harassed Montagnard villages. They have often entered them at night to seize rice and other needed supplies.

The primitive Montagnard tribesmen often turn for help to their American friends, the 4th Infantry Division whose base-camps and firebases dot the Highlands.

In the valley below the Ivy Division's Firebase Blackhawk, approximately 15 miles from Pleiku, lies the well-ordered resettlement village of Plei Bong Hiot. Under the eye of the fire base, the Montagnards are free of VC harassment.

Plei Bong Hiot is growing. Recently, Ivymen of the 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment helped almost 1,000 Montagnards move their entire villages to the resettlement area.

When the Montagnards move, they take everything with them, including their homes which they disassemble and recon-

Story and Photos by
SP4 David M. Gerrol (USA)

struct at the new site. Montagnard buildings are long lodges built upon stilts. Without the help of the American infantrymen, moving the structures would have been a more difficult problem.

An Ivymen backed his truck parallel to one of the lodges. Montagnards swarmed inside, lifted the roof off its struts and transferred it to the deuce-and-a-half. The roof extended beyond both ends of the truck.

The deuce-and-a-half and a

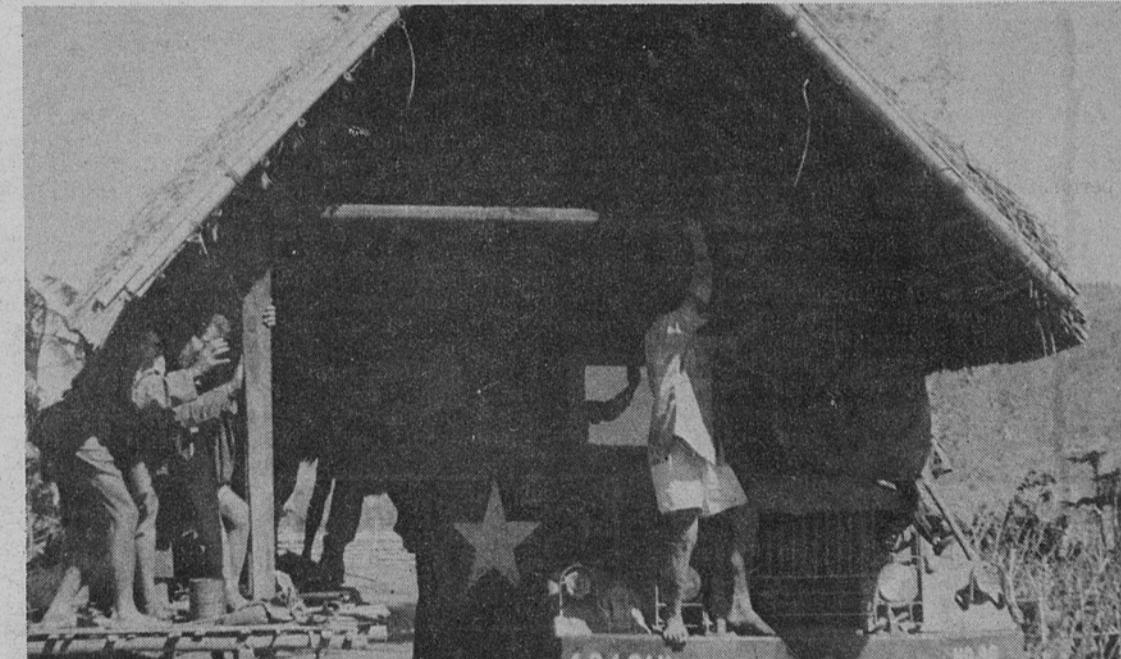
three-quarter ton truck, piled high with everything the Montagnards own, shuttled across fields, up and down the steep sides of a ravine and across a wide stream in which huge water buffalo cooled themselves.

Pigs were lashed to yokes and placed in the beds of the trucks. Their cries mingled with the clucking of chickens who shared the ride in makeshift cages.

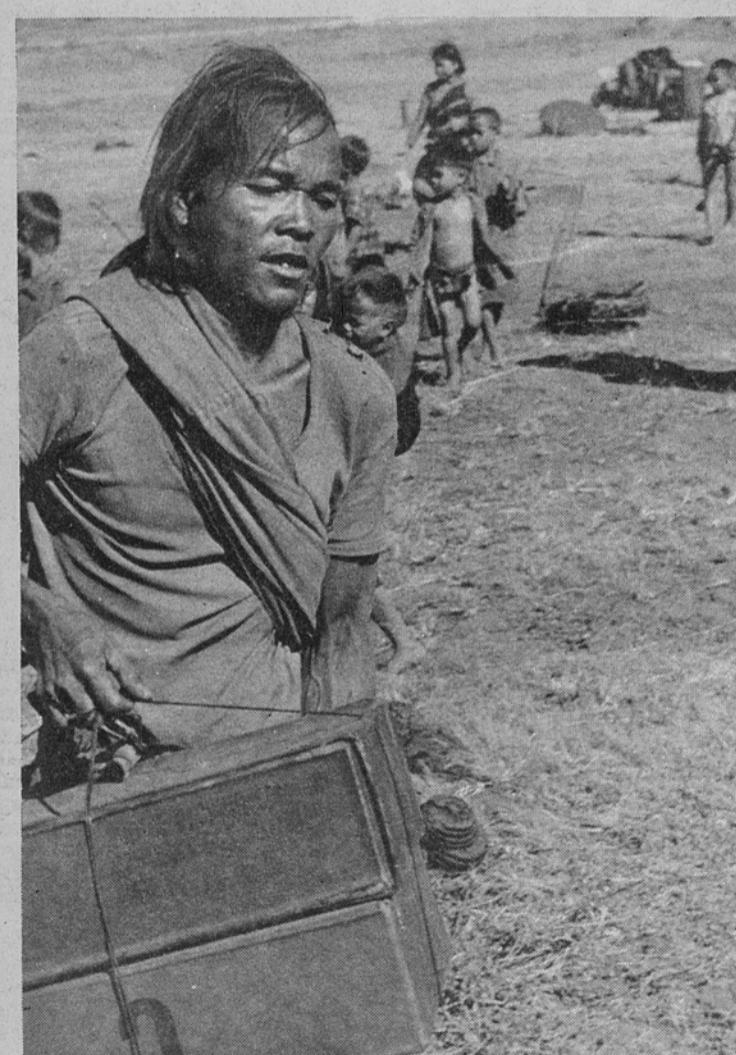
The move was coordinated by First Lieutenant James R. Doggett. The lieutenant also drove one of the trucks.



Montagnard woman carefully puts kitchenware into basket.



Lodge roof is transferred to truck to be carried intact to new village resettlement area.



Tribesman struggles with load in an old C-ration case.



Village livestock, lashed to poles, is hustled aboard by Montagnard men and women.

DENTCAPs Improve Their Concentration

SAIGON (USA) — A toothache is a good reason for not studying in school, especially for the younger students.

In Saigon, many parents cannot afford to send their children to a dentist when the toothache is real, much less for a regular examination.

The problem was a very real one at Trung Tam Elementary and Junior High School. The institution, sponsored by the Vietnamese National Police for their sons and daughters, is being aided by U.S. Army Headquarters Area Command's 716th Military Police Battalion.

To help, the battalion asked the 36th Medical Detachment, Dental Service, to carry out a Dental Civilian Assistance Program (DENTCAP) for the students. The detachment performs weekly DENTCAPS in different areas of Gia Dinh Province.

Long Lines

The detachment responded to the battalion's request. They were met by long lines of happy and other not-so-cheerful boys and girls.

Captain Clark H. McCoy, a dental officer and DENTCAP officer for the unit, said, "There were so many kids there we had to break them down into different groups. First we saw all who had toothaches; then the 150 orphans of Canh Sats who attend the school.

"Finally, we looked at the teeth of the rest of the students and anyone else in the area, including some teachers and National Police who were watching us work."

In the three hours they were there, the five dentists and their five enlisted assistants checked the teeth of 230 patients and performed 262 extractions.

Extractions

"Extractions are all we can do on a DENTCAP visit," explained Captain McCoy, "because of the time element involved. There just isn't enough time to clean and fill the teeth of all the people we see."

Included in the program was a dental hygiene lecture for the children given by Sergeant First Class Nguyen Dinh Thang of the ARVN Airborne Medical Battalion, who is the detachment's translator-interpreter.

Lieutenant Colonel Thomas J. Smith, the detachment's commanding officer, who heads up all the DENTCAPS, remarked that this trip was an outstanding success. The men enjoyed doing it and the students

Hygiene Kits Are Donated

DA NANG (USMC) — Vietnamese youngsters at the Hoa Khanh Children's Hospital, eight miles northwest of Da Nang, are benefiting by a hygienic windfall, thanks to the kindness of a California woman.

Mrs. W. D. Hart of San Diego sends 300-400 hygienic kits to the 1st Medical Battalion, 1st Marine Division, each month.

Each kit contains soap, a toothbrush, toothpaste, a wash cloth, comb, and bath towel.

The battalion maintains a roster of needy Vietnamese villages, hamlets, orphanages and hospitals in Da Nang in which they distribute donations. The Children's Hospital is located at the compound of the Marine's Force Logistic Command (FLC) and is administered by Marines and Navymen of FLC.

BROTHERS — A Vietnamese youngster's older brother points at a 4th Infantry Division artillery unit moving through the Central Highlands. Both youngsters watch the troop movement with great amazement. (USA PHOTO)

seemed to appreciate the assistance offered.

Already, plans are being formed to go back again in two or three months when the unit's busy schedule permits.

The children didn't seem to mind the teeth-pulling session. When school resumed on Monday, there was a lot more concentration and quite a few more smiles on the faces of youngsters who had lost that throbbing pain of a toothache.

Marines Assisting

PHU BAI (USMC) — The orphanage and school at nearby Thuy Luong is being equipped with new desks and benches by Marines of a helicopter squadron here.

The latest project of Marine Light Helicopter Squadron-367 to help the children has the classroom filled with noise as the volunteer Marine carpenters assemble pre-cut desk and bench sets.

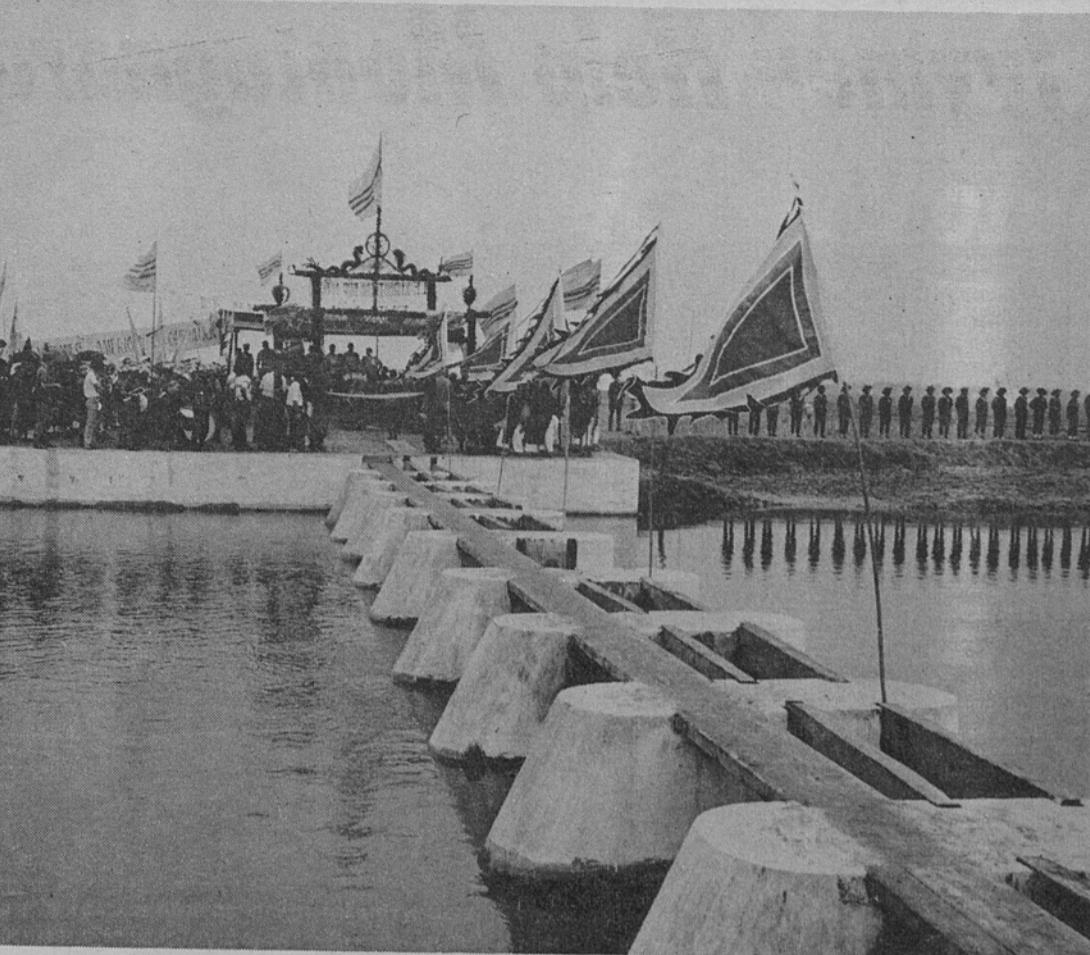
"We cut all the parts—except the legs—back at the air base and then assemble them here," said First Lieutenant Theodore R. Johnson III. "We tended to over-estimate the size of the children and had to have a trial fitting with the first desk before we could standardize the height of the desks and benches."

"Finally, we looked at the teeth of the rest of the students and anyone else in the area, including some teachers and National Police who were watching us work."

In the three hours they were there, the five dentists and their five enlisted assistants checked the teeth of 230 patients and performed 262 extractions.

The school furniture is the latest in a series of projects by the NML-367 Marines. In addition to furnishing food and clothing for the orphans, they have arranged for a portable water supply by rebuilding the orphanage well and repairing its pump.

The furniture project will keep the Marine flyers busy. The orphanage shelters 30 children. Local students bring school attendance to nearly 250 children.



DAM — National flags and banners decorate the Thuy Phu concrete dam to mark its recent dedication. The 700 villagers of Thuy Phu, near Hue, worked four months to construct the permanent irrigation dam that will increase their rice crop by 50 per cent. This new dam will also end the villagers' task of rebuilding earthen dams lost each year to monsoon floods. Construction was a self-help project. Villagers provided all the labor while materials and technical assistance were supplied by province officials. The dam—42 meters high by 22 meters long—created a reservoir which stores enough water to irrigate 11,000 hectares of land. (JUSPAO PHOTO)

ARVN Security Wins Praise

RACH KIEN (USA) — Four Americans, assigned as MACV advisors to the 25th ARVN Division's 3rd Battalion, 46th Infantry, strongly feel that the ARVN unit deserves a great deal of credit for hamlet security in this area.

Under the command of Major Nguyen Kim Tay, the ARVN soldiers have had a notable hand in securing and pacifying areas that two months ago had been termed "completely hostile" by senior advisor Captain Briley H. Howell.

nouncing MEDCAPS.

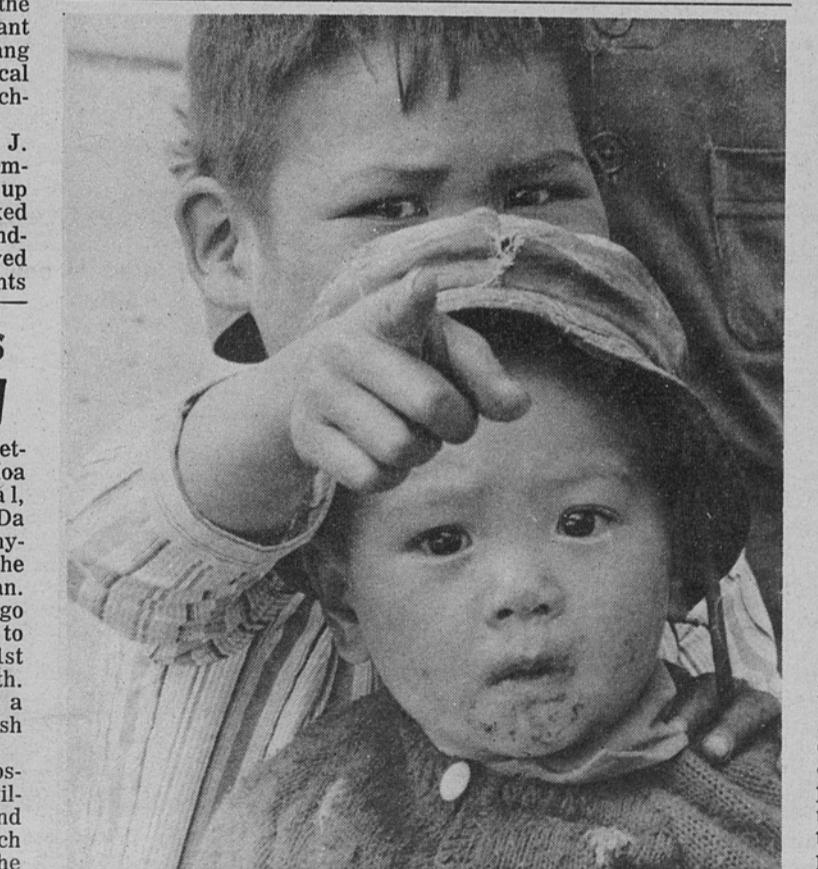
The ARVN battalion has made significant inroads to eliminate VC-inspired violence in the hamlet area since assuming security responsibility for the area from a Popular Forces unit last October.

"You can take a jeep in most any direction and not even receive a shot," said Major Tay, who considers the Can Duoc area very well-secured. Owing to the security, almost 900 children attend school regularly at the two educational complexes, where the 5th/60th civil affairs office is presently trying to obtain world maps for classroom use.

Sergeant Art Christensen, civil affairs NCOIC, hinted that a two-day MEDCAP, coordinated with the ARVN battalion, may be in the offing in the near future. Besides the medical assistance missions, the battalion employs a PSYOPS jeep on a continuing basis to disseminate government sponsored information and leaflets as well as an-

Sergeant Brown feels that the ARVN unit is "the best regular infantry unit in the Army of the Republic of Vietnam." Morale is high, he explained, primarily because of outstanding leadership and the recent introduction of the M-16 to its arsenal.

Changing from M-1s, Major Tay feels, has been an important factor in raising morale.



for freedom."

