

Operation Puts Squeeze On Charlie



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EAGLE FLIGHT — Fire Brigade soldiers from Company C, 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division, watch as an "eagle flight" approaches to carry them "home" after a long day's operation in the An Phu area northwest of Cu Chi. (US ARMY PHOTO By: Karl Karigaard)

ARVN Sweep In The Highlands

'Sledgehammer' Crushes VC

HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS (USA) — ARVN Rangers and infantrymen—in a boldly executed highland sweep 15 miles southwest of Kontum—dealt a crushing blow to communist infiltrators in the Central Highlands recently. They killed 180 of the enemy and seized tons of equipment, including weapons, ammunition, foodstuff and medical supplies.

ARVN casualties were described as light.

The two-week sweep, named Binh Tay 48-Sledgehammer—the 48th in a series of similar sweeps in the highlands—was carried out by the 24th Special Tactical Zone's 42nd ARVN Regiment and the 2nd ARVN Ranger Group, with support from 4th Infantry Division helicopter gunships and artillery batteries.

Starting early in January, the 1st and 3rd Battalions, 42nd Regiment, Regimental Headquarters and the 11th Ranger Battalion, moved into an area due west of the Plei Mrong Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) Camp and north of the Punchbowl, where the 4th's 2nd Brigade had its 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry, conducting its own sweeps.

The ARVN pushed through the craggy mountain ranges and heavily overgrown valleys,

searching caves and stumbling onto enemy tunnel complexes and bunkers, most of them loaded with equipment and supplies left behind by the fleeing enemy.

Resistance initially was light. But as the ARVN advanced deeper into the communist-infested area, frequent firefights ensued.

Huey Cobras from Charlie Troop, 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry, were used to rout the enemy.

Two batteries from the 221st ARVN Artillery moved steadily forward with the foot soldiers to provide 105mm howitzer support. Bravo Battery, 4th Battalion, 42nd Artillery, and Charlie Battery, 1st Battalion, 92nd Artillery, also fired in support of the ARVNs.

Tactical air support was brought in by FACs (Forward

Air Controllers), who fly for the 24th STZ. One of the 750-pound bombs dropped by two F-100s on a suspected enemy bunker complex caused a secondary explosion which spiraled smoke more than 1,200 feet into the clear highland sky.

The FAC, flying an O-1 Bird Dog, witnessed smaller explosions, bursting in rapid succession, for approximately an hour after the fighter-bombers had dropped their ordnance.

When the sweep was a few days old, the 22nd ARVN Ranger Battalion and 2nd ARVN Ranger Group Headquarters moved in.

Colonel Nguyen Ba Lien, commander of the 24th STZ, who directed the highland sweep, said it was a "major victory" for the ARVN and allied forces.

He attributed much of the

(Continued on Back Page)

Different Kind Of In-Coming

CAMP EAGLE (US) — The paratrooper from the 101st Airborne Division was walking along minding his own business, when suddenly he was barely missed by a flying latrine.

"A Chinook was flying overhead carrying a wooden latrine on a sling," explained Specialist 4 Douglas Long, a rifleman in Company A, 2nd Battalion, 506th Airborne Infantry. "All of a sudden," he continued, "someone yelled 'Look out!'"

The latrine had broken loose and was bearing down on the young soldier. He dived out of the way and suffered only a pair of skinned knees.

"When anyone asks what happened," chuckled the specialist, "I just tell them that I was getting out of the way of an incoming latrine."

CHU LAI (USA) — In one of the largest combat assault operations of the Vietnam war — which includes the Americal Division's Russell Beach and the combined Navy-Marine operation "Bold Mariner" — Americal soldiers continue to tighten their cordon around trapped Viet Cong on Batangan Peninsula, 10 miles northeast of Quang Ngai City.

Beginning Jan. 13, the 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry, 198th Infantry Brigade, and the 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry, 11th Infantry Brigade, together with two battalions of the ARVN 2nd Division and Navy Swift Boats, established an 11-mile cordon and sea blocking force to encircle the peninsula.

The operation began as a twin-pronged strike at the peninsula when one company of Marines landed on the beach and the rest of the almost 9,000-man force was flown in and moved on line at less than 10 meters apart.

The cordon, which winds across hills and rice paddies flooded by monsoon rains, locked in an estimated two VC battalions, which have been using the area as a staging and resupply point.

During the early phases of Operation Russell Beach, after the cordon was established,

(Continued on Back Page)

Aid Rallier GIs Urged

SAIGON (MACV) — All servicemen should be aware of the possibility of an increased number of "ralliers" under the Chieu Hoi program during the Tet holidays, a spokesman for Civil Operations and Revolutionary Development Support (CORDS) said recently.

He pointed out that because Tet is a period of personal reconciliation, many Viet Cong, during past Tet holidays, have returned under the Open Arms program to begin a new life under the legitimate government of South Vietnam.

American servicemen who have the opportunity to receive Hoi Chanh (ralliers) during the Tet period should be aware of the proper method of doing so. The method is as follows:

- Give voluntary defectors courteous Chieu Hoi (not PW) treatment.
- Segregate Hoi Chanh from PWs.
- Treat the returnee with respect.
- Give him a receipt for all weapons he brings in.
- Deliver him safely to the unit intelligence officer for prompt debriefing.

'No, Sir...I Didn't Know Charlie Had An APO!'

SAIGON (MACV) — THE OBSERVER circulation manager was busily checking and re-checking his circulation list, this week, searching for a Viet Cong organization.

He had just emerged from the boss' office after learning that a clandestine broadcast,

beamed in English to East Europe and the Far East, reported that — according to THE U.S. Forces OBSERVER, "...Transport planes spray tens of thousands of liters of toxic chemicals on South Vietnam..."

The propaganda was referring to a feature story in the

Jan. 24 issue of the official MACV publication, on the defoliation mission of the "Ranch Hands" of the 12th Special Operations Squadron at Bien Hoa Air Base.