Progress was easy once the people realized the 1st Division was there to help them. First Lieutenant Gary Session, working with Company C, remarked, "The pacification program has been an excellent way of bringing people of different nationalities together for the purpose of creating a lasting relationship conducive to peace and progress."

With American guidance, construction of new schools and health facilities is sponsored and performed completely by the villagers. As a result, a new sense of pride can be seen on the faces of the people.

Pacification Inspires New Sense Of Pride

DI AN (USA) — American forces in Vietnam emphasize working directly with villages to pacify and secure them.

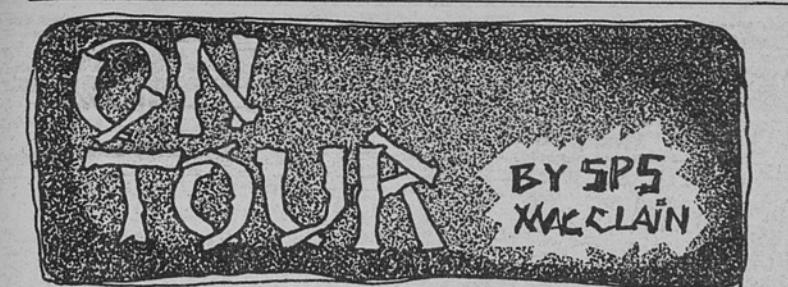
Under a new pacification program, 1st Infantry Division troopers of the 2nd Battalion, 18th Infantry, move into villages east of Saigon to promote educational, medical and self-help projects. In addition, they draw up defense plans for the villages to be implemented by the people.

Captain Robert K. Brown, battalion intelligence officer, stated, "The people are learning to help themselves and, in doing so, find a purpose in their fight



BUNKER BUNNY OF THE WEEK—says, "I like to dress as comfortably as I can and I love to buy clothes. While I was out shopping today, I asked a salesgirl what she suggested for travel by air. She said, 'A plane.' I said that I was speaking of clothes and she told me that if I were a soldier going to or coming from Vietnam on a military or MAC charter flight I could wear a Tropical Combat Uniform which has been approved for wear on such flights. I asked her if she had any other suggestions and she said that if I were an officer, warrant officer or sergeant major, the Tropical Combat Uniform would be optional. So I bought this bathing suit. You can't have everything." Our BUNKER BUNNY OF THE WEEK is Playboy's January Playmate of the Month, Leslie Bianchini and we're glad she chose the suit.

(PHOTO COURTESY OF PLAYBOY MAGAZINE)



OH GREAT... HE SHOUTED BANZAI,
AND WITH A NORTHERN ACCENT...

American Forces Vietnam Network—Channel 11

(Programs Subject To Change Without Notice)

(Guide For Week of January 17-23, 1969)

FRIDAY Jan. 17

- 1330 Turn On
- 1413 What's Happening
- 1415 Sign On News
- 1420 Big Valley (Re-Run)
- 1530 What's Happening (Re-Run)
- 1630 Star Trek (Re-Run)
- 1730 Monkees
- 1800 Wild Wild West
- 1900 Bewitched
- 1930 Weather News
- 2000 Bob Hope Special
- 2100 What's Happening
- 2100 Combat
- 2200 Late News
- 2210 Laugh Line

SATURDAY Jan. 18

- 1230 Turn On
- 1313 What's Happening
- 1315 Sign On News
- 1320 CBS Golf Classic
- 1325 Mariners
- 1330 Goldfarb Ranch
- 1420 Gunsmoke (Re-Run)
- 1730 Hazel
- 1800 Nashville, Vietnam
- 1822 Weather
- 1830 Evening News
- 1835 Rockin' Gideon
- 2050 Let's Speak Vietnamese
- 2100 What's Happening
- 2100 College Football

SUNDAY Jan. 19

- 1230 Turn On
- 1315 What's Happening
- 1315 Sign On News
- 1320 Kraft Music Hall
- 1430 Ironside
- 1530 Jerry Lewis
- 1630 Information Feature
- 1730 21st Century
- 1800 What's Happening On Vietnam
- 1830 Walt Disney
- 1930 Evening News
- 2020 A Man And His Music (Special)
- 2100 Let's Speak Vietnamese
- 2100 What's Happening
- 2100 Sports

MONDAY Jan. 20

- 1330 Turn On
- 1413 What's Happening
- 1415 Sign On News
- 1420 Wild Wild West (Re-Run)
- 1530 Jackie Gleason
- 1630 Combat
- 1730 Survival

Beetle Bailey



Peanuts



By Mort Walker

Tri-Forces Operation Pays Off



FIRST IN VIETNAM

THE OBSERVER

Vol. 7, No. 38

Saigon, Vietnam

January 24, 1969



OLD GLORY — The flag flies in a stiff breeze as a 9th Infantry Division soldier with the Mobile Riverine Force makes a close check of his weapon prior to a recent operation.

(USA PHOTO By: SP4 Michael Laley)

PF Men Decorated

DONG TAM (USA) — In a ceremony held in Don Nhon District, Brigadier General Frank L. Gunn, assistant commander of the 9th Infantry Division, presented two Bronze Stars for Valor and six Army Commendation Medals for Valor to individuals of the 997th and 235th Regional Force companies in recognition of their courage in action against enemy forces.

Dec. 23, 1968, Regional and Popular Forces engaged an estimated Viet Cong company, 10 miles south of Dong Tam. Thirty VC were killed, four suspects detained and 15 enemy weapons captured during a seven hour battle.

Colonel George E. Bland, 2nd Brigade commander, who was present for the ceremonies, said, "One of our primary missions in Kien Hoa Province was to upgrade the RFs and PFS so that they could take a more active part in the pacification of the province. I think the victory against the VC on Dec. 23 and the individual accomplishments recognized here testify to the success we are having."

Kill 41 Enemy Soldiers

Pair Of Pilots Pound Positions

BIEN HOA (USAF) — Two Air Force F-100 Supersabre pilots scrambled twice recently from this base and killed 41 enemy soldiers. The strikes took place in two separate base camps in northern III Corps.

The pilots, Major James E. Steinmiller and First Lieutenant Thomas S. Brandon, are members of Bien Hoa's 531st Tactical Fighter Squadron.

Striking the first enemy camp near Song Be, the two pilots destroyed five fortifications and damaged three more. Returning to the 3rd Tactical Fighter Wing alert pad to rearm and refuel, they were again called on to attack another camp in the mountains 68 miles northeast of Bien Hoa.

Assisted by F-4 Phantoms from Cam Ranh Bay Air Base and U.S. Army helicopter gunships, the pilots were credited by Allied ground forces with killing 41 enemy soldiers, destroying 11 bunkers, 30 meters of tunnel and two .50 caliber machine gun positions. They also uncovered another gun

emplacement.

Although the target was covered by heavy foliage, the FAC could see bunkers and movement. Pounding the enemy with their bombs and strafing runs, the pilots softened the area before friendly ground troops moved in to secure the area.

"Our second target was an active base camp with partially hidden .50 caliber sites," Major Steinmiller said. "The FAC reported getting some pretty heavy ground fire from the area so he was pretty sure the enemy troops were hiding in bunkers."

The major said that after he

arrived at the scene he noticed that the area hadn't been worked over previously. "There were no bomb craters," he said. "I got one .50 caliber site on my first pass with a pair of 750-pound bombs and the lieutenant got the other one on his last pass. We really racked the area, but I guess there were still some lucrative targets down there because the FAC decided to put the F-4s in."

Summing up the two strikes the major said, "The success of a close air support mission always depends a great deal on the ability of the forward air controller. The two we had on these strikes were outstanding."

Marine Enlisted Club Goes Exclusive

DONG HA (USMC) — The 3rd Marine Division's Headquarters Battalion Enlisted Club at Dong Ha has gone exclusive.

For Marines to gain entrance to the club, they now must pay a cover charge of five sandbags each.

Sergeant Craig Roland, club

manager, explained, "Due to the threat of enemy artillery attacks on Dong Ha, we decided to sandbag the club to provide protection from shrapnel."

At first the sergeant was going to get a working party to fill the hundreds of sandbags needed to build a protective outside wall for the club. He de-

DA NANG (USMC) — Four Marine companies from the 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, recently joined forces with Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) soldiers and Republic of Korea Marines (ROKMC) in a three-day operation south of here. Their effort was to deny the Viet Cong living areas, rice and much of his equipment and ammunition.

They robbed Charlie of more than 9,300 pounds of rice. They also destroyed 15 bunkers, 22 booby traps and a 750-pound bomb rigged as a mine. Their effort also netted them medical supplies, maps, identification cards, ammunition, parts for weapons and booby traps, clothing, cooking utensils, personal and official papers and a quantity of marijuana.

The allied unit started the operation at sunrise, moving in and surrounding the suspected enemy encampment. The four Marine companies, B and C of the 1st Battalion and E and H of the 2nd Battalion, covered more than half of the cordon around the overgrown farm land. Two units from the 51st ARVN Regiment and elements of the 2nd ROKMC Brigade completed the encirclement.

A Marine chopper landed in a dried rice paddy with high sand dunes on two sides. Rice paddy dikes on the other two sides provided the Marines cover as they ran from the copter to secure the area and drive the enemy soldiers off. Minutes (Continued on Back Page)

CIB OK'd For Korea

WASHINGTON (ANF) — Award of the Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB) and the Combat Medical Badge has been approved for U.S. Army soldiers serving along the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) in Korea.

American combat soldiers in Korea must meet the following conditions to be eligible for the CIB:

Soldiers must serve in the designated Korean hostile fire area at least 60 days and must be authorized to receive hostile fire pay.

Soldiers must have engaged the enemy in a fire-fight in the hostile fire zone or in active ground combat at least five times.

Soldiers must be assigned to an infantry unit of company or smaller size. Officers qualifying for the award normally will be in the Infantry Branch and must be no higher than captain. Warrant officers and enlisted men must have an infantry military occupational specialty.

(Officers in other branches (Continued on Back Page)

cided that "it would not be fair to have just a few men do the work for all those who use the club."

"We finally decided to get everybody in on the act, and the five sandbag cover charge was put into effect," he added. "The troops don't mind. It's their club and they enjoy lending a hand."

Editorial

Education Costs

A good education is no longer a luxury! it is a necessity. More and more, business and industry are demanding that their employees be equipped with a solid academic background in order to meet and solve the complex problems of the space age.

The man in uniform, of course, has a head start toward obtaining an extensive formal education. With the various in-service programs available to personnel on active duty and the provisions of the G. I. Bill for former service personnel, you can be confident of having the necessary assistance to help you obtain your education.

There is, however, another matter to consider. When your son or daughter is ready for college, will you be ready to pay for it?

Recent surveys show that the cost of attending an institution of higher learning in the mid-1960s averaged



about \$1,600 a year at public institutions and \$2,430 for private ones. And, there's every indication that the cost will continue to rise.

Self-help, tuition grants and student loans may answer part of the problem later, but to be sure that this educational goal is within the reach of you and your children, a groundwork of systematic saving should be laid right now.

What better way to save for the future than through U.S. Savings Bonds and Freedom Shares. They have a special combination of features making them uniquely suitable for an education fund — either for you or for your children.

Savings Bonds and Freedom Shares have the safety of a government guarantee; adaptability to a long-range goal while still being readily available for any emergency; an assured interest rate when held to maturity; easy availability through two automatic purchase plans; and important tax advantages.

All of these make it well worth your while to carefully consider using U.S. Savings Bonds and Freedom Shares as the base for your personal education fund. Whether you use them to augment the financial assistance you can receive for your own education or to provide that all-important college education for your children, they are a safe and sensible investment in the future.

Start this year off right and begin your personal savings program with U.S. Savings Bonds and Freedom Shares. All of the information is readily available from the Bond or finance officer. (AFPS)



Just In Case You Have Not Heard

Army Seeks The Unknown

WASHINGTON (ANF) — The office of the U.S. Army chief of information is seeking the names of men and women associated with the Army who have made historical contributions to their country.

The Army is compiling a list of names to present to "American Heritage" magazine as possible subjects for the magazine's new interview series, called "Before the Colors Fade."

The articles will feature famous military people, but particular attention will be focused on relatively unknown people who have been involved in historically significant events.

The information office asks individuals to suggest the names of persons connected in some way with historical events, including little-known events that later may have become noteworthy.

Suggestions should include the name and address of the subject and a brief outline showing why the individual has an interesting story to tell. The suggestion, with the sender's name, address and telephone number, should be sent to the Office, Chief of Information, Public Information Division, Washington, D.C. 20310.

VRE Reduces Error Margin

SAIGON (VRE) — Are you perplexed by non-American size-numbers on clothing and sandal items found in Vietnamese operated concessions? No problem. The Vietnam Regional Exchange has provided the following tips to clear up your questions.

Although most servicemen know the sizes that fit their wives and sweethearts, the servicemen just cannot determine which Vietnamese size number is equivalent to the American size. Therefore the following is provided for your convenience. Women's Sandals:

American	Vietnamese
4	36
5	38
6	40

Nightgowns and dresses:

American	Vietnamese
30-32	Small
34-38	Medium
40 and above	Large

Order Guns? No Can Do!

SAIGON (MACV) — Going to order a firearm or maybe some ammo? Don't trouble yourself. It can't be done.

Vietnam Regional Exchange (VRE) officials said recently that counter clerks have been instructed to turn down special orders for all types of firearms or ammunition to preclude the possibility of these items being shipped through the U.S. mail.

Headquarters Army & Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) has advised VRE headquarters that Postal Bulletin 2062, dated September 1968, states that "... effective immediately, the shipment of firearms of all types to or from Military Post Offices — APOs and FPOs — is prohibited."

Now, let's see how the two calendars differ. The solar calendar is based on how long it takes the earth to orbit the sun.



KNOWLEDGEABLE — Julie Newmar, well known for her statuesque beauty and fabulous figure, is also somewhat of an expert on R&R. "When you go on R&R now," she reminds us, "your ration card will be punched. Thereafter, if you arrive at the center and your card is already punched, your name will be removed from the plane manifest. The only exception," she points out, "will be personnel whose orders indicate they are authorized a second R&R because of an extension of their foreign service tour for a period of 90 days or more." Julie's so cute—and so knowledgeable, too.

(PHOTO COURTESY COLUMBIA PICTURES)



By ILT David E. Boudreaux

Because we have just started a new solar year, and because we are about to start a new lunar year, we will take this opportunity to explore this new year business to see what it all means.

The lunar calendar is based on the phases the moon goes through as it revolves around the earth. It takes the moon about 29 days to complete one cycle, from the new moon through the full moon and back to the beginning of the new moon. Twelve complete lunar months, alternating between 29- and 30-day months, occur in a period of slightly more than 354 days. Therefore there is a slight discrepancy between the solar year and the lunar year. So every three years a thirteenth month is added to the Chinese lunar calendar. In Vietnam this month is called "Nhan."

Another feature is added to the Vietnamese calendar. Although it has nothing to do with the actual measurement of time, it puts a label on each year. It is called the 12-year cycle of "Ky." The first year in this cycle is the year of the rat, the second is the year of the buffalo, the third is the year of the tiger and so forth.

This coming year, the 10th year of the cycle, is the year of the chicken.

Happy New Year!

"... I believe that we must guard against aggression in much the same manner that a righteous person struggles against evil—that is, by fully realizing that the suppression of one evil leads to a confrontation with the next in line..."

GEN. HAROLD K. JOHNSON
Former Chief Of Staff, U.S. Army

COMUSMACV GEN. C.W. Abrams, USA
Information Officer BG W. Sidle, USA
Chief, Command Information LTC R.B. Solomon, USA

Officer In Charge ILT D.E. Boudreaux, USA
NCOIC/Editor SFC D.D. Perez, USA
Assistant Editor TSgt G.K. Fears, USAF
Production Manager SP5 J.L. Klop, USA
Staff Writer Sgt E.J. Sargent, USMC
SP5 J.S. De Priest, USA
Staff Writer SP4 D.M. Gerrol, USA
Photographer SP4 T.L. Tynes, USA
Distribution Manager PFC C.B. Feldpausch, USA
Illustrator SP5 Mac Clain, USA

Ivymen Purge VC Valley Of Enemy Troops

CAMP ENARI (USA) — One of the last Communist strongholds in Vietnam's Central Highlands is crumbling as 4th Infantry Division soldiers, South Vietnamese forces and Montagnard warriors make their deepest penetration of the war into rugged and infamous VC Valley.

Tumbling, wild and turbulent between parallel mountain ranges, the Dak Payou River forms a deep valley, a natural fortress for enemy soldiers on their way south. Allied commanders, aware of the enemy's quiet but intense activity along the Dak Payou, long ago named the area "VC Valley."

In short order, suspicions were confirmed. "Charlie" was there and had made himself very much at home. Initial contacts with the enemy were vicious, frequent and usually brief. The enemy, grown complacent through years of refuge in the valley, had been surprised and was making a hasty exit. Ivymen now faced the task of rounding up the scattered remnants of one, possibly two enemy regiments.

As allied units pushed through the lush valley floor and along rocky slopes, the image of a well-established stronghold took shape. Infiltration trails showed recent and hard use. Along the trail were sleeping huts, each containing a supply of rice and ammunition. Trail markings were in plain view.

A brief firefight claimed the life of an enemy cadre member whose responsibility it had been to keep the huts supplied.

In a lightning move, Ivymen stormed into VC Valley after confirming the presence of an NVA regiment in the area.

fields under cultivation — food for the enemy. Water buffalo and chickens were abundant in an area whose only population were NVA uniforms and lived in scattered bunkers.

The Ivymen pushed on, sweeping, blocking, combat as

saulting. Long Range Patrol (LRP) teams observed the confused enemy on the run. Snake patrols and ambushes led the infantrymen to daily contacts with the remnant enemy forces. The frequent contacts revealed an enemy well-supplied with new uniforms and equipment.

An abundance of caves in the valley provided deep underground sleeping areas for the North Vietnamese — safe from American artillery and air strikes. A cave complex in five levels gave the appearance of a large field hospital. The Dragoons uncovered an

ammunition cache of rockets, mortars, grenades, explosives and shotgun shells. Numerous rifles, rockets and ammunition were added to a growing tally of captured NVA equipment. Some of the largest enemy rice supplies of the highland war — more than 55,000 pounds — have been found in VC Valley. Sixty pounds of captured documents were also proved to be a valuable find.

"We feel these efforts have severely hampered the enemy in his attempts to make VC Valley a safe haven," commented General Pepke.