As stated in the article, the herbicides, used since 1962, are non-corrosive, non-toxic, and not

harmful to human or animal life.

THE OBSERVER circulation manager continued checking his lists this week, checking for the VC organization that has now joined the wide group of wire services and publications which have used OBSERVER material.

Editorial

Play It Cool!

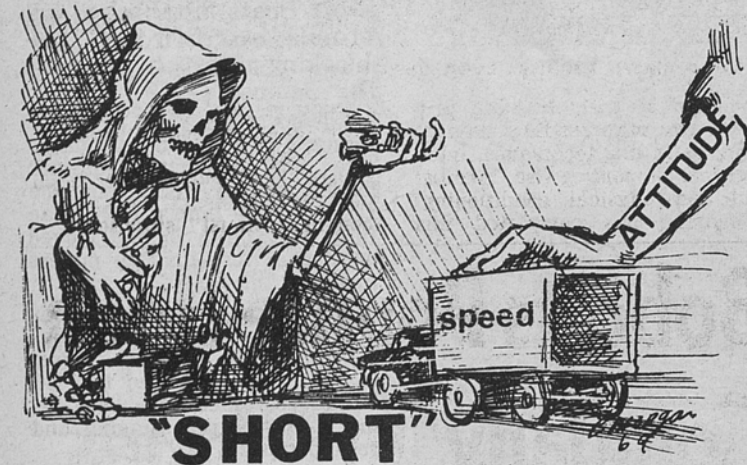
American automobile manufacturers are out-doing themselves year after year. Their products seem to be better engineered and more beautiful in appearance as time evolves, and they are being purchased in record numbers.

Also, everyone, from the manufacturer to the driver, has been urged to be more safety conscious. Still, in the first nine months of last year, 40,000 Americans died on U.S. highways and bi-ways.

We stationed in Vietnam can look at these tragic statistics from afar and shake our head at this useless carnage. Very near us—and maybe we do not realize it because we are so involved—is the tragic number of accidents involving U.S. personnel. It increased alarmingly last year and reached an excessively high figure.

Since Jan. 1, 1961, through mid-December 1968, 2,709 personnel lost their lives in vehicle accidents, accidental discharges, burns or drowning.

In the case of auto accidents, the driver of the vehicle, in most cases, causes the misfortune. A vehicle with faulty brakes, inadequate windshield wipers or head-



lights can be taken to the shop for correction of the deficiency. But, how about excessive speeding?

At best, driving—for the serviceman in Vietnam—is a very difficult job, compared to what he is accustomed to back home. The rules differ in some areas, there are many more two-wheeled vehicles on the road—and they pass legally on the right side. A person driving a vehicle at excessive speeds is really asking for an accident. He represents an accident going somewhere to happen.

Even though the temperatures may soar and the going may sometimes be slow, play it cool, take your time and arrive safely. Don't lose your life in a vehicle accident. Don't cause the death of someone else. The total of all the sorrow and repentance ever experienced by anyone on earth cannot help after an accident has happened.

The National Safety Council, U.S. Armed Forces and local safety officials can expend all the energy in their possession to ask you to drive safely. But you decide the end result. It's for your sake and your family's sake—not theirs.

Remember, when the last squeal of burning rubber has faded away, who will be an added statistical figure? You or them?

For your sake and your family's sake, please drive safely.—AFPS



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Just In Case
You Have
Not HeardCollege Grads
Swell Ranks

WASHINGTON (ANF) — Department of the Army personnel officers expect between 60,000 and 80,000 college graduates to enter the Army's enlisted ranks through the draft or voluntary enlistments during the current fiscal year.

If this estimate proves correct, about one of every five persons inducted will be a college graduate.

During the first five months of this fiscal year, from July 1 through Dec. 1, about 23,500 college graduates entered the Army. A little more than half of these men were drafted.

The Army's personnel staff is closely monitoring the assignment and utilization of these graduates, with the primary objective of deriving the maximum benefit for the Army through the most efficient use of their abilities while maintaining equitable treatment for all Army personnel.

A Department of the Army study, conducted in anticipation of the increased number of college graduates on active duty, established priorities for assignments in which the abilities, technical knowledge and leadership potential of these individuals could best be used, without denying other personnel equal opportunities. The categories are the following:

● Priority I: Skills that can be directly correlated to college academic fields or personal preferences, such as officer training, warrant officer flight training, language training and the skills included in the scientific and engineering assistance program.

● Priority II: Skills that will challenge the leadership or technical capability of the college graduate, such as radar technology, automatic data processing, and duties with leadership potential in the combat arms.

● Priority III: Skills that are essential but do not fully challenge the average college graduate.

EM To Get
VRB Sooner

WASHINGTON (USA) — Pending publication of forthcoming change to AR 600-200, Department of the Army has announced the following changes in administration of lump sum Variable Reenlistment Bonus (VRB) payments:

(1) Submission of requests for lumps sum payment is authorized 60 days prior to ETS or as soon thereafter as the individual decides to reenlist.

(2) Immediate commander will endorse the application to installation or comparable level commanders who will forward same in duplicate direct to DA, ATTN: AGFP-IE. The Adjutant General Office (TAGO) will return completed applications direct to originating installations.

(3) Installation commanders will, prior to forwarding, review and evaluate applications for entitlement eligibility and compliance with administrative requirements. Review will include coordination with servicing finance and accounting officers for verification of entitlement to VRB.



UP-TIGHT—"Do you know why I look so neat and proper?" asks Maria Korda. "Because I followed the directions in MACV Directive 632-1, Standards of Conduct and Fitness. When I go on R&R, TDY, TAD, leave, or PCS I make certain my clothing is complete, clean, tidy and according to service regulations. Well, not really. The OBSERVER staff actually let me try on several different uniforms before they settled for this one. They're really a very handy bunch."