The Dragoons uncovered an

Assault Helicopters Dive To The Rescue

PHUOC VINH (USA) — At 2,000 feet they had a good perspective of the land below. Highway 13 stretched out as a convoy moved slowly north on the road — armored personnel carriers, deuce-and-a-halfs and dust. Soon the road was empty, dotted only by an occasional bicyclist or civilian truck.

The morning had gone smoothly for the men of Company C, 227th Assault Helicopter Battalion. They had finished a combat assault, inserting ground troops into an area northeast of Quan Loi. The four UH-1H Hueys were flying back to Phuoc Vinh.

At 11 a.m. they were directly west of Phuoc Vinh, still flying above Highway 13. A large cloud of dust erupted on the road below. Warrant Officer

William Tisdale, the flight leader, was the first to spot it. He took his choppers in for a closer inspection.

A bus carrying Vietnamese civilians had hit a land mine. Mr. Tisdale decided to go down, but only to hover above the ground for fear of other land mines. The mine could have been command-detonated and enemy troops might be in the area baiting a trap for the four choppers.

The Hueys dropped down and hovered just above the ground. A crew chief from each chopper jumped out, taking a first-aid kit with him and headed for the crumpled bus. By the time the crew chiefs reached the wreckage, gunships of Company D were overhead, providing cover for the rescue attempt.

A medic from the 1st Infantry Division was with the ground convoy and with his aid, the crew chiefs got the survivors out of the bus, treated them and put them on the waiting choppers.

Within 15 minutes, 14 injured Vietnamese were at the 15th Medical Battalion Medevac chopper pad in Lai Khe.

Traveling Tips

SAIGON (MACV) — Service

men traveling on R&R flights

may now take 66 pounds of baggage with them. In order to insure that baggage which may

become lost can be identified, it is important to place a copy of travel orders in each piece of baggage.

Just Send One Boxtop

LAI KHE (USA) — A C-ration box hastily devised into a postcard by a fast-moving infantryman in Vietnam has brought speedy action from a postal clerk in Grand Rapids, Mich.

It all started when Specialist

4 Michael Coffman was waiting to be picked up from a jungle-surrounded landing zone after a recon-in-force mission.

"I just got the urge to write home," explained the 1st Infantry Division soldier, and I used the only thing I could find to write on."

Specialist Coffman took the top of a C-ration box, crossed

SILVER STAR

Coyne, John F. Jr. MAJ USA
Kelly, James C. SP4 USA *1

Donahoe, Franklin L. MAJ USA
Parker, Douglas C. CPT USA

BRONZE STAR MEDAL WITH "V" DEVICE

Baier, Charles G. Jr. MSG USA

*1 Barnes, Donald E. SFC USA

Bell, William J. CPT USA

Blunt, Stanley A. CPT USA *1

Burks, Jack M. SFC USA

Diaz, Gilberto M. SFC USA

Doyle, Austin G. Jr. 1LT USA

Fowler, James A. SSG USA

Garrison, William F. III 1LT USA

Goeke, Norbert M. SFC USA

Hardy, James T. CPT USA *2

Hawley, Steven A. SP4 USA

Highlander, Richard W. CPT USA

*1 Ludowese, Joseph J. SFC USA

*2

Philippine Group 'Building' Hope

TAY NINH (USA) — In the center of Phuoc Dien hamlet, two white, wedge-shaped structures stand side-by-side, spiraling toward the skies. Together they are called the Monument to Hope. The monument was not always there. For that matter, neither was Phuoc Dien hamlet.

The history of this refugee resettlement center began with the 1st Philippine Civic Affairs Group-Vietnam (PHILCAG V) which arrived here in mid-1966. The first unit is gone, but its successors carry on the work.

It is not an easy task. Constant enemy harassment has driven out many of the original 600-plus Vietnamese families. Satchel charges and B-40 rockets have destroyed numerous homes and the dispensary. The VC have even tried to wreck the monument, firing B-40 rockets point-blank at it. However they only scratched the surface.

"When we see the Vietnamese people here working in their living areas, it gives us a feeling of accomplishment," stated Captain Renato De Villa, detachment commander of five civil action teams. "This is what we are

here for."

Farm

At the moment, PHILCAG engineers are busily repairing the hamlet. A demonstration farm, complete with poultry section and a piggy, stands bare. Enemy soldiers either stole or slaughtered the live stock during a recent raid. The PHILCAG is awaiting more animals to restock the farm, hoping enemy troops have satiated their appetite for pig and chicken stew.

But building hamlets is only one facet of the PHILCAG program. Mobile medical and dental teams move throughout Tay Ninh Province, treating people of all ages. The doctors, dentists and nurses of the PHILCAG treat about 400 patients a day for cases ranging from malnutrition to tooth extractions. Since the unit arrived in Vietnam, nearly 600,000 people have been aided. Armed guards stand ready should the Viet Cong come in for other than medical reasons.

Dispensaries

Stationary dispensaries set up in secure areas care for many of the patients. The team at Long Hoa handled more than 150 people recently, and a mobile MEDCAP unit once treated 500 patients in a single day.

At Co Nghi Vien orphanage, the PHILCAG engineers are repairing the building assisted by funds contributed by men of the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile). Showers and fences are sprouting around the area daily, while other engineers manning bulldozers and graders widen and repair highway QL-22. When the highway is completed, it will stretch from Tay Ninh to Go Dau Ha, complete with steel reinforced bridges.

Perhaps the PHILCAG motto will explain why the men travel to designated hamlets to repair whatever needs fixing—on their day off. Or why each is a volunteer for an indefinite period of time. Or why they erected the Monument to Hope. Their motto reads: "To build, not to destroy; to bring happiness, not sorrow; to develop goodwill, not hatred."



FINAL CHECK—Specialist 4 Robert Collard, Company B, 326th Medical Battalion, examines a student's teeth during a recent MEDCAP near LZ Sally. MEDCAP teams from the 101st Airborne Division play an important role in civil affairs programs throughout I Corps.

(USA PHOTO)

Drivers Prepare

SAIGON (USA) — Long before the sun rises in the capital city, Vietnamese truck drivers and mechanics employed by U.S. Army Headquarters Area Command in Saigon begin their inspection of vehicles, insuring they are ready for the day's missions.

"We dispatch more than four hundred trucks daily from the Plantation Truck Motor Pool," said Captain James F. Parsons, who is in charge of the motor pool located a mile from Tan Son Nhut Airbase.

Complete Checks

"Every driver goes over his vehicle completely before he starts his run. The drivers know how important preventive maintenance is and they practice it faithfully."

Under the supervision of Mr. Phan The Tu, the motor pool's chief yardman, the drivers inspect tires, water, electrical systems, oil and variety of other things that could cause breakdowns if they were allowed to go unchecked. Assistants with checklists move from vehicle to vehicle to note all trouble spots.

Mechanics

"Two mechanics arrive early every day to help the drivers and make on-the-spot maintenance," commented Master Sergeant Billy Simmons, truck pool NCOIC.

"This is a relatively new motor pool and our personnel are doing their best to outdo the workers at the main Phu Tho Motor Pool. They're really doing a great job too."

To keep track of the maintenance pulled and parts used, a control section works full time to file reports and make cards on all of the jobs that are done.

The job doesn't end when the trucks pull out for their morning runs. At the end of every long day, drivers and mechanics wash and inspect every vehicle again. They know that the best way to keep a vehicle running is to prevent a breakdown before it occurs.



Drivers inspect their vehicles before making daily runs.

Teams Of Former VC Working As Salesmen For Allied Cause

LAI KHE (USA) — Teams of former Viet Cong now work as door-to-door salesmen for the allied cause in Vietnam.

Their sales pitch has nothing to do with brushes and brooms since they are selling an idea—that there can be a better Vietnam if the people will support their government and resist the communists.

Known as Armed Propaganda Teams (APT), the men are all former Viet Cong who have rallied under the government's Chieu Hoi program. They are formed into Doan Ket, or "working together" squads, with their 1st Infantry Division advisors.

Major J.C. Barbosa, while serving as civil affairs officer at the 2nd Brigade headquarters

in Di An, was one of the first to recognize the importance of the APT's. "They are taken from Chieu Hoi centers without much experience in propaganda tactics. They must be trained in this field to recognize what areas have evidence of VC influence," explained Major Barbosa.

The mission of the APT's is to persuade relatives of the Viet Cong that they have nothing to gain by harboring the VC. Their big job is to sell the Chieu Hoi program through the distribution of leaflets and through talking with Vietnamese families.

The "Iron Rangers" of the 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry (Mechanized) provide door-to-door security for the teams in Chanh Luu and An Dien. The battalion civil affairs officer, Captain Edward M. L. Lee, remarked, "These Hoi Chanh know what families to speak to about relatives who are VC." Because of

In many cases, the information collected from the APT's was vital to the success of programs to root out the VC infrastructure.

Villagers Progressing In Art Of Brickmaking

BONG SON (USA) — Brick construction is a relatively unknown trade in some areas of South Vietnam, land of thatched and mud huts.

However, things are changing. The Civil Affairs Office of the 173rd Airborne Brigade is currently working on a program to teach the Vietnamese along the central coast the art of making durable concrete bricks.

At Truong Luong Refugee Camp in Bong Son an experimental brick manufacturing location has begun to turn out a much improved brick.

According to Major Ronald Lawrence, a Brigade Civil Affairs Officer, "a six man crew with two machines is now putting out 2,000 bricks a month; and what is most important, they are bricks which will last."

"When the local people tried making bricks before," said Major Lawrence.

Vietnam's Busiest Port—Updated

SAIGON (VFS) — Saigon is the busiest port in Southeast Asia. Two years ago it was so jammed with undelivered cargo and idle ships waiting for berths that frustrated importers joked ruefully that they could walk across the Saigon River without getting their feet wet.

Saigon Port is still the region's busiest, but ships and cargo are moving freely.

Cargo now pours from the ships' holds at a rate averaging five million tons a year.

This transformation from near chaos to smooth efficiency has enabled the Republic of Vietnam's primary international anchorage to operate at a sustained pace about equal to that of Long Beach, America's port for the sprawling Los Angeles area.

The Saigon riverfront's transformation resulted from a number of factors, including streamlining of Port Authority administrative procedures under the highly qualified Saigon Port Director General, Lieutenant Colonel Pho Quoc Chu, who was succeeded on his recent death by the equally competent Major Tran Thien Phuong, appointed by the Vietnamese government.

needed, and they were constructed.

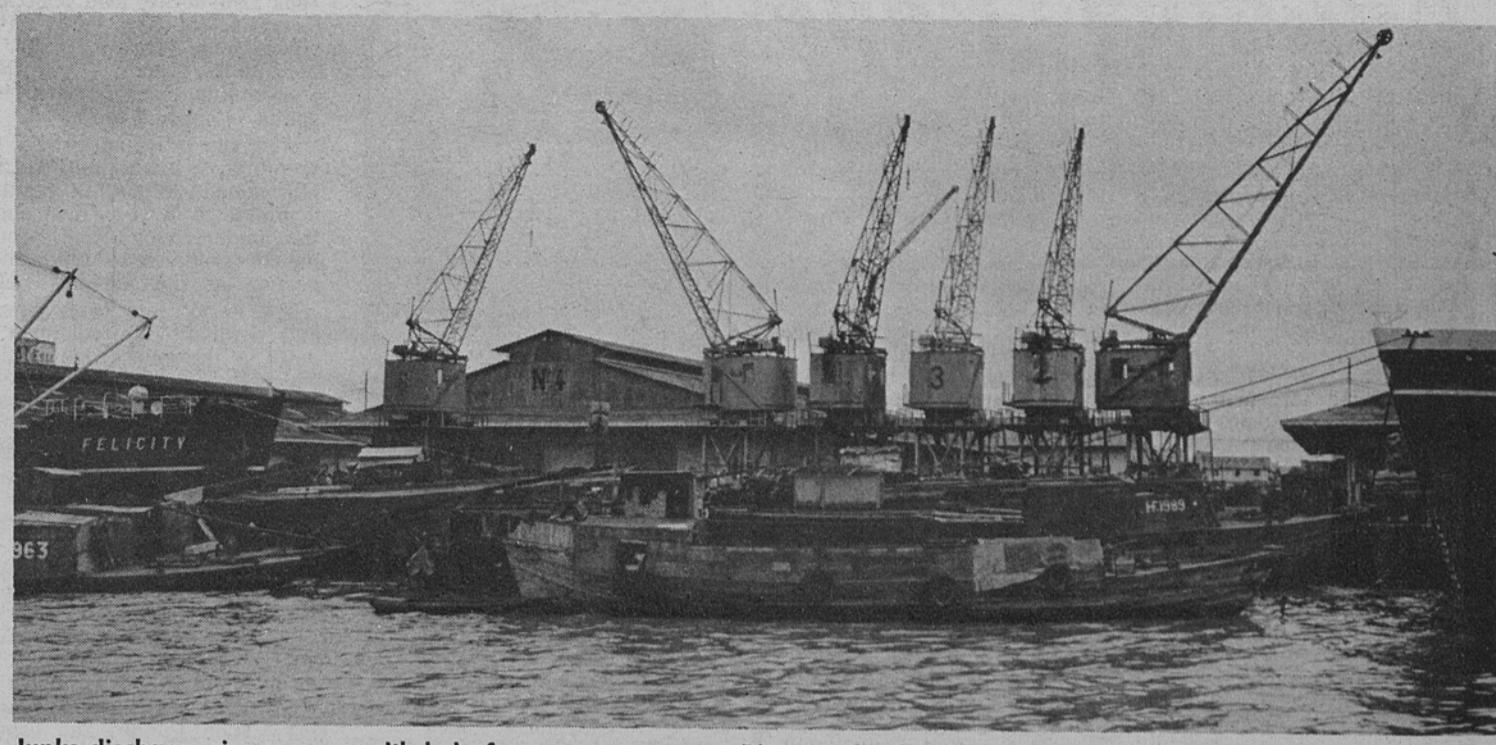
But berthing facilities were not the only problems plaguing Port Authority officials. Longshoremen's methods were too far behind the times to meet modern war's requirements.

With help from U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), some 300 items of cargo-handling equipment were imported. Also acquired in the United States and in neighboring Asian ports were 35,000 pallets and 13,000 tons of additional barge and lighter capacity.

"Probably the most important labor-saving device to help speed up loading and unloading of cargoes," says USAID's port operations chief, Orlando A. Martin, "was the use of the pallet. Palletization simply means that you take cargo and put it up with a mechanized forklift. Before this, everything was handled box by box."

Tet Offensive

By the summer of 1967 the port bottleneck had been broken. The "conference rate" adopted



Junks discharge rice cargoes with help from two-ton cranes. Rice was loaded into the junks from ships anchored in the river.

by carriers for cargo destined for Saigon dropped from a US \$8.25 per ton port-congestion surcharge in 1965 and 1966 to \$5 in July 1967, and progressively was lowered to \$1.50 by the end of 1967. The Tet offensive did not damage the heavily guarded Saigon Port, but the street fighting in the city and the government-enforced curfew kept longshoremen from their jobs. American servicemen helped with the job. Emergency measures were not enough to keep up with the influx of cargoes.

But recovery, when it started, was rapid. Longshoremen made arrangements to stay inside the port day and night so their work shifts would not be interrupted by the curfew. Saigon's commercial community, working in cooperation with government offices and banks, instituted a number of emergency measures to expedite the flow of goods from port warehouses to end-users.

Control System
Already in effect at the time of the Tet offensive was the new control system instituted by the Vietnamese government and USAID to account for grant-aid cargo. From ships' holds to "first destination" warehouses in the Saigon area, delivery losses were cut to a fraction of one percent.

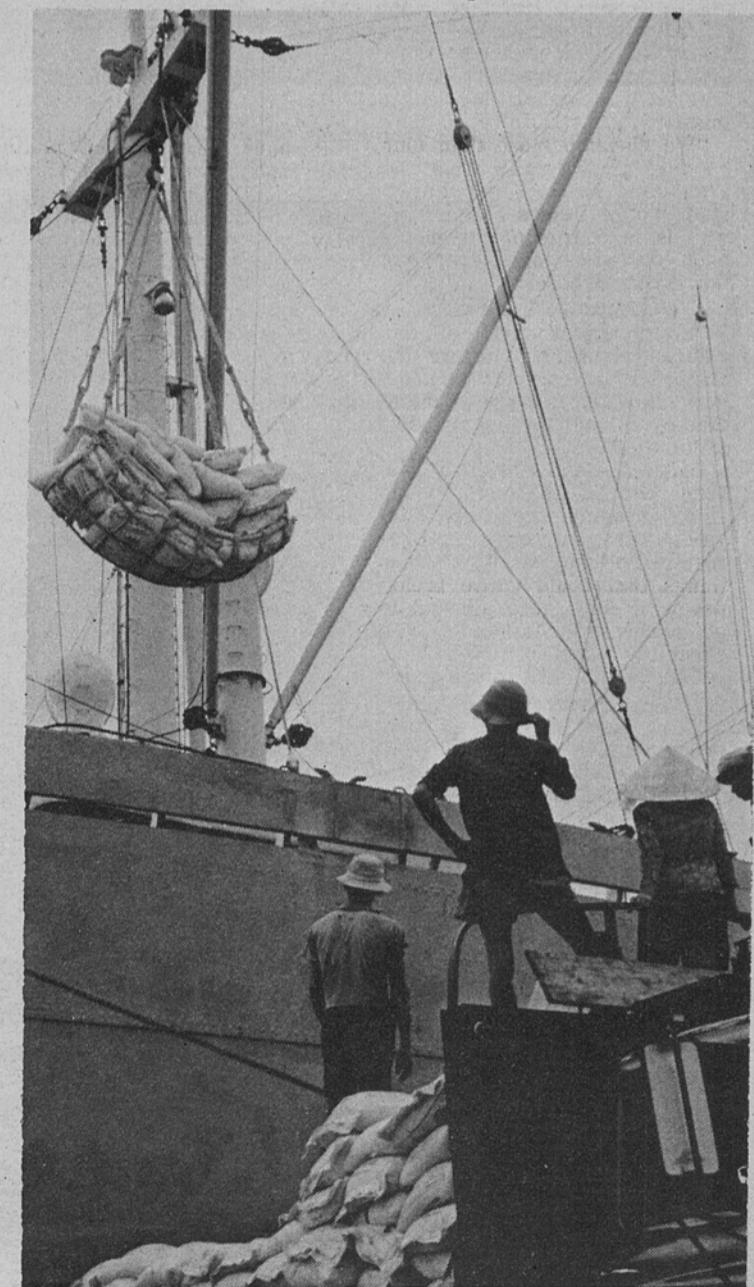
Additional control systems have been instituted to trace cargoes, not only from ships' holds to "first destination" warehouses, but to the ultimate end-users in the provinces.

"The joint accountability system from ship to warehouse is air-tight, and from warehouse to province and district nearly so," says Robert Crownover, USAID's assistant director for logistics. "We can describe it as optimum in that it would cost much more for the additional personnel it would take to guarantee delivery to every individual user and recipient than the value of the actual loss in final delivery."

With the current work of the port describable as a re-supply mission—the escalation period of tremendously stepped-up imports is well passed now—U.S. Army and USAID advisers are concentrating on training programs, management improvement projects and data processing sys-



Longshoremen stack baled cotton on trucks as it is unloaded.

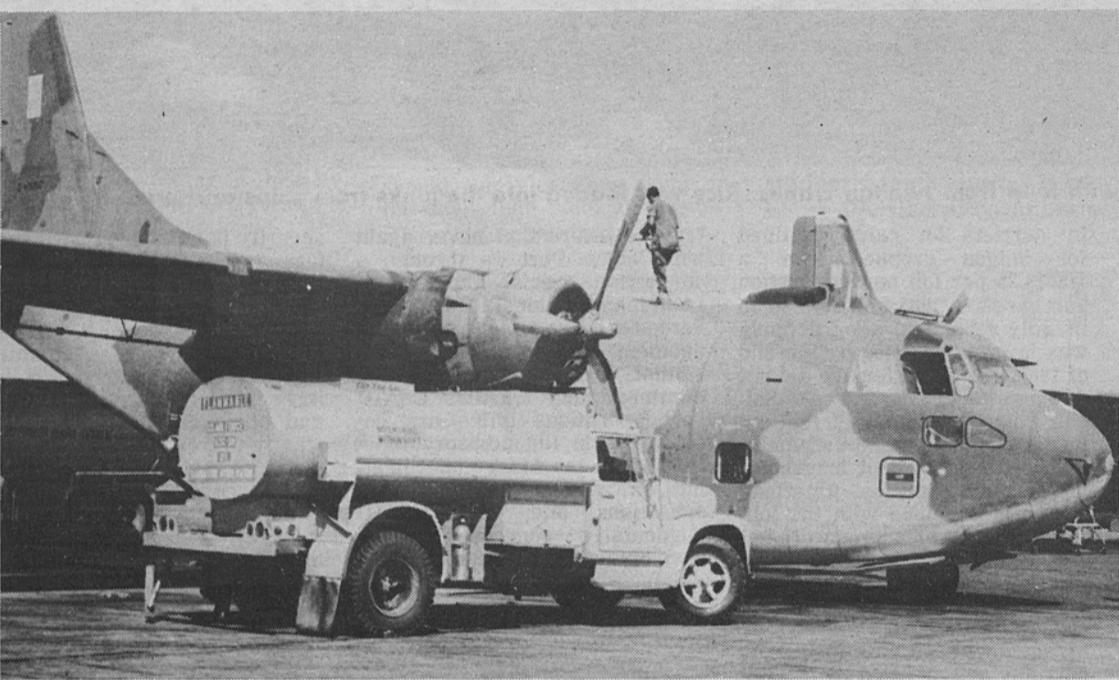


A deep-draft vessel discharges wheat flour at the Saigon port.

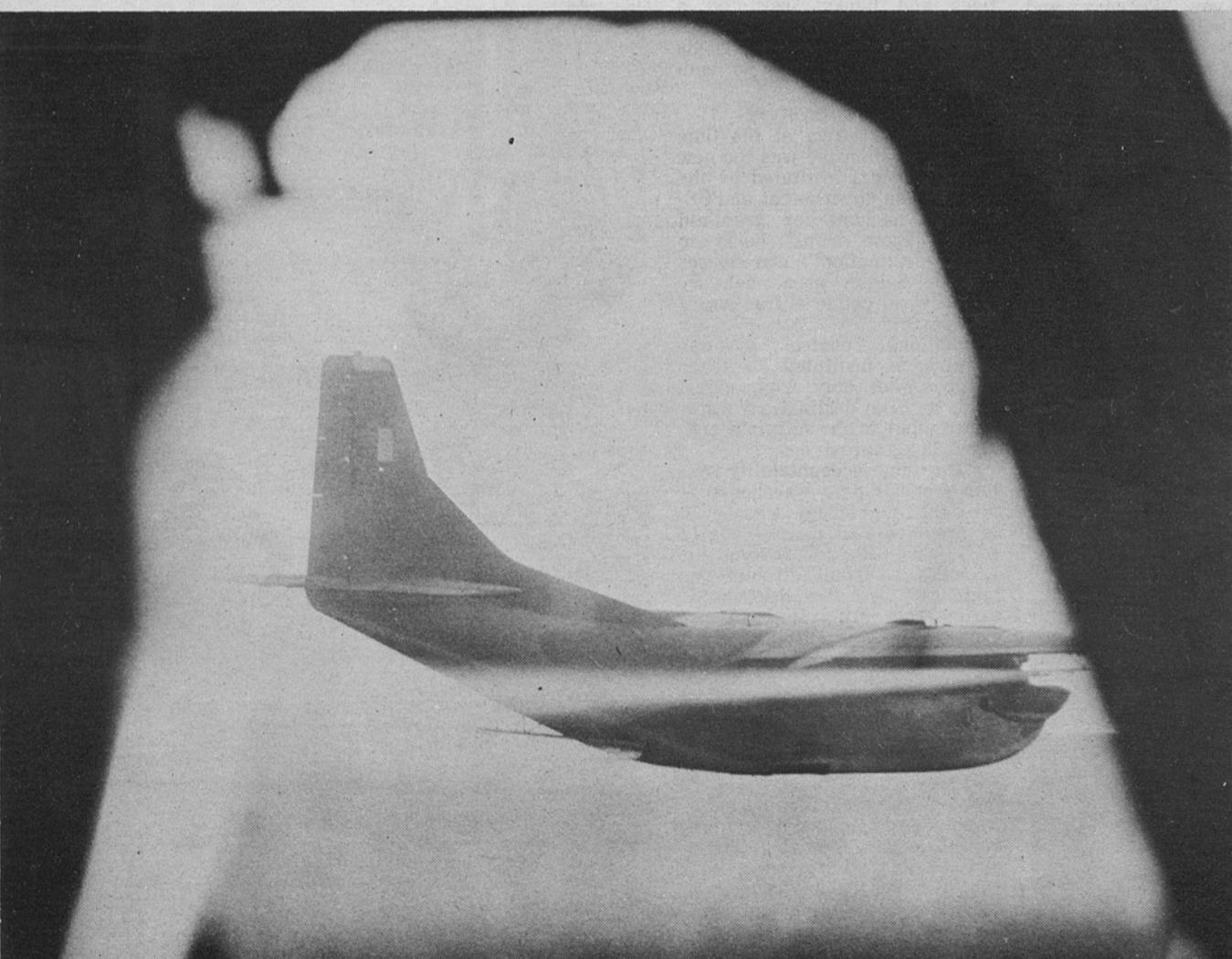
Story & Photos
By
Vietnam Feature Service



Graceful as eagles, C-123s soar over rendezvous point waiting for F-100 escorts.



Ranch Hands' favorite steed gets supply of oats from modern day aircraft chuck wagon.



Another Provider, viewed from a cockpit window, sprays the herbicide which will keep 'Charlie' on the move.

Ranch Hands Ride Herd On Delta Range

SAIGON (MACV) — "Saddle up, Cowboys!" With this command from Lieutenant Colonel Jack Langhorne, lead pilot in a formation of five C-123 "Providers," the "Ranch Hands" of the 12th Special Operations Squadron prepared to rein into action.

With the grace of hawks, the seemingly lumbering C-123's plummeted 3,500 feet in less than a minute to level off just above the jungle canopy which shrouds the enemy-infested southernmost portion of the Mekong Delta.

The spray jets were opened and defoliant spewed forth to deny to the enemy his natural concealment and expose his camps and movements to the watchful eyes of allied ground troops and aircraft.

This was "Charlie country" and support was needed to insure the safety of the Providers and their crews. Ten F-100 Supersabres streaked around both sides of the left echelon formation, pummeling the ground below with 750-pound bombs. The ordinance kept the heads of the enemy down to deter them from firing against the Ranch Hands. The ground explosions looked a taut string of erupting volcanoes as the F-100s thundered past the wingtips of the Providers.

Three-and-a-half minutes later, the spray jets connected to the 1000-gallon tanks of herbicide mounted inside the fuselages were closed. The Vietnam land mass was left behind to the north and the C-123s wheeled about over the South China Sea and headed back to the "ranch" at Bien Hoa Airbase, home of the 12th Special Operations Squadron.

The dense jungle area which was their target would begin to show effects within 10 or 12 days. Leaves would wither and drop from the trees and visibility would be drastically increased. The lasting effectiveness of the herbicide will deprive

the enemy forces the sanctuary provided by the lush jungle for a period of 12 to 15 months.

The 12th Special Operations Squadron plans carefully to make sure that rice paddies and crops belonging to friendly farmers are not harmed. But rice grown by the VC for their troops sometimes becomes a target for the Ranch Hands.

The herbicides, in use since 1962, are non-toxic, non-corrosive and not harmful to human or animal life.

Having served in Vietnam since 1962, the 12th Special Operations Squadron has often been referred to as the most "shot at" air unit in Vietnam. Since the squadron members have

scarves around his neck and pride it to the aircraft command. The squadron adopted the scarf and the members of the crews proudly wear the scarf, embossed with their squadron emblem.

One mark which sets the Ranch Hands apart is the distinctive emblem worn on the balaclava. The emblem is round has a red border inside of which is a yellow ring with the words "Ranch Hands Viet-Nam" embroidered in red letters on red and yellow representing Vietnam. The inner circle is green, bisected by a wide diagonal strip of brown. The green signifies the lush, green vegetation of the country and brown, the remains of a cleared area. Upon the brown diagonal is a Chinese symbol meaning "purple." This relates to the scarf.

Ranch Hands fly defoliation missions daily. After flying 200 daily hours, the pilots and navigators are presented with Vietnamese Air Force wings. Before Ranch Hand mission is flown, target is carefully examined and approved by various agents of both the U.S. and Vietnamese government. The desired mission is initially proposed by a Province Chief, then potential target is examined by the ARVN CTZ and Joint General Staff, U.S. Advisored Field Forces Vietnam, commanders, U.S. Agency for International Development, Civil Operations and Revolutionary Development Support, and Embassy.

"Much of the Ranch Hands' uncle base camps, trails, storage areas and forces the enemy move," said Lieutenant Colonel Arthur F. McConnell, commander of the squadron. "This makes him more susceptible to contact by our forces. The results of the Ranch Hands are repeatedly praised by the ground force command and they want more of it."



started counting, their aircraft have received more than 3,000 hits from enemy ground fire.

Among the rows of the squadron's camouflaged aircraft, a silver ship stands out. Her name is Patches. One of the oldest C-123s in the squadron, Patches has been hit more than 547 times during her career as a defoliation craft.

The crews of the 12th can be distinguished by the purple scarves they wear around their necks. The scarf is a tradition. When Nguyen Cao Ky was Premier of Vietnam, he flew a mission with the Ranch Hands. Impressed by the squadron, the premier removed the purple

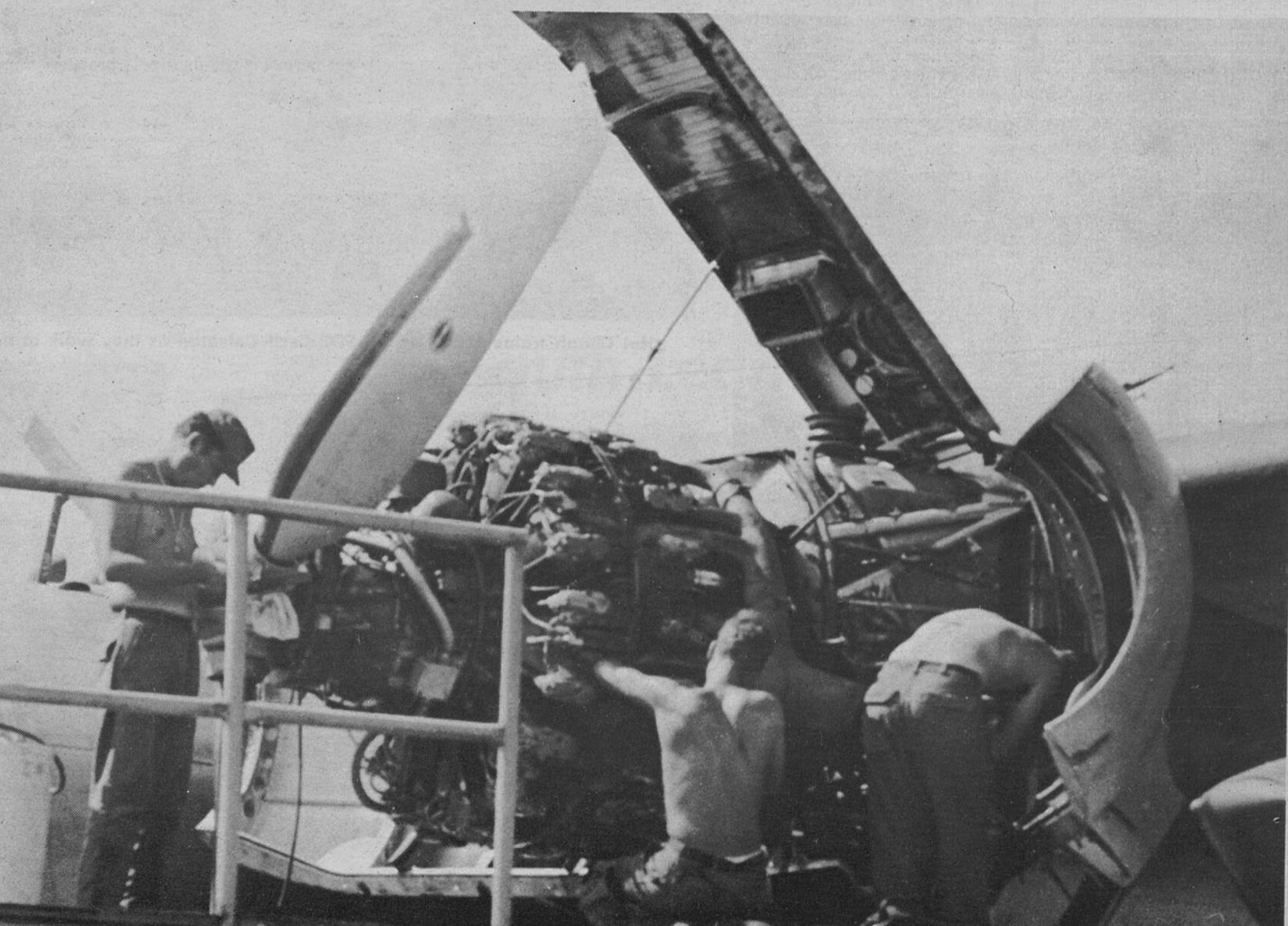


"Cowboys" do some fancy hedge-hopping in their metal horses over suspected 'Injun country' during a heavy suppression mission.

Story & Photos By SFC D.D. Perez and D.M. Gerrol



Sgt. Fenton H. Hutchinson, flight engineer, checks after mission.



Sgt. Mike Marcelino, Sam Fragua and Robert Rand provide technical maintenance for one of the huge C-123 power plants.

Big Red One Retrains Former Enemy Troops



SSG Johnson gives marksmanship training to a Hoi Chanh.

LAI KHE (USA) — An automatic rifle chattered and the turf in front of it erupted in small explosions. The Hoi Chanh doing the firing stood up and smiled broadly. It was clear that he was glad to be on the gunner's end of the weapon.

One by one, under the supervision of the 1st Infantry Division's 3rd Brigade combat training school, the Hoi Chans took their turns firing. Recruited from throughout the Big Red One's operational area, the Hoi Chans were grouped for the first of the two-week courses to be held in Lai Khe.

Up at 6:30 a.m., on the range by 8 a.m., the platoon of Hoi Chans was receiving small arms training. The members also had classes in air-mobile

operations, perimeter defenses, patrolling and even some drill and ceremony, "which they really seemed to dig," commented an instructor, Staff Sergeant Edrow Johnson.

"The training is much like that given in Hanoi with AK-47s, RPGs and sub-machineguns," Hoi Chanh Sergeant Nguyen Van Phung said.

There are differences. "The trainees are used to throwing NVA grenades which don't have safeties," explained Sergeant Johnson. "When they pull the pins on our grenades, they get rid of them fast."

Throughout the course, the Hoi Chans have been attentive and quick to learn. Their NCO's don't allow them to become lax. One trainee was careless in clearing his weapon and Sergeant

Phung quickly had him in the position well-known to all trainees: the front leaning rest.

The Hoi Chans' day ends at 4 p.m. At the end of the course they receive three-day passes to see their families. According to Sergeant Johnson, "The 1st Brigade sent their Hoi Chans out on pass and they all came back. As one of them said, they've never had it so good."

Story and Photos by SP4 James L. Marshall (USA)



Attentive students listen to instructor demonstrating the M-79.



Instructor SGT Michael Barnes assists Hoi Chanh with M-79.



Hoi Chanh trainees are led by SGT Cecil Coleman as they walk to the next class.



SGT Johnny Montgomery points out trainee's excellent shot group on rifle target.

Refugees Make Dream Come True

CHU LAI (USA) — The South Vietnamese flag again is flying high over Phu Tho—this time to stay.

Three years ago, the people and chief of this small village, located 20 miles west of Tam Ky, were overrun by VC and forced to flee. They fled north and south, from enemy terrorism, to the Vietnamese government security areas of Moc Bai and Que Son.

Now with the assistance of a battalion of "Chargers" from the 196th Infantry Brigade, Phu Tho will again be a thriving community consisting of more than 1,200 people located in three large hamlets. The village is presently the focus of a new and intensive pacification effort

by members of the 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry.

"We have been working toward this phase for the past five months," said Major Jerry E. Rowe.

"During the rice denial program, rice was purposely left in that area for the people to harvest."

"Most of all, we back this move because we feel the people are ready," Major Rowe continued. "There is a strong desire to go back."