(PHOTO COURTESY OF DDO AGENCY)



By 1LT David E. Boudreaux

Last week we began our viewing of the ethnic groups of Vietnam, glancing at the ethnic Vietnamese, the majority group; the Chinese, the merchants of South Vietnam, and the Montagnards, the highlanders. In this issue we will view the Khmer, the Cham and the Indians.

The Khmer is an ethnic group of Cambodian descent. There are about 500,000 Khmer living in the Mekong Delta area. Because they were strongly influenced by the Indians (instead of the Chinese), their culture differs from that of the ethnic Vietnamese. For example, whereas most Vietnamese are Mahayana (liberal) Buddhists, the Khmer are Theravada (strict) Buddhists. The Khmer are more outwardly emotional than the ethnic Vietnamese. While the ethnic Vietnamese feel it is impolite to express one's emotions publicly, the Khmer feel it is proper to do so — provided one's emotions are sincere. Faking it is frowned upon.

A small, somewhat obscure ethnic group in Vietnam is the Cham. There are only about 45,000 Cham in South Vietnam today. They are of Malayo-Polynesian stock. Their early culture was strongly influenced by Hindu and Moslem societies. Before the ethnic Vietnamese caused the Cham empire to collapse, the Cham had been feared

warriors and pirates for centuries. Today they live along the coastline of Vietnam and on the Cambodian border near Tay Ninh and Chan Phu. Most Cham are farmers, fishermen, or artisans.

The Indians in Vietnam comprise still a smaller group. Because of their dark skin and their commercial interests, they are more conspicuous to the foreigner than either the Cham or the Khmer. In 1963 the authorities could only say that "several thousand" Indians, to include Pakistanis, resided in South Vietnam. Although there were Indians in South Vietnam before the French arrived, most Indians came to South Vietnam from French colonies in India during the French colonial rule of South Vietnam.

Like the Chinese, the Indians have been financially successful in South Vietnam. Most Indians today are money changers, tailors and merchants.

These, then, are the major ethnic groups in South Vietnam. The important point to realize is that the nation is not composed of a single ethnic group, but many groups. We already have examined the many religions of Vietnam. To these diverse religious groups we have added the many ethnic groups. We begin to realize that Vietnam is a complex and diversified nation—with problems and blessings growing out of diversity.

"... We seek no bases or special position for the United States. We do not seek to destroy or overturn the Communist regimes in Hanoi and Peiping. We ask only that they cease their aggressions, that they leave their neighbors alone."

DEAN RUSK

LRPs Keep Close Watch On Enemy Forces

LAI KHE (USA) — "Charlie is afraid of us now. He knows we're there — somewhere — in the jungle, rice paddies or in the grass and underbrush, and he's scared."

The men talking were members of the elite, painted-faced Long Range Patrol (LRP) of the 1st Infantry Division. The LRP's keep a close watch on Charlie.

But the watchful eyes of the LRP's are not what have made the enemy skeptical of meeting up with the small, highly-skilled patrol. "It's the 'strike hard and disappear fast' technique that we're using," said Staff Sergeant Steve Mattoon, a 39-month veteran of the Vietnam war, 11 months of which he has served with the LRP's.

The sergeant, camouflaged to look like the jungle, said that the LRP's don't usually attack the enemy. "That's not our job. But once they try to pin us down, we fight back like cornered wildcats. This often demoralizes the enemy and gives us an opportunity to return with needed information."

The LRP's conduct small patrols consisting of a few skilled combat soldiers who function as an intelligence collection element, a harassing element or a combat element. The teams operate on their own in enemy-infested territory, usually beyond the immediate help of friendly forces.

Private First Class Edward M. Cliff, nicknamed "Short Round" because of his size and speed, said that the LRP's best weapon is their ability to evade and escape from the enemy.

Once a patrol has been forced into contact, the LRP's apply what they have learned in their "immediate action drills." Each

man lays down a substantial base of fire and then rapidly retreats. The last man saturates the escape route with hand grenades as the team moves. In most cases, the immediate action drills pay off.

Sergeant Randal J. Harris related one experience where his team had just been inserted into a heavily-foliated area near Lai Khe. "We had just started to set up night camp when we heard voices coming from all directions. We hit the ground and froze."

"A few moments later while we were lying there breathless, analyzing the situation from behind a cluster of tall, thick elephant grass, I saw a small group of NVA standing six meters away. Then an NVA soldier came strolling by, about three meters from where we were hiding. He walked by, stopped and started peeping through the woods, searching the area. Then he rammed both hands into his pockets, murmured something and started to walk away. We knew he had spotted us."

"We shot him down and opened up on the rest of them. That's when we found that we were smack in the middle of an enemy basecamp," explained the sergeant.

Sergeant Lonnie L. Ray said, "We weren't afraid because we had two elements working for us. One was the psychological fear and state of confusion we created by the surprise attack. The other was our lightning response. We used them both to our full advantage."

"Before they could reorganize or adjust themselves to what had happened, we were 500 yards away, being extracted by a helicopter."



Wearing "warpaint," LRP's keep sharp lookout even during rest while on patrol.

Meanwhile, the enemy basecamp was being bombed by artillery, and gunships were in pursuit of the NVA. The support was called in by the LRP's radio operator.

On any mission, regardless of its size — team or platoon — the LRP's are always concerned about the other men with them. "We have a motto: 'All for one and one for all,'" said Sergeant Horace Lee Watson, "And we abide by it. A man may be a real 'sorehead' in basecamp, but on a mission he's your best friend."

The LRP's are able to take care of each other because they have each been trained to do every job required on a patrol.

Included in their training program are map reading, navigation, patrolling techniques, intelligence, supporting fire, medical aid and physical conditioning. When he has completed this

training, a LRP can double for other team members whenever necessary. He can call in fire missions and gunships or even take over leadership of a platoon in a "must" situation.