The Phu Tho refugees have done a great deal themselves to make their dream come true. A group of former residents with a strong desire to return to their old home have formed a Popular Forces (PF) platoon

which is responsible for security in conjunction with the village relocation.

The platoon runs periodic patrols through the area. They are accompanied by a 2nd Battalion rifle squad to insure communications and artillery support. The first objective is to root out the VC infrastructure among the people who remained behind when the enemy gained control of the village.

"The Phu Tho group is the best PF platoon we have ever operated with," said Lieutenant Colonel Sinclair L. Melmer, battalion commander. "It must be the desire to go back. They have rooted out more VC infrastructure from their area of responsibility than we have ever gotten anywhere else."

Since early November, 23 Viet Cong have been killed or captured by the platoon.

In the past three months, a 12-man village committee, composed of the village chief, his assistant, and 10 hamlet chiefs, have regularly visited the old and new village sites, working with the people and explaining the program.

The Que Son District is contributing additional PF/RF security elements. A U.S. mortar team and MAT advisers will also be assigned to the village.

Construction of the village site has already begun. An area has been cleared and a foundation laid for a bunkered compound and fortified village headquarters.

"Once we build a village head-

quarters and perimeter, we can say that at least part of the village is GVN-controlled because we physically occupy the ground and we can give the people some protection," said Captain George E. Hamm, the 2nd Battalion civic affairs officer.

Perhaps the strongest factor motivating the Phu Tho people's struggle to return to their homes is their 52-year old village chief, Ngo Thuong, a short, leathery man with an infectious grin and a persistent determination.

Thuong is mindful of the dangers involved. He has become a prime target for VC retaliation, but it doesn't matter to him. "We have returned," he said. "We are here to stay—both ourselves and the South Vietnamese flag."

New Use Discovered For Old Army Drug

VUNG TAU (USA) — An old drug for which the Army has discovered a new use is proving to be effective in the treatment of burn patients at the 36th Evacuation Hospital, 44th Medical Brigade.

The drug is sulfamylon acetate, a cream which was developed and tested at the Brooke Surgical Research Unit, Fort Sam Houston, Texas. Introduced to 36th Evacuation Hospital in June, the cream has replaced the time-consuming method of treating burn patients with silver nitrate saturated dressings.

Captain Alfred S. Buck, acting chief of surgery at the hospital, said that an average of 10 Vietnamese and GI patients are admitted to the burn center at the hospital each month.

Most of the burns are not war-related; they are the result of accidents involving hot water and gasoline.

Treatments

Treatment begins immediately after the patient arrives.

In the Physical Therapy Department, which is headed by Major Mary S. Ozburn, patients are given whirlpool bath treatments and applications of sulfamylon acetate cream twice a day.

Major Ozburn explained that the whirlpool treatments make the patient more comfortable while the cream combats infection.

Exercise is also important, she said, since it helps prevent severe scar constrictions which may require plastic surgery to correct. The use of cream over silver nitrate dressing has an advantage in this area. The patient is not encumbered by the bulky dressings and is free to walk and exercise.

The schoolmaster knew the kerosene lamps (there is no electrical power in the village) would not supply enough light for study. He presented his problem to the people who could help, his friends, the Marine Aircraft Group-12 civic action team.

Members of the Marine Air Base Squadron 12 wired the room and supplied a portable generator.

Now there is no need to advertise classes. The bright lights stab through the night, guiding those seeking education.

ARVN Soldiers Responsible For Village Scout Program

LAI KHE (USA) — Six months ago, Lai Khe was one of those villages where the kids had nothing to do when school wasn't in session.

Today the village has a thriving scout troop with more than 100 boys and girls, and the troop was officially recognized recently by Vietnamese scouting authorities in a special ceremony at the scouts' building.

Responsible for the changed



YOUNG AND OLD—Both the young and old Vietnamese take advantage of a MEDCAP held by the 9th Infantry Division recently three miles south of Dong Tam. They listen intently as the doctor prescribes care for the ailments through an interpreter. (USA PHOTO)

Seabee Program Helping Viet Youth Learn Valuable Trades

DA NANG (USN) — What began as a request has become a statement of fact for many Vietnamese workers recently hired by the Seabees.

Lap, a 16-year-old Vietnamese boy from Da Nang, was told by his father to get a job with the Seabees and learn a trade. Hired as part of a Vietnamese work force at Camp

Haskins, the Seabee Headquarters in Da Nang, Lap was assigned to sweep the vehicle repair shop belonging to Navy Mobile Construction Battalion Three (NMCB-3).

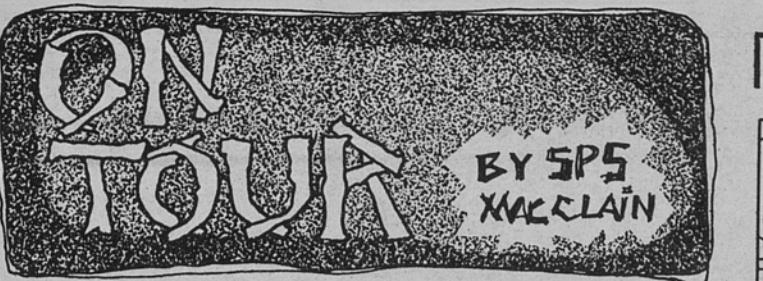
Lap expressed an interest in the work being done by Construction Mechanic Third Class John E. Craig. Before long, Lap was asking for additional responsibilities. He began observing the work, trying it out. Soon Lap was cleaning air filters, changing spark plugs and giving valve jobs.

Future
Future plans for the expansion of this program include informal apprenticeships as mechanics, carpenters, plumbers, construction men, electricians and masons. According to Captain Fisher, "One of our goals has been to elevate the American image in the eyes of the Vietnamese people. As a result of this program, the Seabee reputation seems to be getting around among the local people. Of course the bigger goal," the captain continued, "is to teach our workers skills and trades which will enable them to make an important contribution to themselves and their community and carry on for themselves when we are no longer here."



BUNKER BUNNY OF THE WEEK—says, "I'm sure glad that this wall is here. After the wild beach party I've just come from, I'm having trouble keeping my balance. Speaking of balance, if you keep yours to \$100 or more in a checking account with a military banking facility in Vietnam, it will pay five per cent interest as long as the balance doesn't fall below the minimum at any time during a calendar quarter." This week's BUNKER BUNNY, Jennifer Castle, looks pretty well-balanced to us.

(PHOTO COURTESY OF LAS VEGAS NEWS BUREAU)



American Forces Vietnam Network – Channel 11

(Programs Subject To Change Without Notice)
(Guide For Week Of January 24-30, 1969)

FRIDAY Jan. 24

1330 Turn On
1413 What's Happening
1415 Sign On News
1420 Dean Martin (Re-Run)
1530 Dean Martin (Re-Run)
1630 Star Trek (Re-Run)
1730 The Monkees
1800 Wild Wild West
1900 Gunsmoke
1920 Event News
2030 Weather
2030 Hollywood Palace
2100 What's Happening
Combat
2200 Late News
2210 Boxing From The Olympics

SATURDAY Jan. 25

1230 Turn On
1313 What's Happening
1315 Sign On News
1330 CBS Food Classic
1430 Traditions Old – Traditions New
1500 Melody Ranch (Re-Run)
1600 Gunsmoke (Re-Run)
1700 Hazel
1730 Have Gun Will Travel
1800 Nashville Vietnam
1830 London Citizenship Test
1925 Weather
1930 Evening News
2009 Jackie Gleason
2059 Let's Speak Vietnamese (Advanced)
2100 What's Happening
Sports
Halftime News

SUNDAY Jan. 26

1230 Turn On
1313 What's Happening
1315 Sign On News
1330 Kraft Music Hall
1430 Ironside
1530 Jerry Lewis Show
1630 People's Forum
1700 Information Feature
1730 21st Century
1800 Window On Vietnam
1830 TV Tonight
1830 Walt Disney Presents
1930 Evening News
2006 Girl Friends And Nobors
2059 Let's Speak Vietnamese (Advanced)
2100 What's Happening
Sports
Halftime News

MONDAY Jan. 27

1330 Turn On
1413 What's Happening
1415 Sign On News
1430 Wild Wild West (Re-Run)
1530 Wild Wild West (Re-Run)
1630 Combat (Re-Run)

TUESDAY Jan. 28

1730 Survival
1800 Jonathan Winters
1900 Jonathan Winters
1920 Evening News
2000 Weather
2006 Bonanza
2100 What's Happening
Mission Impossible
2200 Late News
2210 Joey Bishop

WEDNESDAY Jan. 29

1330 Turn On
1413 What's Happening
1415 Sign On News
1430 Sports
1700 Red Skelton Hour
1800 Get Smart
1900 Strawberry Four
1930 Evening News
2000 Weather
2006 Operation: Entertainment
2100 What's Happening
Gunsmoke
2200 Late News
2210 Feature Movie

THURSDAY Jan. 30

1330 Turn On
1413 What's Happening
1415 Sign On News
1430 Sports
1730 N.F.L. Highlights
1800 My Father Martin
1830 Carol Burnett Show
1850 Let's Speak Vietnamese #1
1900 Star Search
1930 Evening News
2000 Weather
2006 Music Hall
2100 What's Happening
Perry Mason
2200 Late News
2210 Feature Movie

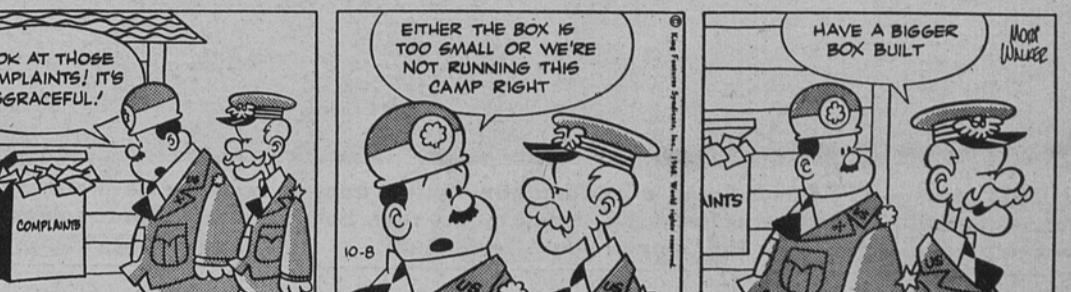
FRIDAY Jan. 31

1330 Turn On
1413 What's Happening
1415 Sign On News
1430 Wild Wild West (Re-Run)
1530 Wild Wild West (Re-Run)
1630 Combat (Re-Run)

Beetle Bailey



By Mort Walker



Peanuts



By Charles M. Schulz





RUBBER MAN — PFC James Raver, a 25th Infantry Division trooper, seems to be stretching things a bit too far as he recovers an RPG-7 round from an enemy tunnel. Actually, PFC Alger LaHood is bringing up the rear. Both are 2nd Brigade soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry, who found the cache while working on a detail near Fire Support Base Keene.

(USA PHOTO By: SP4 E. R. James)

Big Cache Found By Force 213

AN KHE (USA) — An enemy cache of nearly eight tons of rice was recently uncovered near An Khe by a Mobile Strike Force unit working with the 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 50th Infantry, 173rd Airborne Brigade.

Mobile Strike Force 213 was conducting a reconnaissance-in-force mission eight miles south of An Khe when it came upon a series of buildings where the rice was being kept.

"We had spotted the buildings the day before," said First Lieutenant Dennis Croft. "We had been conducting an aerial visual check of the area. We thought it might be some sort of supply point."

After assaulting into the area, the company verified its suspicions. More than 14,500 pounds of rice was stored in the buildings.

"The biggest problem was getting the rice out of there," said First Lieutenant Steve Whisenant. "We finally solved the problem by using sandbags. We used more than a thousand," he said.

So You'd Like Delay En Route

SAIGON (MACV) — If your family is located in Hawaii, Japan or certain other locations on Military Airlift Command channels, you can get a delay en route at that location before returning to the United States.

Check with your Personnel officer.

IRS Answers Income Tax Queries

(Editor's Note: In an Army News Feature series beginning this week, the Internal Revenue Service of the U.S. Treasury Department answers some of the most frequently asked questions on federal income tax matters.)

WASHINGTON (ANF) — Question: When will I be getting my income tax forms?

Answer from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS): Beginning in January, the tax forms are available at local IRS offices as well as many post offices and banks. Most taxpayers will receive copies of the forms and instructions in the mail.

If you receive a 1040 tax form in the mail, you may have a

form that is printed in two colors. This is to draw attention to certain parts of the form that were troublesome to taxpayers last year.

Color is not used on the 1040-A forms or the 1040 forms that may be picked up at IRS offices and other locations.

Q: My wife worked part-time at a local department store during the Christmas season. If she files her own tax return will I still be able to claim her exemption on our return?

A: No, you may not. When a husband or wife files a separate return the other must file separately too, and neither is per-

mitted to claim exemptions, expenses or deductions of the other.

If your wife's income is small it would probably be to your advantage to file a joint return. Compute your tax both ways to see which is best for you.

Q: My son is stationed in Vietnam with the U.S. military forces. What do we do about his tax return?

A: Military personnel in a combat zone do not have to file tax returns while stationed there. They may wait to file a tax return up to 180 days after leaving Vietnam.

(Next: Interest on savings bonds.)

VA Announces Liberal Educational Assistance

WASHINGTON (ANF) — The Veterans Administration (VA) reminds veterans separated from service after Jan. 31, 1955, that they now are entitled to one and one-half months of educational assistance—up to a maximum of 36 months—for each month of military service.

A law that became effective in December liberalized the Post-Korean G.I. Bill limit of one month of educational assistance for each month of service for veterans with at least 181 days of service, including some after Jan. 31, 1955.

The VA especially urges post-Korean veterans who did not return to school because they could complete only a couple of years of college under the old formula of one month entitlement for each month of service to contact their nearest VA office.

CIB OK'd...

(Continued From Page 1) may earn the CIB if they command an infantry unit of company size or smaller and meet the other requirements.)

Eligibility requirements for the Combat Medical Badge are similar. Also, soldiers wounded or killed in combat qualify for the awards.

The specific hostile fire area in Korea is north of the Imjin River and south of the DMZ, extending from the intersection of the river and the DMZ on the west, along the DMZ to a point in the vicinity of Pinil, then southwest to the north bank of the Imjin in the vicinity of Chajip'o.

ARVN-ROK-Marine Combo...

(Continued From Page 1) after the battle, Marines of Company B met their Korean counterparts in the final closing of the cordon.

The allies dug in for a possible counter attack from inside the cordon. Tanks and Marines provided rear security against enemy forces from outside the surrounded area. For two days the allied forces held their positions

against light sniper fire from within the cordon.

As daylight broke on the third day, U.S. Marines moved out of their positions and across the surrounded terrain.

Numerous interlacing treelines and the probe for enemy equipment made progress through the first half of the area extremely slow. In contrast, the last half was crossed in about half an hour.



SOMETHING NEW — Going to Manila on R&R? You'll find that your flight will be almost three hours shorter than it would have been last year. The MACV R&R Branch has announced that all flights to the Philippine metropolis are now by C-141 jet aircraft. This cuts the time from 5 hours, 15 minutes, to 2 hours and 20 minutes. There are now 14 flights to Manila.

(MACV PHOTO By: SP4 T. L. Tynes)

Mail THE OBSERVER Home

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

From:

Place Stamp Here	
(12 cents 1st class)	
(20 cents Airmail)	

TO:

25th Troops Unearth Big Rice Cache

CU CHI (USA) — Tropic Lightning troops of the Fire Brigade's 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry, grabbed three huge caches of enemy food stores recently, containing more than 23 tons of new rice.

Combat sweep operations along the south bank of the Saigon River, 12 miles north of Cu Chi, netted the huge finds.

Working jointly with Stinger gunships from the 116th Assault

Helicopter Company, the Warriors' Company A was first to turn up a substantial amount of the grain when they located a camouflaged stack of bagged rice amounting to nearly 10,000 pounds near the river's edge.

Working swiftly, the Warriors piled the 100-pound bags in cargo slings which were speedily evacuated by Chinook helicopter to Cu Chi.

Artillery, which slammed into

the area during the night, laid open another 3,800-pound cache that appeared as a large white blob from the 2nd Brigade's command and control ship that spotted it the next morning.

Company D troops salvaged as much of the precious food as possible and destroyed in place what could not be saved.

Four days of intensive search passed without results. Then the Fire Brigade soldiers of Com-

pany B, commanded by Captain Allen Wissinger, struck it big.

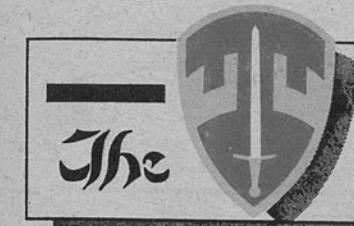
Sweeping in an area north of Trang Bang, the company's point element, acting on a hunch, probed the ground in a large burnt off area near a village.

Pushing through about 14 inches of earth, the probing infantrymen found a huge hollow spot. Digging soon turned up

rice. More than 3,000 pounds of the cereal was carefully extracted and airlifted to Cu Chi. An additional 4,000 pounds could not be saved and was destroyed.

"The rice was a clue to search the village," said Captain Wissinger. "Working with ARVN interpreters, we discovered what appeared to be an enemy resupply point."

Search of the area found most (Continued on Back Page)



Vol. 7, No. 39

Be Careful PX Urges

SAIGON (MACV) — Count your change.

This may strike many servicemen as a very elementary request, but MACV officials are recognizing the need to re-emphasize it. A few instances have been noted recently in which patrons of the Exchange, clubs and messes have discovered discrepancies in the sale as shown on cash registers with the change they actually receive.

As a precaution and to insure that no one falls victim to such an incident, servicemen are asked to follow these guides when spending their MPC.

- Have a good estimate of what your purchase will come to before you go to the cash register to pay.

- Be sure your sale corresponds with the amount rung up on the cash register.

- Pay for the purchase in the exact amount, if possible; if not, attempt to use bills of denominations close to the amount being paid. For example, don't use a \$20 bill for a 75 cent purchase if you can avoid it.

When an individual fails to watch his money when making purchases or paying for meals and drinks — or when he fails to report discrepancies — he is hurting himself and his buddies.

Should the incident occur in an Exchange outlet, then the Exchange loses money. And this (Continued on Back Page)

Fliers Hit VC In Delta

BIEN HOA (USAF) — F-100 Supersabre and A-37 pilots from the 3rd Tactical Fighter Wing at Bien Hoa Air Base, recently teamed up to strike an enemy troop concentration 14 miles northeast of Can Tho.

Major Craig Humphrey and First Lieutenant Robert Galer were the F-100 pilots. A-37 pilots were First Lieutenants John M. Gay and Terry Hunt.

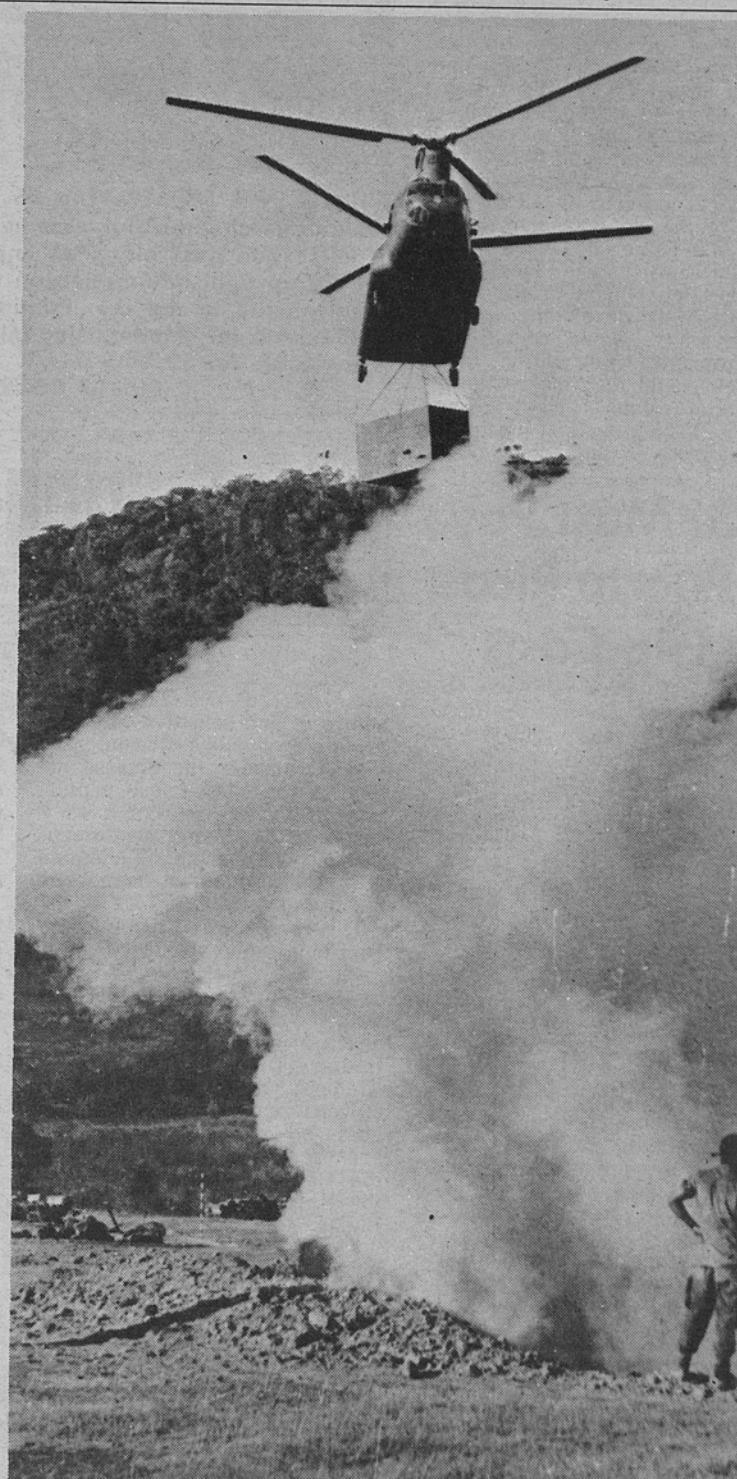
The A-37 fliers struck the target first on an early morning mission and were credited by the forward air controller (FAC) directing the attack with killing 4 enemy soldiers, destroying 8 fortifications, 5 bunkers and 6 sampans and damaging 7 fortifications.

"The FAC asked us to destroy the fortifications and bunker complex first," Lieutenant Gay related. "As we pulled off the (Continued on Back Page)

FIRST IN VIETNAM OBSERVER

Saigon, Vietnam

January 31, 1969



SMOKE SCREEN — Supplies are dropped onto a 4th Division firebase by helicopter behind a smoke screen laid down by a companion craft. (USA PHOTO)

He's Just Like The Barber Who Needs A Haircut

DA NANG (USMC) — It had rained all morning and on into the afternoon. This was the monsoon season in this section of South Vietnam and nature was delivering right on schedule.

The jeep pulled to a stop at the main intersection in camp. The driver looked to the left and then to the right.

"How about a ride, sir?" a young, rain-drenched Marine asked hopefully.

"Sure, son, hop in," the driver invited.

"Where are you headed?" asked the veteran gunnery sergeant.

"Well, sir, my five-tonner

(truck) ran out of diesel fuel and I'm looking for the fuel pump," replied the hitch-hiker as he placed an empty five-gallon fuel can in the jeep.

"I guess I can take you there and bring you back," replied the gunny.

"Thanks a lot. I sure do ap-

preciate it."

After taking the Marine two miles to the fuel point and heading back to the stalled vehicle, the gunny thought to ask: "What outfit are you with, Marine?"

RF Troops Decorated

LZ SANDY (USA) — Sixteen American awards for valor were recently presented to Regional Force (RF) soldiers in two ceremonies by Lieutenant General W. R. Peers, commanding general of I Field Force.

A joint formation of American artillerymen of Battery A, 5th Battalion, 27th Artillery, and 300 RF Company soldiers participated in award ceremonies at Landing Zone Sandy. The RF soldiers, who provide security for LZ Sandy, were decorated by General Peers for their action during an enemy attack on the American artillery fire base.

Corporal Hong Tuong Vann was awarded the Bronze Star with "V" Device for his part in the action.

Three Army Commendation Medals with "V" Device were presented to Aspirant Le Tran Van, acting company commander during the attack; Sergeant Hoa Bui Van, platoon sergeant; and Corporal Cam Tran Minh, the guard who alerted the compound to the attack.

Next, General Peers presented 12 awards for valor to the men of the 118th RF Company in ceremonies at Song Mao. Receiving Bronze Stars with "V" Device were Lieutenant Phan Van Con and Lieutenant Tran Cong Hung.

Members of Lieutenant Hung's Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol were also presented the Army Commendation Medal with "V" Device. Receiving awards were Sergeants Qua Tham and Ton Van Khanh; Corporals Dung Thanh, Uc Luom, and Che Hoang Nhat; and Privates First Class Lu Van Sung, Dang Hue, Ca Phung, Dang Van Bac, and Nguyen Luan.

Hog Makes Pig Out Of Himself

BAN ME THUOT (USA) — Company A, 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry, 4th Infantry Division, had just completed an operation and was breaking for chow. Sergeant Dale Fronheiser was preparing cheeseburgers.

"I turned my back a moment," he said, "and one of the pigs from a nearby village had eaten the meat right off the grill we had built."

"If we ever go back to that area it's going to be ham and cheese for the company," he said, only half-joking.

"Sir, I'm with the 7th Bulk Fuel Company."

Editorial

Image Important

Almost everything with which you come in contact is easily identified by its name. Whether it is a person, an object, an idea, an action — everything has a name. We have even given names to objects and places in the reaches of space and the depths of the oceans so that they are more easily identified.

You, as an individual, also have a name by which you are called, paid, identified, etc. Your name is your birthright and something of which to be proud. It must



be guarded from tarnish whether by deed or accusation.

But, as members of the Armed Forces you also have another name. You are known as Soldier, Airmen, Marine or Sailor. You are a member of a "family" that is easily identified by its profession and its uniforms, and because of these, you are easily recognized in a crowd or a community.

It is because of this that you must guard your name — both your given family name and your military name — with care. Your conduct and your actions reflect upon you not only as an individual and as part of the Smith, Brown, Jones or Green family, but on you as a member of the military "family" as well.

You are, in many cases, more closely watched than your civilian counterparts because you are part of a profession or a group that is somewhat apart from the remainder of the population.

You dress differently because you must wear a uniform; your family life is often quite different because of transfers, overseas assignments, working hours and the type of job you perform; and you comprise a very small segment of our total population.

Because of these and other differences and because you serve the cause of patriotism, you are noticed.

For this reason, your every action and word must reflect credit upon you not only as an individual member of your own family, but as a member of the military family as well.

Other members of the military community are judged by your words and actions, just as you are judged by theirs. Prudent speech and action on the part of every man and woman in uniform are necessary so that at no time, in any way, will the family name of Soldier, Sailor, Marine or Airmen be damaged.

Just as you strive to keep your personal family name unblemished, do the same for your military family name. (AFPS)



VA Pamphlet Out On SGLI
WASHINGTON (ANF) — A Veterans Administration (VA) pamphlet explaining insurance protection and the conversion privilege under the Servicemen's Group Life Insurance program soon will be included in the separation papers for military members.

Importance of making advanced reservations was stressed.

GEN C.W. Abrams, USA
BG W. Sidle, USA
LTC R.B. Solomon, USA
ILT D.E. Boudreux, USA
SFC D.D. Perez, USA
TSgt G.K. Fears, USAF
SP5 J.L. Klop, USA
Sgt E.J. Sargent, USMC
SP5 J.S. De Priest, USA
SP5 D.M. Gerrol, USA
SP4 T.L. Tynes, USA
PFC C.B. Feldpausch, USA
SP5 Mac Clain, USA

Officer In Charge
NCOIC/Editor
Assistant Editor
Production Manager

Staff Writer
Staff Writer
Photographer
Distribution Manager

Illustrator

Just In Case You Have Not Heard**Recognition For VN Vets**

WASHINGTON (USA) — The Army chief of staff has approved a program to enhance recognition of soldiers returning from Vietnam for reassignment or separation. The American Legion is considering a proposal to serve through its local posts as the point of contact for all local civic groups desiring information about returning Vietnam veterans.

Timely provision of the returnee's name and address to supporting civic organizations is the single most important element of any plan to stimulate increased recognition in hometown areas.

A postcard system would meet the requirement. The postcard would be completed during out-processing of the individual from USARV and sent by air mail to one of the state departments of the American Legion which would refer it to the local level.

The Department of the Army is presently developing a postcard which would contain the appropriate information and which would also insure the individual soldier's right to privacy if he does not desire to participate in the program.

GI Must Pay Puerto Rico Trip Costs

WASHINGTON (USA) — Department of the Army officials announced recently that servicemen are continuing to report to Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico, in leave and delay status without funds to return or proceed as directed.

The situation becomes extremely critical during the December-January holiday season because of general non-availability of military flights and heavy advance bookings for commercial flights from Puerto Rico.

Commanders have been asked to remind personnel prior to departure that they are required by regulation to have sufficient funds in their possession to arrange for commercial transportation necessary to comply with established return or reporting dates.

Importance of making advanced reservations was stressed.



WHAT'S IN A NAME? — This Las Vegas showgirl (sorry, we couldn't get the name) pauses here on her way up the ladder of success to pass along an important tip. If you want to get the up-tight information on the Hubbell Committee proposals, write to the U.S. Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. Ask for "Modernizing Military Pay." The publication is available for \$2.

(PHOTO COURTESY OF LAS VEGAS NEWS)



By ILT David E. Boudreux

Because we live in an age that has grown increasingly aware of and sensitive to ethnic groups, it should prove interesting to consider the diverse nature of the Vietnamese population. It may even come as a surprise to some Americans that all the people of Vietnam do not belong to the same ethnic group.

For example, in 1958 four-fifths of Vietnamese trade was controlled by the Chinese.

The Vietnamese government has sought to bring the Chinese into the national life of the country. All Chinese born in Vietnam have been granted Vietnamese citizenship, which has also been offered to foreign-born Chinese living in Vietnam. Many Chinese now speak fluent Vietnamese, especially the members of the younger generation.

The Montagnards, or "mountain people," certainly are one of the most fascinating ethnic groups in South Vietnam. There are more than 700,000 Montagnards belonging to 18 major tribal groups settled in the highlands of I, II, and III Corps. Interestingly enough, according to most studies, the Montagnards have been in Vietnam longer than any remaining ethnic group. Early invasions forced them to literally take to the hills. Since then they have made their homes in their tribal villages. Montagnards are playing a key role in keeping watch on enemy infiltration routes.

They were, and still are, skilled agriculturalists and fishermen.

The conflict, however, displaced many people, causing some of them to move to the cities. The city dweller may be anyone from a war refugee to a member of the elite, educated class of people in government.

There are at least one million Chinese in South Vietnam. In

"... As long as there are men who hate and destroy we must have the courage to resist, or we will see it all, all that we have built, all that we hope to build, all of our dreams for freedom—all swept away in the flood of conquest. So this shall not happen; we will stand in Vietnam."

LYNDON B. JOHNSON

EVERY SECOND COUNTS — 2nd Brigade soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division, rush to choppers during operations near Duc Hoa. (PHOTO BY SP4 E. R. JAMES)

GIs Rout Red Rampage

TAY NINH (USA) — What

do North Vietnamese soldiers look like?

"Like a bunch of kids running to see the Beatles," said Sergeant Samuel A. Rodgers, a radarman with the 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry "Manchus" of the 25th Infantry Division. A day before, the Manchus had helped turn back a fierce midnight assault on their Mole City patrol base, 16 miles southeast of here.

Sergeant Shelton F. Barrs, whose platoon bore the brunt of the NVA attack in which 106 enemy troops died, agreed with Rodgers.

There wasn't any screaming or yelling," he said. "They just came running in."

The estimated regimental attack on the Manchu, Bravo and Charlie companies' well-entrenched patrol base came hard on the wake of a rocket-mortar barrage.

The NVA force broke through at one point to take two bunkers and 50 feet of trenchline.

The two companies of the 1st Brigade infantrymen, with support from mortars, artillery and aircraft, held fast.

Sergeant Barrs said the NVA seemed over-confident.

"They made two false assumptions," he contended. "First, they thought we'd fall back. We didn't. Second, they

were not expecting us to be so well dug in. That set them back."

Among the individual efforts that helped to repel the attack, Sergeant Barrs and Rodgers both recalled the work of two men: Charlie Company Commander Captain Ramon T. Pulliam and Specialist 4 Charles E. Cureton, a 2nd platoon grenadier.

The old man just kept going from bunker to bunker, passing out ammunition. He really kept us going," said Sergeant Barrs.

Sergeant Rodgers remembered Specialist Cureton "popping away with his M-79, keeping the

enemy who had gotten into our bunkers from going any farther."

Sergeant Barrs remembered it as a night when the "Manchus taught Charlie a lesson he'll remember for a long time."

He also remembered it as a night he'd not like to have to live through again. "I thought I'd been scared before, and I thought I'd prayed before, but when I heard that grenade go off in the bunker next to mine and knew that the NVA had taken it, that was something else," he said.

The men of this highly specialized infantry unit are mostly

from the Indianapolis and Evansville, Ind., areas. Their new home is a former Hawk missile battery site located near the 199th Light Infantry Brigade base camp here, 18 miles northeast of Saigon.

Following in-processing and training, the LRP's will begin tactical operations throughout the 10,000 square miles of the III Corps Tactical Zone. They will be under the operational control of II Field Force Headquarters here.

Long range patrol units like the 151st are a vital part of the intelligence-gathering process.

Often working many miles away from friendly positions, the LRP's provide timely information which is used in coordinating offensive operations.

The company trained at Ft. Benning, Ga., for six months prior to deployment overseas. There, members of the company underwent extensive training in their military occupational specialties.

Captain Ronald E. Himes, commanding officer of the 151st, supervised all phases of the training. A former sales manager with a large company in the Indianapolis area, Captain Himes finds his new job quite challenging. "We're ready to get to work," he said. "We've been training long and hard and morale is high."



Menninger, George E. CPT USA

Davenport, Leon MAJ USA

Pederson, James H. CPT USA

*1/2

Smith, Roger B. CPT USA

*1/2

Tribby, Thomas R. MSG USA

Watson, Gray D. 1LT USA

Viera, Juan F. SSG USA

Watson, Michael G. 1LT USA

Duncan, Barmore Jr. MAJ USA

*1/2

Fellenz, Michael P. CPT USA

Buck, Robert L. 1LT USA

*1/2

Cook, Albert SFC USA

*1/2

Drew, Phillip L. MAJ USA

Gergulis, John G. MAJ USA

*1/2

Hogen, Michael W. 1LT USA

Morris, Paul A. 1LT USA

*1/2

Peck, James W. SGT USA

Sugiki, Takao CPT USA

*1/2

Tupper, Stephen R. 1LT USA

*1/2 denotes Oak Leaf Clusters

Laytham, George SFC USA

*1/2 denotes Oak Leaf Clusters

Menninger, George E. CPT USA

Davenport, Leon MAJ USA

Pederson, James H. CPT USA

*1/2

Smith, Roger B. CPT USA

*1/2

Tribby, Thomas R. MSG USA

Watson, Gray D. 1LT USA

Viera, Juan F. SSG USA

Watson, Michael G. 1LT USA

Duncan, Barmore Jr. MAJ USA

*1/2

Fellenz, Michael P. CPT USA

Buck, Robert L. 1LT USA

*1/2

Cook, Albert SFC USA

*1/2

Drew, Phillip L. MAJ USA

Gergulis, John G. MAJ USA

*1/2

Hogen, Michael W. 1LT USA

Morris, Paul A. 1LT USA

*1/2

Peck, James W. SGT USA

Sugiki, Takao CPT USA

*1/2

Tupper, Stephen R. 1LT USA

*1/2 denotes Oak Leaf Clusters

Laytham, George SFC USA

*1/2 denotes Oak Leaf Clusters

Menninger, George E. CPT USA

Davenport, Leon MAJ USA

Pederson, James H. CPT USA

*1/2



Miss Trinh-Thu, Can Tho TV personality, presents a regular news program. (MACV PHOTO)

Roman Forms Are Introduced For Low-Cost Refugee Housing

LONG BINH (USA) — American ingenuity is using classical Roman architectural forms to provide shelter for Vietnamese in Phuoc Tuy Province.

Concrete domes, 15 feet across, will soon be airlifted throughout the province to make Vietnamese Information Service (VIS) reading rooms. Three domes will be used for each building. Some 28 buildings have been proposed.