Bobcats Pounce Upon
Company In Woods

CU CHI (USA) — In a week of heavy fighting recently, Fire Brigade soldiers from the 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 5th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division killed 56 enemy troops during operations in the Ho Bo Woods.

The Bobcats' Alpha and Charlie companies were sweeping near their night location when they received small arms and rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) fire from an estimated enemy company.

During the brief fight that followed, the Bobcats killed two VC. One RPG-2 launcher with 11 rounds, 3 AK-47s and documents were captured in the action.

The following day, Alpha Company, while sweeping, received small arms and automatic weapons fire.

The combined force of infantry, artillery and airstrikes accounted for 14 NVA bodies, one light machine gun, 2 RPG-2 launchers, 2 AK-47s and one wallet.

The same night, a Bravo Company ambush opened up on eight VC, killing two. Blood trails were discovered on an afternoon sweep.

Later Action

Two days later, Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry engaged three armed NVA soldiers, killing them and capturing their RPG-7 launcher and light machine gun.

Later that same day, Alpha Company soldiers engaged two VC, killed them and uncovered a basecamp. While searching the complex, one suspect was detained.

The detainee told the 2nd Brigade soldiers that there were VC hiding in 30 nearby spider holes.

The concealed enemy opened up on the Tropic Lightning soldiers. In the fight that followed, eight additional enemy troops were killed and one AK was taken.

At noon, two days later, Alpha and Bravo Company of the

Mech and B Company, 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry, under the Mech Battalion's control, received small arms fire and RPG rounds from an enemy force. The units killed 20 VC. Artillery and air strikes killed five more.

Ivy Has
Young
Captain

BLACKHAWK FIREBASE (USA) — Captain Barden Blizzard Jr. is the commanding officer of Company B, 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry. He is on his second tour of duty in Vietnam and is a veteran of five years Army service. At 22, Captain Blizzard may well be the youngest company commander in Vietnam.

In September 1965, he was commissioned a second lieutenant, the youngest commissioned officer since the end of World War II, a youthful 19 years, 11 days.

After arriving in Vietnam, he was assigned to the 1st Air Cavalry where he served as a platoon leader and Pathfinder section commander. By the end of his first tour he had been awarded the Silver Star, the Bronze Star, the Air Medal, the Army Commendation Medal with "V" Device, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Purple Heart and the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross.

Captain Blizzard returned to the United States and took command of a rifle company with the 197th Infantry Brigade at Ft. Benning, Ga. During this time he was promoted to captain at the age of 21 years, 4 months. After staying at Fort Benning for six months he once again volunteered for duty in Vietnam.

'Blue Eagle' TV Programming
Starts Fourth Year In Vietnam

SAIGON (USN) — They call it "Blue Eagle."

Members of the organization — a small detachment of the Navy's Oceanographic Development Squadron 8 (VXN-8) — marked their third anniversary recently in brief cake-cutting ceremonies at Tan Son Nhut Air

Base in Saigon.

Three years ago the Vietnamese people witnessed, for the first time, the "miracle" of television, through the facilities of three specially configured Navy NC-121 "Blue Eagle" Super Constellations. Flying high above South Vietnam, they telecast programs in Vietnamese

and English to the local populace and allied troops below.

Since its first telecast of speeches by Nguyen Cao Ky — then Premier — and American officials, the "Blue Eagle" TV network has compiled more than 7,400 hours of television and radio broadcasting. In the process, the detachment logged more than 11,400 hours of accident-free flying.

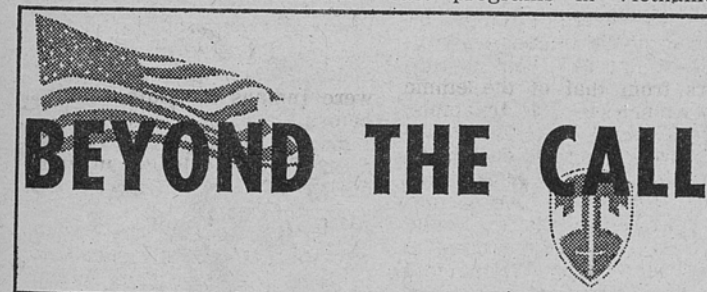
"Project Jenny," as the operation has been tabbed, actually began regular programming Feb. 7, 1966, with Vietnamese programs on one channel and American programming on another.

To insure that a large number of people could view the program, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) airlifted 500 TV sets to South Vietnam. The sets were installed in public squares, store windows or other areas where large numbers of people could watch them.

In mid-April 1966 VC let their feelings be known by mortaring the "Blue Eagle" revetments at Tan Son Nhut Air Base, hitting all three of the aircraft.

In the best of the "show must go on" tradition, the detachment's maintenance men had one of the stricken flying TV stations back in the air in just four days.

Armed Forces Radio and Television Service's ground station became operative in Saigon in October 1966. Project Jenny began flying over more remote areas where the ground stations could not reach. She continues that same service today.

DISTINGUISHED
FLYING CROSS

Bell, Charles A. MAJ USAF
Paquin, William CPT USAF

BRONZE STAR MEDAL
WITH "V" DEVICE

Avery, Rufus A. SSG USA
Brook, Orbin SSG USA
Carmichael, Gordon R. CPT USA

ARMY COMMENDATION
MEDAL WITH "V"
DEVICE

Blackburn, David A. CPT USA
Carter, Clem M. SGT USA
Cox, Jerry A. SFC USA
Ferris, Leroy F. SSG USA
Frederick, Edward B. SP5 USA
Kuhns, Frederic L. CPT USA
Rehm, William R. SFC USA
Shappell, Kenneth P. SFC USA

Tary, John F. SP4 USA
Taunton, Charles B. SSG USA
Thompson, John F. CPT USA



Men of the Defense Force, their regular duty behind them, assemble for their after-hour duty — security and defense of the MACV Headquarters complex.



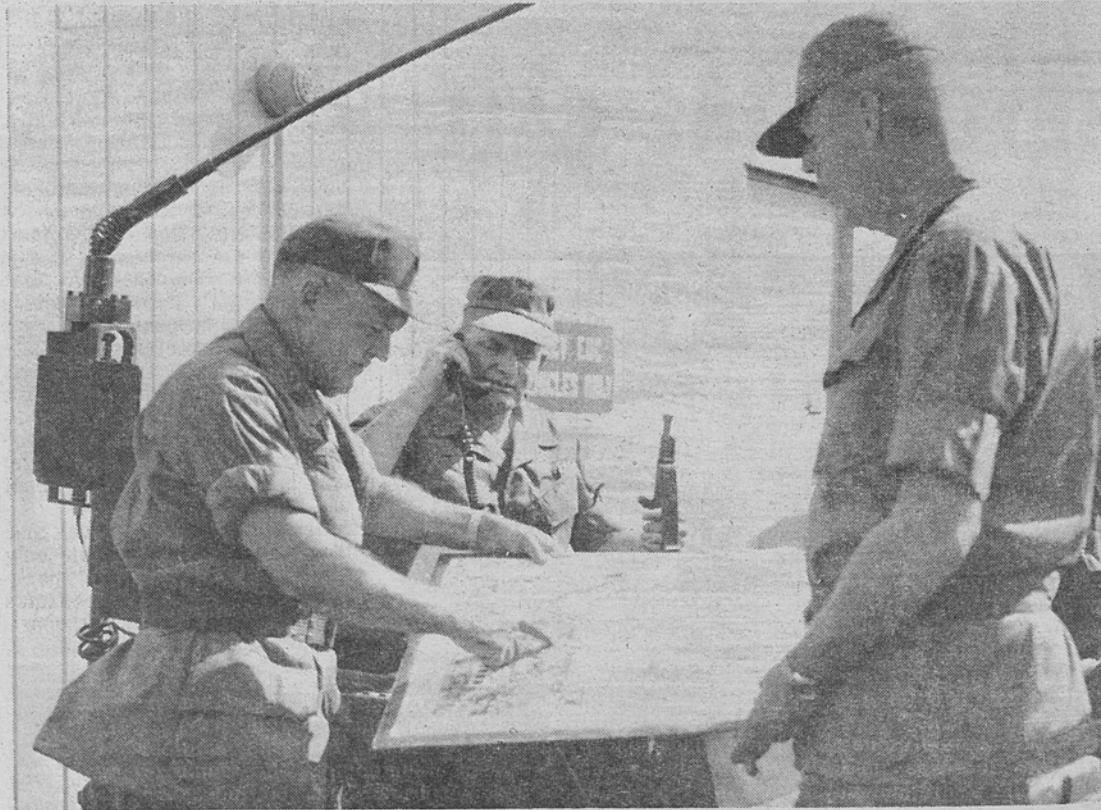
SFC Curtis Barnes, operations sergeant, briefs defense force men prior to their firing of M-16.



As instructors observe, men on defense force zero their weapons before first day of duty.



A grenadier launches a missile—too high—at a target.



LTC George Armentrout, SSGM Robert Frazier and LTC Durward Adams prepare for MDF tour.

Defense Force Tigers: Men With A Big Job

SAIGON (MACV) — MDF.

These initials probably wouldn't ring a bell to a serviceman in the far reaches of I Corps or the rice paddies of the Mekong Delta, but to those assigned to the sprawling MACV Headquarters complex, it means MACV Defense Force.

These officers and enlisted men perform a multitude of tasks during normal duty hours — the high-level staff officer, the finance clerk, the computer operator, the telephone lineman and all the other jobs inherent in a large control organization such as the Joint Headquarters at MACV.

When the sun begins to set, these soldiers, airmen, sailors and Marines don their battle gear and prepare for another mission — the security and defense of the MACV complex. This is not a secondary mission by any stretch of the imagination.

Trained and organized into a formidable force, they are alert and immediately ready for the call that would send them scrambling to their alert positions. This contingency not only applies at night, but at any time during the day should an emergency situation arise.

The group of combat seasoned officers, senior NCOs and enlisted men is headed by a senior officer assigned to the MACV staff. Lieutenant Colonel George C. Armentrout is Headquarters commandant; Lieutenant Colonel Durward C. Adams is the deputy commandant, re-

cently replacing recently departed Lieutenant Colonel J. C. O'Shaughnessy Jr.; and Major Daniel J. Quinlan is operations officer-in-charge of the MACV Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Together they mesh the gears which activate the smoothly operating force.

The force includes not only Headquarters MACV personnel, but also soldiers residing in the MACV Annex, whose efforts are coordinated through Lieutenant Colonel Robert L. Mason, USA-HAC Sub-Area Post commandant, and the 69th Signal Battalion commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Norman D. Jorstad. Military Policemen of Company C, 716th Military Police Battalion, man the gates, the towers, and maintain the internal security of the vast MACV complex. This unit, commanded by Captain Bernard P. Simons, provides the vital security link and forms an integral part of the MACV Defense Force.

The blue "Tiger" patch worn by members of the MDF symbolizes the spirit of the force. Its members are constantly alert and ready to perform their tactical mission, day or night, on a moment's notice.

Come daybreak, it's a quick shave, a short breakfast, and back to the day's normal activities.

Story By
TSgt. Jerry Fears, USAF
Photos By
SP4 Thomas L. Tynes, USA

MAT-72 Engaged In Vital Program

SAIGON (MACV) — On a ridge in the Central Highlands, two American advisors and a company of Regional Forces troops waited for the sun to set.

They waited in a tree grove around which the tents and defense positions of a field headquarters were arranged.