The three-eighths-of-an-inch thick domes are the idea of Lieutenant Colonel Alan Cran-

don, development staffer for Civil Operations and Revolutionary Development Support (CORDS) in the province. Colonel Crandon is already well known in the province for building a 45-foot boat that will upgrade the area's fishing fleet.

Colonel Crandon pointed out that by using concrete, which is cheap, and the dome shape, which is strong for its weight, airliftable roofs could easily be supplied. The dome shape, however, is alien to Vietnamese architecture. Colonel Crandon

has introduced a new form for the nation's builders.

The domes are being built on wooden forms that Colonel Crandon designed. "It's kind of a complicated form, really," he said.

The dome must put equal weight on each of its four supporting columns to retain the strength that the ancient shape gives it. But getting the dome absolutely level is no easy task, especially in the wilds of Phuoc Tuy Province. So Colonel Crandon invented a mechanical device that uses bolts and a torque wrench to put equal tension on the four corners. A Seabee team that works in Baria, province capital, did the machine shop work for him.

The domes may be used to provide low cost housing for refugees. According to Colonel Crandon, the same principle can be used in the construction of two-story houses.

Fifty per cent of the programs are pure entertainment in the

New Church Dedicated

DAK TO (USA) — A church built through the combined efforts of the men of D Company, 299th Engineer Battalion (Combat), and members of its Montagnard congregation, was dedicated recently in the Dak To area.

Located in the village of Dak Chu, three miles northeast of Dak To, the church was almost entirely built with materials supplied by the villagers. The men from D Company both supervised and worked with the villagers in building their church.

Working many hours without the advantage of an interpreter, the men depended on a "do as I do" method of communication. "The cooperation from the people," commented Specialist 4 Dan Rickard, "was terrific. This is a job we all are proud of."

The dedication service was attended by Lieutenant Colonel Joseph A. Shewski, commanding officer of the 299th; Major Bao, Dak To District advisor, Chaplain (Captain) Dolphus Allen, 299th chaplain, and Protestant men of the area. With the exception of an address by Chaplain Allen, the entire service was conducted in Jarai, a Montagnard dialect common to the

Want Mail?

If you're interested in getting mail from someone in the States who wants very much to hear from you and appreciates what you are doing here, why not write "Operation Morale Booster"? The address is:

MRS M. AVERITT, P.O. Box 674, Newman, Calif.



A 9th Division infantryman carries an injured Vietnamese woman to an awaiting helicopter. (USA PHOTO)

GVN TV Comes To Delta Region

CAN THO (MACV) — Local GVN television has come to the Delta.

With the first official broadcast of THVN-TV Can Tho last November the culmination of several years of arduous efforts by numerous U.S. and Vietnamese agencies has finally been realized.

Utilizing some of the most modern electronic equipment in the world, THVN-TV transmits three hours nightly on channel 7 from its television studio in the Delta's largest city.

Studio

The studio building is located in the center of Can Tho while the 25,000-watt transmitter and 400-foot, 10-ton antenna stand about two miles southeast of the city. The antenna was built by a U.S. construction firm under the guidance of AFVN.

According to Michael Rausch, AFVN field engineer, the micro-wave remote control system used by the studio, which permits full broadcast operation without requiring any personnel to be at the transmitter, is the first such accomplishment in the world.

Actual ground-breaking for the station commenced in February 1967 after a direct U.S. congressional appropriation, encouraged by Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey. Construction was intermittently delayed by equipment failure and the Tet Offensive.

The electronic equipment at the air-conditioned studio includes a complete film train, five television monitors, two vidicon TV cameras, and a video-tape machine, along with the micro-wave remote control system.

Majority

The majority of the station's programs are geared toward educating and motivating the populace. Currently a weekly ARVN show is being broadcast with local talent providing the entertainment.

Fifty per cent of the programs are pure entertainment in the

form of Chinese operas, amateur and professional musical productions, and full length Vietnamese feature films.

The remaining half of air time is devoted to educational and documentary films, local, national and international news and official government announcements. JUSPAO contributes significantly in the documentary film area.

Small Staff

Despite a small staff of only 10 persons—six men to operate the equipment, three female clerical assistants and one female announcer—the station still manages a comprehensive schedule seven nights a week. All local news broadcasting is voiced by Miss Trinh-Thu.

Mr. Hoang-Thai, station manager, receives many letters each week from viewers as far away as An Xuyen Province, lauding both the reception and the programming that viewers are receiving.

Television sets are distributed to the rural hamlets through a JUSPAO program, administered from its Saigon headquarters.

Full Impact

Although the full impact of the local station has not yet been felt, both U.S. and Vietnamese IV Corps officials are very optimistic about the role THVN-TV Can Tho is beginning to play in the pacification effort.

Before the new studio started operating there was some television broadcasting done in the Delta.

Each evening for the past two years a massive four-engine, prop-driven Lockheed C-121 Constellation took off from Tan Son Nhut in Saigon and flew southwest, transmitting GVN television broadcasts while in flight.

This unusual U.S. Navy aircraft, called the "Blue Eagle," now operates in the Qui Nhon area.

Troopers Save Pair

ABOARD THE USS BENEWAH (USA) — A dustoff of a Vietnamese mother and her son, both badly burned from a hut fire, occurred during a recent operation when the 9th Infantry Division's Company C, 3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry, made a sweep of an area near Ben Tre.

A Vietnamese cameraman from CBS News, who was filming the operation, aided in the dustoff as interpreter, informing the injured that it was to their benefit to be taken out and also calming their fears that they would not be able to return if they left.

After consent was given, the pair had to be carried across 200 meters of deep rice paddy mud to a suitable LZ. It took four men to carry the woman, who could not walk because of severely burned right knee and leg.

Another man volunteered to carry the boy the entire distance and developed a warm friendship in the process. The boy, who held tightly to a C ration chocolate bar, and cried only once before being placed into the chopper, had burns on both forearms and hands in addition to the lower stomach and back region.

Both were taken to Dong Tam Hospital for treatment while Company C continued its sweep.



The Navy flotilla is joined in convoy by U.S. Army-operated Utility Landing Craft.

'Giant Slingshot' Halts VC

SAIGON (USN) — U.S. Navy River Patrol Boats (PBRs) began conducting

Operation "Giant Slingshot" in December 1968, from various locations along the Van Co Dong and Vam

Co Tay Rivers west of Saigon, in III and IV Corps.

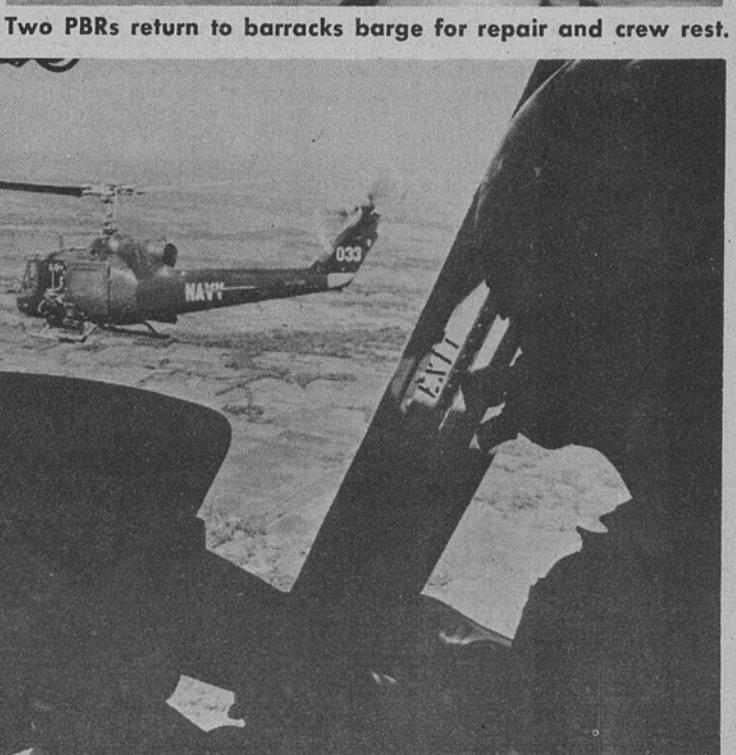
An estimated 80 miles of waterway is presently being patrolled by the PBRs, with additional support being provided by elements of the

Navy's River Assault Group, comprised of the heavier Assault Support Patrol Boats (ASPBs), Armored Troop Carriers (ATC's) and Monitors (LCMs), the "Battleships of the Delta."

The purpose of Operation "Giant Slingshot" is to interdict and destroy the Viet Cong's previously unchallenged route of communications and troops, supplies and arms movement into Saigon from the west.

Also supporting the Navymen are elements of the U.S. Army, the Vietnamese Popular Forces and Civilian Irregular Defense Forces.

**Story & Photos
By
U.S. Navy**

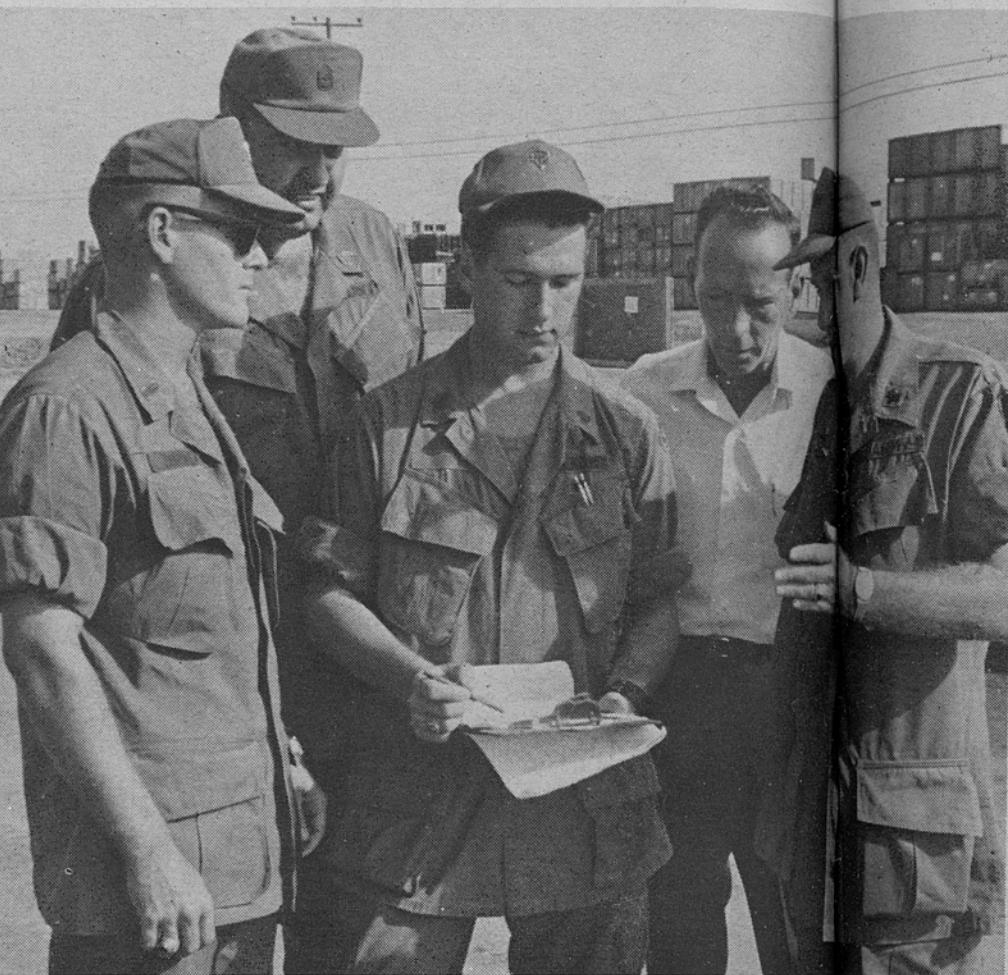


U.S. Navy "Seawolf" helicopters provide air cover for the river patrol boats.

A Logistical Giant At Long Binh



Vehicle Park OIC 1LT Henry Wier and MSG Earl Miles, NCOIC, inspect a truck engine.



Depot Commander COL Thomas B. Mahone Jr. and SSM John R. Noonan at Warehouse 415 with 1LT John Sommer, SP4 Thomas Thompson and Earl Washburn.

LONG BINH (MACV) — Sprawling like a sleeping giant in the gently rolling eroded red earth of Bien Hoa Province looms the U.S. Army Depot, Long Binh — largest in the world.

A giant it is. Sleeping it is not. The hub of 17 different locations, the operation of the bustling logistics complex is now being centralized.

Almost everything coming into the country, except for ammunition, medical and air items, funnels through facilities here. In mid-January this year, the mammoth warehouses and storage areas here were stuffed with \$616 million worth of equipment and supplies. There has been more. Take, for instance, the \$1 billion inventory a short while ago.

"Always Ready To Serve." This is the motto of the U.S. Army Depot. "Expedient service to the troops is our goal," said Colonel Thomas B. Mahone Jr., the depot commander. The colonel's round-the-clock operation means rifles to rations, nickel washers to equipment costing tens of thousands of dollars.

Story By
TSGT. Jerry Fears, USAF
Photos By
SP4 Thomas Tynes, USA



Checking card punching operation are, from left, SFC Henry Hart, CPT Clegg Holliday and MAJ Ken Kittleberger. The operators are Dinh Thi Nhu Nga and Thao Nguyen Thi.



In Data Control, SP4 Paul Methner, SP5 Brad Wyckoff and SP4 James Simpson tend to the computers—the electronic brain of the depot.



SP4 Fred Williams, a forklift operator, handles a tiny portion of the massive tonnage moving through the mammoth U.S. Army Depot at Long Binh.

Swift, Dedicated Dustoff Crews Save Lives

CU CHI (USA) — 1:13 p.m. A call is received in the radio shack of the 159th Medical Detachment. A field unit needs a medical evacuation (MedEvac) helicopter — a dustoff chopper.

1:14 p.m. The chopper lifts off the pad at the 159th on its way to the coordinates given during radio contact.

1:21 p.m. The dustoff identifies the smoke popped as a signal and sets down in a clearing that moments before had been the scene of a fierce firefight.

1:23 p.m. The MedEvac chopper lifts off with eight patients aboard.

1:30 p.m. The dustoff shuts down at the 25th Medical Battalion at the 25th Infantry Division's Cu Chi base camp.

Within 20 minutes from the time the unit in the field radioed for its dustoff, the wounded were receiving professional medical treatment under hospital conditions.

The efficiency of the 159th Medical Detachment's team doesn't come easily. There is always a crew on "First Up" status ready to move out at a moment's notice. That crew — aircraft commander, pilot, medic and crew chief — is always a highly-trained team of professionals.

When a field unit calls the 159th's radio shack, coordinates

are given along with the frequency and call sign of the ground unit. The crew is informed about the security of the area and how the landing zone will be marked.

Hopefully, information concerning the number of wounded and types of injuries will be available. But the dustoff crew must be ready for anything.

During the dustoff, teamwork is the key word. The crew chief, whose job is to make sure the helicopter is in top shape, often becomes an assistant medic when patients are loaded into the chopper. Sometimes, split second adjustments must be made to accommodate more than the four stretcher and four ambulatory patients the chopper is equipped to carry.

Usually, no more than two or three minutes are spent loading the wounded onto the chopper. Then the dustoff must lift its load quickly.

During the flight to the 25th Medical Battalion, the medic usually has his hands full treating the wounded. Again, the crew chief acts in the capacity of an assistant medical man.

When the chopper shuts off at the 25th Med, the wounded are immediately given medical treatment.

The crew returns to wait at the 159th for the next radio call that might come at any time.



Crew members rush to waiting choppers to answer call from field unit with wounded.

Story by
SP4 Chuck Withrow
Photos by
SP5 Joe Moore
and
SP4 Charles Haughey



MedEvac chopper races to Medical Battalion before empty stretcher has left landing zone.



Wounded are loaded quickly and carefully during dustoff.



Dustoff chopper creates a whirlwind of flying rice straw around Tropic Lightning infantrymen as it rushes patients to hospital.

MEDCAP Missions Require Coordination

BEN TRE (USA) — A Vietnamese baby cried in its mother's arms while a medic of the 4th Battalion, 47th Infantry, administered a small-pox vaccination.

The child was one of some 500 Vietnamese—mostly children—who were given vaccinations as well as candy and soap in Giang Tranh and Son Thuan villages near here recently.

It was a small MEDCAP with only three medics, 20 soldiers from the 9th Infantry Division's Company C pulling security, an interpreter, two intelligence officers and the battalion civil affairs officer with his NCO.

Much more goes into a MEDCAP mission, however, than what appears on the surface. Captain Clyde E. Jacks, Jr., civil affairs officer, explained the operation from the battalion level.

"He (the MACV advisor) designs where he needs MEDCAPS and I have specified villages that the Division wants pacified," Captain Jacks said. "What we'll do is a combination of both."

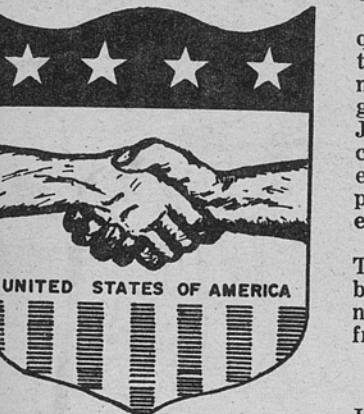
If intelligence reports are required, then the intelligence section becomes involved by coordinating with military intelligence in Dong Tam," Captain Jacks explained. "Once that is coordinated, we'll go to the operations section to request transportation—boat, chopper, whatever."

For this MEDCAP in Giang Tranh and Son Thuan, trucks, boats and helicopters were all needed to get the team to and from its destination.

Big Picture

"In a big picture," Captain Jacks explained, "you have the MACV advisors, the National Police of the government, who go in and check IDs and assist in crowd control, ARVN forces who provide security, the battalion civil affairs, intelligence and operations sections, plus a platoon from one of the companies providing security."

A MEDCAP can be conducted only after all this coordination is accomplished.



Handclasp Reminder

SAIGON (USAID) — When was the last time you saw the USAID clasped hands symbol on an item for sale in the local market?

If you have been in Vietnam very long, you have probably seen the USAID symbol many times. You may know what it really means, but the last thing it indicates is that the item has found its way into the black market.

Far from constituting black market activity, the appearance of this symbol is required by USAID regulations and the U.S. Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 on imports under the USAID program.

The commercial import program makes it possible for Vietnamese businesses to purchase products from U.S. firms for resale in Vietnam that normally could not be brought into the country under wartime conditions.