A mile opposite this ridge the falling sun highlighted the rim of another ridge: the silhouettes of Montagnard cattle being herded back to villages were outlined.

Darkness came. Two jeeps carrying the Vietnamese commander and the American advisors moved out behind the troops down a road everyone knew by heart. Jeep headlights weren't used. Both drivers knew exactly when to slow down for bumps, where to turn. They were moving to a Montagnard village and would spend the night there after setting up security positions and night ambush squads.

Mobile Advisory Team (MAT) 72 makes this move each night — always to a different village within its area of operation in Le Trung District, located in Pleiku Province. The moves are made to provide better village security.

In the several months MAT Team 72 has operated in this area, its main concern has been with village pacification and security. The team is part of Advisory Team 36, headquartered in Pleiku.

According to Captain Wayne Poage, senior advisor with MAT Team 72, the teams work with both Regional Forces and Popular Forces troops.

Captain Poage said of his Vietnamese counterpart, Captain Ngia: "He is an experienced officer and knows what he is doing. He doesn't just sit around — he gets things done."

Artillery support is provided through Vietnamese channels and the RF group has an artillery forward observer "who speaks good English," Poage added.

MAT Team 72 operates in Montagnard country. Staff Ser-

geant Verlin Gaskill, the team light weapons advisor, said "We are working with the villagers, trying to increase their confidence in us and in our Vietnamese counterparts." Sergeant Gaskill said communication with the Montagnard tribesmen was difficult and conducted almost entirely on a sign language basis.

One recent afternoon Captain Poage and Sergeant Gaskill visited the village of Plei Blang which was surrounded by a fence and moat rigged with punji sticks. "This was a project of the village Popular Self Defense forces," said Poage, who added that the advisors are encouraging this effort. A GVN flag was flying from a pole in the center of the village.

The day before, a MEDCAP had been conducted in the area by Team 36 personnel, providing cholera and plague shots to more than 100 villagers.

Sergeant Gaskill, who has developed a certain skill with sign language, made a spot check among the villagers, asking them if their arms were sore: "About fifty-fifty," he concluded.

A village elder, whose legs were puffy with huge varicose veins, struggled to describe elusive pains in his hands and feet. The advisors listened closely as he re-described his troubles. The elder removed his head band, stroked his white hair to indicate his age. The advisors solemnly acknowledged that, yes, he was indeed a very old man. They, in turn, tried to explain to the old man that tomorrow a doctor would come from Pleiku and examine him.

Once they made themselves understood, the advisors left the village for a nearby water point. A fresh spring ran from the side of a high dirt ravine. Montagnard ingenuity had channeled the running water into several currents by means of split bamboo poles. It was here the people bathed, washed clothes, fetched their drinking water.

The advisors were greeted at



A Popular Force soldier mans his defensive position, on a ridge in the Central Highlands.

the spring by Montagnard children. One red rubber balloon Captain Poage had in his pocket provided a wild half hour's entertainment for the children.

"Being an advisor really gives you a feeling of accomplishment," said Sergeant Gaskill. "Our pacification program here is going great. This really hurts the VC. They just can't walk into a village now and take

the villagers' rice supplies.

"We anticipate much more progress with the Regional Forces troops here in the months to come," Sergeant Gaskill continued.

After returning to the field headquarters, the advisors heated C-rations while the Vietnamese troops cooked their own food. The wind had picked up, stirring the silty, red highland

dirt.

A night ambush squad formed before sundown and was inspected by the Vietnamese group commander. It grew chilly. Another day was ending. Almost time to move for the night.

MAT Team 72 continues its efforts, confident it is making progress and with an eye already on future operations.

AG Section Keeps Busy

SAIGON (MACV) — MACV personnel, from their first day in-country until their departure, are involved with the MACV Adjutant General section.

Personnel assignments, promotions, decorations, movements such as TDY, R&R, leave, redeployment — these are only several of the areas of involvement.

The AG section is divided into six main divisions: Administration Services, Personnel Actions, Replacement, Personnel Accounting, Staff Postal and Translation sections.

The Replacement Division, made up of the enlisted management and officer branches, redeployment and processing, handles assignments within MACV.

Changes
One of the most notable changes in this division came last October when the processing branch — then located at Koepler Compound in downtown Saigon — was moved to the MACV Headquarters complex.

The proximity of the processing branch to headquarters has speeded up processing for newly arrived personnel as well as those departing. Prior to the move, personnel could expect to spend at least three days at the Koepler compound. Centralization has reduced this to about one and one-half days.

Briefing methods have also been altered. Presently, only three individual briefers participate in the in-processing talks given to all in-coming personnel. The remainder of the briefing is on a 185-minute tape, recorded by Colonel Stanley Gritz, MACV adjutant general, and illustrated with 35mm slides.

Six new billets with a 460-man capacity — nearly double that at Koepler — now house personnel during their brief stay with the processing center.

Out-processing is also geared toward getting a man back to the States in a minimum amount of time.

One of the main jobs of the Redeployment Branch is ensuring that personnel DEROS on time and handling allocations for return to CONUS.

Largest Division

The administration services division — the largest division in AG — is in charge of Operations, Mail and Distribution and the Message Center branches. Operations incorporates publication and reproduction. It is responsible for printing all orders except general orders and all records from staff memoranda to the Daily Bulletin. The message center, located in the MACV Headquarters building, handled, in one recent month, 52,088 messages, an average of 1 message every 43 seconds.

The newest AG division is Personnel Accounting, comprised of the Personnel Records, Administration Machine, Morning Report and Data Analysis branches.

The Personnel Records branch maintains 201 files and qualifications for all MACV Army personnel. In addition, it handles officer efficiency reports for the approximately 6,000 officers in MACV headquarters. The scope of handling efficiency reports can be realized after considering that in a tour of duty in Vietnam an officer usually gets at least three efficiency reports which adds up to about 18,000 reports yearly.

Guidance
The Postal Services Division provides guidance to component commands and III Marine Amphibious Force concerning postal matters with combined, joint or interservice implications. A small translation division

located in Saigon provides any interpreting services that are required.

The Personnel Actions Division is made up of the Special Actions, Awards and Decorations and Personal Affairs branches. It deals almost entirely with the individual soldier.

Special Actions is in charge of such matters as R&R and letters of condolence to the next of kin of personnel killed in action.

The Personal Affairs branch handles promotions to the grades of captain, first lieutenant and warrant officer, administers the Army reenlistment program for MACV and processes applications to military schools, retirements and separation papers as well as applications for Officers Candidate School and the Army Flight Training Program.

Awards

Awards and decorations branch handles the processing of foreign awards (already approved by the foreign government), badges, unit awards, individual awards, letters of commendation and appreciation, MACV Certificates of Achievement and Appreciation, General Order awards and all incoming awards. Most awards are processed to verify if the individual is eligible and are referred to an awards board. In 1968, the branch processed almost 1,000 awards per month.

The role of the AG section is large. Despite the complexity and scope of this role, AG personnel bring their professionalism to bear daily to accomplish the task.

Stories & Photos
By
SP5 Joe De Priest



Air Force Sgt. Marty McAllister, prepares award folders.

U.S. Advisors Aid RVNAF Medical Service

SAIGON (MACV) — For a nation to be prosperous, its people must enjoy good health. For Vietnam, where war has ravaged resources and mankind alike, it is imperative that her armed forces receive swift and expert medical attention if she is to win her war for self-determination.

The Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces (RVNAF) Medical Service is undergoing a major reorganization designed to

cope with current and future medical needs of RVNAF personnel and their dependents and to form a strong, centralized medical service.

The new pattern of organization is being based on that used by the United States and Korean armed forces medical services. The office of the Surgeon General, MACV, is playing a major advisory role in the reorganization. U.S. medical advisory teams are operating with

RVNAF Medical Service units throughout Vietnam.

MACV Advisory Team 87 is working to improve the 18th ARVN Medical Battalion at Xuan Loc in Long Khanh Province, east of Bien Hoa. The team is headed by Captain Jacob Perkins, senior advisor. The battalion provides the primary medical support for the 18th ARVN Division. Under the new plan for reorganization, each ARVN division will have its own medical battalion to care for its needs.

At present, the Vietnamese have a shortage of doctors. One doctor is assigned to the medical section of each regiment. With the reorganization, the medical sections are supplied solely through ARVN channels. The 18th Medical Battalion has recently begun an outpatient department for ARVN dependents.

"Capabilities will increase tenfold within the next year or year-and-a-half," commented Captain Perkins. "This is our job — to help them increase their capabilities to help their own."

The battalion's capabilities are rapidly increasing. According to Captain Pham Hun Hao, battalion commander, "The division is only two years old. My men used to work at the sector hospital in town. Now, we are located right with the division."

The battalion recently used its new X-ray equipment for the first time. "Until then, we had to send patients to the sector hospital for X-rays," said Captain Hao.

"We've started to build a surgical room and we have the equipment for it," he continued, "and we can now diagnose malaria here instead of having to send samples to Saigon hospitals."

Captain Perkins concluded, "There have been so many improvements made during the last two months because Dr. Hao is so aggressive."

Major Earl W. Nesbitt, Plans and Operations Advisor to the Office of the Surgeon General,

said, "The traits of a good advisor are patience and tact. Before we can even begin to suggest anything to the RVNAF Medical Service people, we must gain their confidence."

Lieutenant Colonel Arnaldo Correa is the senior advisor to Cuc Quan-Y, the office of the Surgeon General of the Republic of Vietnam.

"I've seen many changes in the reorganization of the RVNAF Medical Service. Now,

it almost parallels our own organization. I have seen the Medical Service grow to be a sound system which includes the command and control of all medical assets in Vietnam by Cuc Quan-Y. The Medical Service must be totally self-sufficient. The Vietnamese must think about centralization."

The success of the American advisory role lies in the exchange of ideas taken from both American and Vietnamese.



American medical advisor consults Vietnamese counterpart.

Story by
SP5 David M. Gerrol
Photos by
SP4 Thomas L. Tynes



Laboratory worker performs duties with modern equipment.



ARVN aidmen use supplies provided solely by RVNAF.



Medical battalion soldiers make bricks from sand and cement for new medical building.

Festival Marks End Of Eight-Month Exile

CAMP EAGLE (USA) — Eight months ago, the 4,000 residents of Quong Loc, a village in Quang Dien district, were forced from their homes by the Viet Cong.

Last month they returned. During the exile, many families made temporary homes in government supported refugee villages. Others chose to live with relatives. Life for most had been strange and difficult. Now they were glad to be home.

Village life was returning to normal, and things were set right again.

Festival

During the first three days of the new year, the people of Quong Loc celebrated their homecoming. The outdoor festival had the air of a family reunion. Old friendships were renewed as villagers munched traditional Vietnamese delicacies of Banh Glay and betel. Entertainment was presented by groups from Quong Loc hamlets. Plays, songs and dances were staged, and special honors went to the performers judged best by the spectators.

The presence of South Vietnamese province and district supervisors and representatives of the 101st Airborne Division's civil affairs office as guests gave one of the nights of the festival a special meaning. If men of such importance could walk safely in Quong Loc after dark, surely a simple farmer need not live in fear of the Viet Cong.

Stronghold

Quong Loc was a Viet Cong stronghold when the people fled eight months ago. The terrorists controlled every phase of village life. Rice crops were confiscated and shipped to North Vietnamese Army units. Young men and boys were forced into service as beasts of burden along the enemy's lines of supply. Death was the penalty for non-cooperation.