Included are such items as cement and steel, fertilizer and chemicals, synthetic yarns, plastic materials, sugar, petroleum products, trucks and tractors, and a host of other goods.

Virtually all of these materials, with the exception of small consumer goods, bear the USAID symbol. Their sale by private merchants is not only legal, but desirable from our point of view. The goal is a strong Vietnamese economy instead of one entirely dependent on the crutch of direct foreign aid.

So, the next time you see the handclasp over the words, "United States of America," don't jump to the wrong conclusion. It's just a reminder to our Vietnamese allies that the items were manufactured or grown in that distant land of America.

Government-sponsored Culture and Drama Teams the major source of entertainment in the hamlets of Vietnam today.

The teams present skits, plays, magic shows and musical performances based on the age-old legends of Vietnamese folk heroes. Lieutenant Colonel James C. McKenney, advisor to the Vietnamese Information Service, Khanh Hoa Province, explained the basic aim of these teams "is to inspire the people and bring out pride and a spirit of nationalism through the legends of their ancient folk heroes."

Usually the members of a fully-trained Culture and Drama Team spend 20 days at a stretch in hamlets throughout their province or district of responsibility. During this period, the team members will present at least 30 performances, visiting every hamlet and school of significant size in their assigned area. Following the field work, the teams return to their home base for five days of rest and five of rehearsals before beginning the cycle again.

The Culture and Drama Teams visit the schools by day, presenting skits, teaching students the national anthem, distributing government publications and showing movies. Colonel McKenney called the roving



THEY COULDN'T WAIT—Children of Peace Orphanage in Saigon wasted no time in putting to use the float toys they received recently from employees of Headquarters Vietnam Region- al Exchange. The young polio victims quickly shed their braces and crutches to take a dip in their small pool. (VRE PHOTO)

ROK 'Seoul' Music's Arrival Completed With New Stations

The network project evolved from a ROK request to MACV for aid in upgrading its broadcast system.

The Koreans had operated small, local stations and sought a countrywide network.

Last June, after MACV approved the request, the 1st Signal Brigade was given the task of implementation.

Mark N. Goldenburg, chief of the Radio Branch, CSEMA (Communications Systems Engineering and Management Agency), was given the job of coordinating and monitoring the

radio project.

Progress

After some initial problems, Mr. Goldenburg said, the project was put on a "hurry up and get it done" basis and progressed without many more difficulties.

The Nha Trang and Saigon stations—in addition to another scheduled to be operational soon in Qui Nhon—are all fixed site stations.

Hoi An and Tuy Hoa will be the sites of mobile stations, housed in trailers, which are due to begin operating in February. Each station will be connected through the Integrated Communication System (ICS) which will provide for live, network-wide broadcasts.

Equipment

The stations will be equipped with a transmitter, two tape recorders, cartridge tapes, turntables and all other auxiliary equipment necessary for broadcasting.

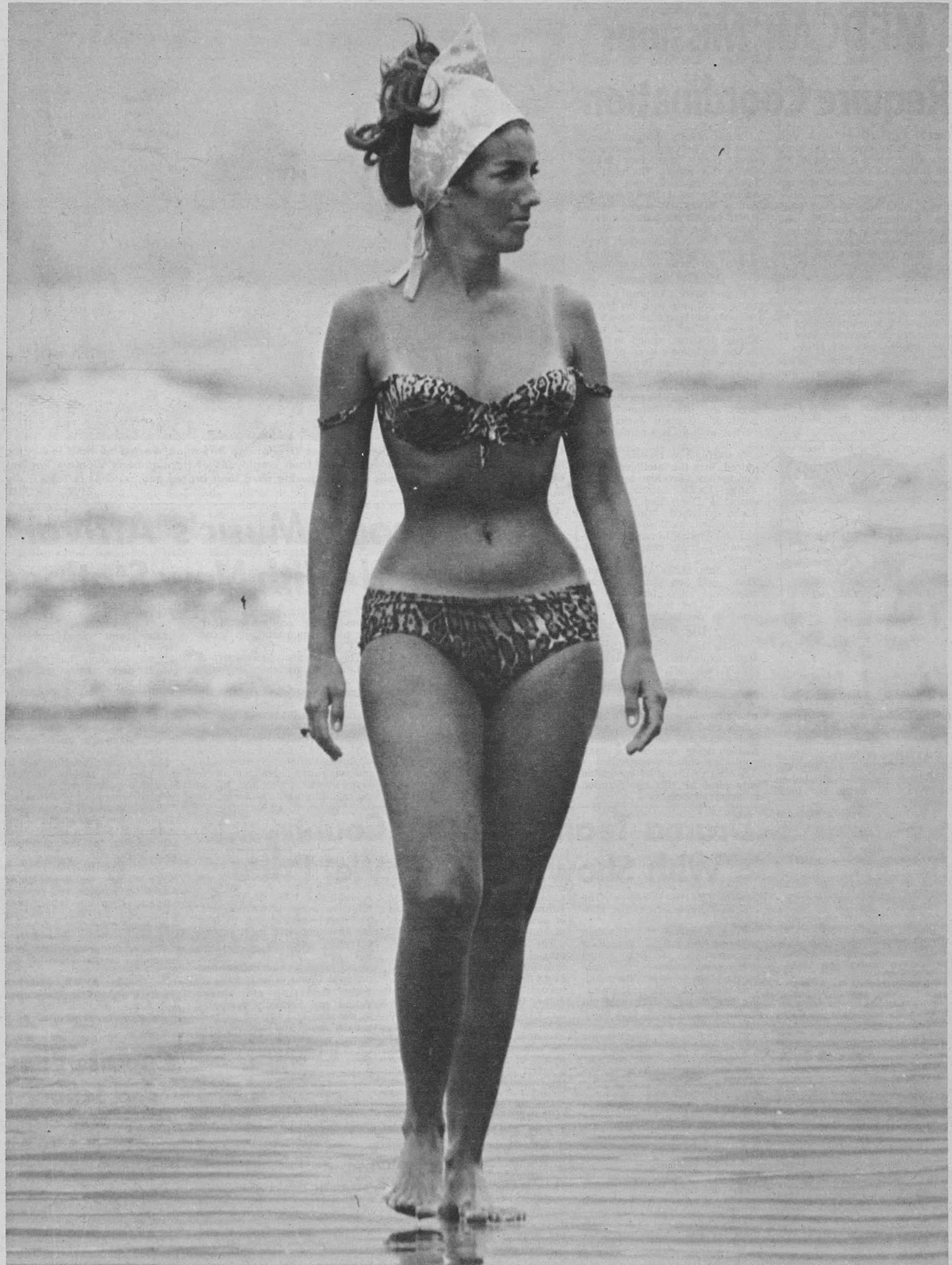
Most of the programming will be similar to that of AFVN, the American radio network in Vietnam. Unlike AFVN, however, the ROK network will be staffed with Korean civilian announcers and engineers supervised by a Korean army officer.

Contributions Aid School

LONG BINH (USA) — Artillerymen of the 54th Field Artillery Group are contributing monthly to a special offering at the Protestant Church of Xuan Loc, Long Khanh province.

The purpose of this special collection during Protestant services is to assist the boarding school run by the church. Through this school, approximately 350 children from remote villages can receive a better education which they were previously denied.

Reverend Thanh Ba Tran, the administrator of the program, has operated the school with the help of these contributions during the past one and one-half years.



BUNKER BUNNY OF THE WEEK—says, "The Internal Revenue Service people are really our friends. They're always thinking of new ways to help us pay our federal income tax. Most of us will receive tax forms and instructions in the mail. Tax form 1040 now comes in two pretty colors which draw attention to parts of my form which were troublesome to taxpayers last year. Here's a special goodie for us who are stationed in Vietnam: we don't even have to file tax returns while stationed here. We can wait until 180 days after leaving here to file. When I do my filing, I make sure that my form is perfectly arranged. That way, as you can see, I'm never strapped, not even for cash." (PHOTO BY BOB ZEHRING)

ON TOUR

BY SPC. MACCLAIN

AND WHAT HAVE YOU CONTRIBUTED TO THE HEARTS AND MINDS PROGRAM...



American Forces Vietnam Network – Channel 11

FRIDAY Jan. 31

- 1330 Turn On
- 1413 What's Happening
- 1415 Sports News
- 1430 Dr. Vonk (Re-Run)
- 1530 Dean Martin (Re-Run)
- 1630 Star Trek (Re-Run)
- 1730 The Monkees
- 1800 Wild Wild West
- 1900 Bewitched
- 1930 Evening News
- 2000 Weather
- 2036 Hollywood Palace
- 2100 What's Happening
- 2200 Late News
- 2210 Rowan And Martin
- 2300 Boxing Olympics

SATURDAY Feb. 1

- 1230 Turn On
- 1313 What's Happening
- 1315 Sports News
- 1325 CBS Goliath Classic
- 1430 Footprints In Sea
- 1500 Melody Ranch
- 1600 Gunsmoke (Re-Run)
- 1700 Greatest Show On Earth
- 1800 Nashville Vietnam
- 1830 United World Of Jauques
- 1925 Weather
- 1930 Evening News
- 2000 Jackie Gleason
- 2050 Let's Speak Vietnamese (Advanced)
- 2100 What's Happening
- 2120 Sports (Gator Bowl)
- 2130 Halftime News

SUNDAY Feb. 2

- 1130 Turn On
- 1213 What's Happening
- 1315 Religious Hour
- 1330 RB Kraft Music Hall
- 1430 Perry Mason
- 1530 Jerry Lewis Show
- 1730 21st Century
- 1800 Winding Down Vietnam
- 1830 In Town Tonight
- 1850 Walt Disney Presents
- 1930 Evening News
- 2000 Variety Special
- 2050 Let's Speak Vietnamese (Advanced)
- 2100 What's Happening
- 2120 Sports (Gator Bowl)
- 2130 Halftime News

MONDAY Feb. 3

- 1330 Turn On
- 1413 What's Happening
- 1415 Sign On News
- 1430 Kraft Music Hall
- 1530 Wild Wild West (Re-Run)
- 1630 Combat (Re-Run)

TUESDAY Feb. 4

- 1330 Turn On
- 1413 What's Happening
- 1415 Sign On News
- 1430 Cotton Bowl (FB)
- 1530 Red Skelton Hour
- 1700 Goliath Roaring
- 1830 Goliath
- 1900 Wide Wide World
- 1930 Evening News
- 2000 Weather
- 2004 Operation: Entertainment
- 2100 What's Happening
- 2120 Goliath
- 2200 Late News
- 2210 Feature Movie

WEDNESDAY Feb. 5

- 1330 Turn On
- 1413 What's Happening
- 1415 Sign On News
- 1430 Kraft Bowl (FB)
- 1530 Red Skelton Hour
- 1700 Goliath Roaring
- 1830 Goliath
- 1900 Wide Wide World
- 1930 Evening News
- 2000 Weather
- 2004 Operation: Entertainment
- 2100 What's Happening
- 2120 Goliath
- 2200 Late News
- 2210 Feature Movie

THURSDAY Feb. 6

- 1330 Turn On
- 1413 What's Happening
- 1415 Sign On News
- 1430 Kraft Bowl (FB)
- 1530 Red Skelton Hour
- 1700 Goliath Roaring
- 1830 Goliath
- 1900 Wide Wide World
- 1930 Evening News
- 2000 Weather
- 2004 Operation: Entertainment
- 2100 What's Happening
- 2120 Goliath
- 2200 Late News
- 2210 Feature Movie

Beetle Bailey



Peanuts



By Charles M. Schulz





Army Unveils New Weapons System At Long Binh

BLAM! — The M551 Armored Reconnaissance/Airborne Assault Vehicle, popularly named the "General Sheridan," was unveiled recently at Long Binh U.S. Army Depot. Crewmen gave a demonstration of its maneuverability and firepower. This is the first time that the military inventory has included a weapon with the dual capability of firing both guided missiles and conventional rounds of ammunition from the same cannon. The vehicle, designed for cavalry and manned by a crew of four, can fight anywhere in the world — from the arctic to the tropics. It can swim

streams and lakes, is transportable and air-droppable, and its main armament — an M81 152mm gun-launcher — can knock out any known armored vehicle. It also mounts a 7.62mm coaxial machine gun and a .50 caliber machine gun. It can climb a 60 per cent grade and has a top speed of 43 miles an hour and a range of 373 miles. The General Sheridan, which will soon roll into action against the enemy in Vietnam, will replace both the M41 Light Tank and the M56 Airborne Assault Weapon in the Army inventory.

(MACV PHOTO By: SP4 T. L. Tynes)



Be Careful, PX Urges...

(Continued From Page 1)
loss affects every serviceman in Vietnam.

As a part of the worldwide Army and Air Force Exchange Service, the Vietnam Regional Exchange contributes the major share of its earnings into the servicemen's welfare fund. Loss of money — at the Exchange cash register or elsewhere in the

Fliers...

(Continued From Page 1)
last run, the FAC reported some sampans moving along the canal.

"We attacked with three rocket passes each," he continued. "When the FAC dropped down to check, he spotted enemy soldiers loading some more sampans along the bank and told us to hit them with our miniguns."

Major Humphrey and Lieutenant Galer followed the A-37s an hour later and reportedly killed 7 enemy soldiers, destroying 12 fortifications, 9 bunkers and 2 sampans, and damaging 4 fortifications and 2 bunkers.

"Our target was a fairly large river and right out in the middle of the water was a small island," the major commented. The FAC pointed out an extremely large fortification and told me to hit it. Then he asked me to put a bomb right in the middle of the island. When it exploded, enemy soldiers scattered and many started swimming toward the opposite bank.

"Ashore, they headed into a small fortification. We made a strafing pass on the fortification to finish it off."

system — directly affects the total amount of welfare fund dollars that provide non-appropriated fund dividends for servicemen.

What sort of dividends? Money for Special Services athletic equipment and trophies; a portion of the R&R centers' expenses such as subsidies for beach parties, rental of aquatic equipment and R&R tours. The money also provides in great part for recreational activities on in-country R&R sites. In addition, it is used to provide refreshments for unit parties, as well as for hobby shops and libraries.

MACV officials said discrepancies at the cash register occur for a variety of reasons.

Because of the manpower shortage in Vietnam, most of the civilian work force at Exchanges, clubs and messes is made up of women. Some of the workers have not been as thoroughly trained as they should be. And their efficiency may be hindered by the language barrier.

The Vietnamese workers also are handling an unfamiliar currency. When this is coupled with the fact that a serviceman — here in Vietnam for a year — is given money that reminds him of play money, the problem is doubled.

Said a MACV Exchange officer: "The serviceman doesn't look at his money, psychologically, as he does U.S. currency. The small size of MPC, its color, all work to make him forget its real worth."

The Vietnam Regional Exchange will soon post signs in their retail and food outlets re-

minding servicemen to be watchful of their money.

Look at and pay for only what is there. Make sure you get the correct amount of change. Report any discrepancies between the change you receive and the amount shown on the cash register to the manager or officer-in-charge.

Count your change.

Big Cache...

(Continued From Page 1)
of the hootches with at least one sewing machine, some as many as three.

"These we believe were used to produce VC uniforms from some of the more than 40 yards of material found hidden in one of the buildings," the captain said.

In the helicopter he performed an emergency tracheotomy on the Marine, enabling him to breathe. "After that I thought he would be all right," said Corpsman Kaylor, "but his heart quit beating."

He began massaging the Marine's body above the heart and finally got his heart beating again.

Mail THE OBSERVER Home

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

From: _____

Place Stamp
Here

(12 cents 1st class)

(20 cents Airmail)

TO: _____

Navy Corpsman Wins Legion Of Merit

DA NANG (USMC) — A Navy hospital corpsman joined an elite group of enlisted men recently when he received the Legion of Merit for saving a Marine's life, though he himself was seriously wounded.

Hospital Corpsman Third Class Jack Kaylor was serving with Company C, 1st Battalion, First Marine Regiment, near Khe Sanh while the company was assaulting Hill 689.

The unit came under attack and the corpsman jumped into a bomb crater to escape enemy fire. "A mortar landed just in front of the crater and shrapnel hit my leg," he said. "The explosion gave me a concussion and I started bleeding from my ears."

Another corpsman bandaged Corpsman Kaylor and sent him to the rear. He treated five wounded Marines before reaching the landing zone.

One of the Marines at the LZ had been shot through the back, the round penetrating a lung. Shrapnel had also struck him in the face and dislocated his jaw.

Seeing that the Marine was having difficulty breathing, Corpsman Kaylor attempted mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. The attempt caused the Marine pain and the corpsman stopped, loaded the Marine on a helicopter and climbed in with him.

In the helicopter he performed an emergency tracheotomy on the Marine, enabling him to breathe. "After that I thought he would be all right," said Corpsman Kaylor, "but his heart quit beating."

He began massaging the Marine's body above the heart and finally got his heart beating again.

Another problem arose. The Marine's lungs were filling with bad air because he couldn't exhale. He was in danger of suffocation.

"A doctor aboard the helicopter made an incision on the lower left side and I stuck a tube between his ribs, into the lungs," said Corpsman Kaylor. "Another Marine began blowing into the tube in the Marine's throat and I was releasing the end of my tube, letting the bad air escape."

The Marine lived and was evacuated to the United States.

AL Post Is Formed

SAIGON (MACV) — Saul Zalaznick was recently installed as commander of the newly activated American Legion Saigon Post No. 3 and Nino Schepis became vice commander.

Other officers installed included Dennis Saunders, adjutant; Gerald Mangham, chaplain; William Bodnar, finance officer; Thomas Dobrinski, sergeant-at-arms; and James Yarborough, historian.

A spokesman for the post, which comes under the Department of Hawaii and is the only active post in the Republic of Vietnam, said that members meet at 7:30 p.m. each Wednesday at the Rex BOQ chapel.

He urged visitors and prospective members to attend one of the meetings. Membership is available to veterans of both World Wars, Korea and the Vietnam era, including those presently on active duty.

"Those who acquire membership here," the spokesman said, "may transfer it to any post in the world when they leave here. Members of posts elsewhere may become members of the Saigon post."

He said that plans are under way to establish a permanent American Legion home here. It will be complete with mess, bar and lounge facilities, game room, library and TV room and entertainment.

The American Legion, which celebrates its 50th anniversary this year, is an organization dedicated to serving the Nation and making its communities better places in which to live. The Legion is supporting federal legislation to help the veteran, including the new veteran, in his return to civilian life.