In the heavy fighting that resulted when paratroopers from the 101st reached Quong Loc, the VC were forced out and their hold on the village broken. The Screaming Eagles had the enemy on the run, and they continued to drive, pushing him back into the mountains. When that task was finished and the

village finally secure, the work of rebuilding began.

The men of the community came first. With strong backs and calloused but gentle hands, they began to repair the damage done to their land by neglect and war. Irrigation canals were cleared, dikes and levees were rebuilt and a new rice crop was planted in the flooded fields. The soil of Quong Loc would once again support its population.

Join Forces

South Vietnamese officials joined forces with the civil affairs arm of the 101st to supply guidance and materials for the rebuilding of the village itself. A new market was constructed, homes were repaired, an elementary school was erected and a medical dispensary built.

Now, the women and children could return, and family life reverted to normal.

If the Viet Cong try to regain control of Quong Loc, they will be resisted. The villagers have formed a civil defense unit that will serve as an initial reaction force. Nearby South Vietnamese and airborne forces will provide extra strength if it is needed. Security and stability have returned, and the villagers can go back to the business of living their own lives.

Teams Vie In Contest

BINH THUY (USAF) — American helicopter specialists at Binh Thuy Air Base recently challenged their Vietnamese Air Force (VNAF) counterparts to a helicopter assembly contest — and lost.

Four disassembled UH-34 'Choctaw' helicopters were airlifted from the U.S. in two Military Airlift Command C-133 Cargomasters for the 74th Vietnamese Tactical Wing at Binh Thuy.

Jigsaw

As the newly overhauled choppers were eased down the cargo ramp and rolled clear of the huge Cargomaster, maintenance crews began collecting the jigsaw puzzle of parts they had to reassemble before the helicopters would fly. To add interest to the long, tedious job someone suggested a contest.

Two aircraft assembly teams were selected to represent the 211th and 217th VNAF Helicopter Squadrons and another represented an American civilian maintenance contractor at the base. Each team was equipped with identical equipment and manpower.

Inspectors

Four and one half hours later, the 211th and 217th had their choppers assembled and quality control inspectors began their work. Minor discrepancies were corrected and the Choctaws were declared operationally ready. The civilian team finished a few twists of a wrench behind.

After the Choctaws were thoroughly inspected, the workday was concluded with a brief ceremony at which Vietnamese Air Force Colonel Nguyen Huy Anh, 74th Wing Commander, congratulated the teams on their spirit of competition and lauded their high degree of proficiency and quality workmanship.

'Fish Flight' Speeds Needed Live Food Source To Village

DA NANG (USMC) — A recent Marine civic action project turned 1,500 fingerlings into flying fish during an airlift from Pleiku to Da Nang.

The native Vietnamese fish, called tilapia, were needed to stock a small fish hatchery at Lo Giang Village, south of Da Nang. The flight was the final step of a four-month project to upgrade the economy and help feed the villagers of Lo Giang.

A four-man civic action team of Marine Aircraft Group 11 worked with villagers to construct a pond for the hatchery and grow water plants to furnish oxygen for the fish. After the pond was dug, filled, and the plants were growing well, it was ready for the tilapia.

Sergeant Jerry W. Stewart, the team leader, had appealed earlier for help in obtaining the fish. American fishery advisors in Saigon arranged for the fingerlings to be furnished from a Vietnamese government hatchery 25 miles outside Pleiku.

With the team members handling last minute arrangements at the village, Captain Robert J. Argo and Corporal Kenneth R. Britton of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing civic action team, headed for the Pleiku hatchery.

The team and its equipment,

containers for the fish and a tank of oxygen, were ferried to Pleiku in a MAG-11 C-117 Skytrain, with the plane standing by for a quick trip back to Da Nang. To insure live delivery of the fish, the civic action team finished the journey to the hatchery by truck.

At the hatchery the fish were netted, placed in water-filled plastic bags and stored in insulated foam containers. Oxygen was pumped through the water from the tank and hose assembly brought from Da Nang. A constant watch on the travelers was maintained throughout the flight. Too little or too much oxygen would kill them.

When the plane landed at Da Nang, a truck was waiting to rush the fish to Lo Giang. At the village the plastic bags were placed in the shallow wa-

ter at the fish pond until the water containing the young fish was the same temperature as the pond. The fish were then released.

The tilapia should grow to full size in four months and will furnish a new source of protein for the village. They will supplement other new foods introduced by the civic action team: Chinese cabbage and watermelon, American lettuce and tomatoes. With the next rice planting, the Marines plan to introduce a newly developed Philippine rice, which should triple the local harvest.

The majority of fish will spend only the first few months of their lives in the pond before being released into the flooded rice paddies of the village to insure a constant supply of fish for the people of Lo Giang.

Vet Team Inspects Delta Produce

CAN THO (MACV) — For the first time, all fruits and vegetables consumed by American Armed Forces and civilians in the IV Corps area now come from farms in the Mekong Delta.

Produce for Americans in IV Corps previously came from as

far away as Taiwan. But a Farmers Cooperative Association, which went into operation only recently, now assures plenty of fresh produce for everyone in the corps.

A four-man veterinarian team stationed at Can Tho Airfield keeps a close eye on all the locally produced vegetables and fruits to make sure they meet all health standards.

Most of the produce from local farms is brought to warehouses at Can Tho Airfield, where Captain Phillip N. Richardson, head veterinarian, and his staff inspect it.

"But we also regularly inspect locally grown produce in sheds where it is brought straight from the fields," he said.

Another of the team's chief duties is the treatment and care of sentry and scout dogs in three parts of the Delta.

In addition, the team members examine and sometimes treat water buffalo, make sure locally baked bread is fit for American personnel here, care

for pets and inspect a civilian ice plant which supplies ice to U.S. personnel in the Can Tho area.

The men, all members of the 4th Medical Detachment at Saigon, comprise the staff of the IV Corps Veterinarian team.

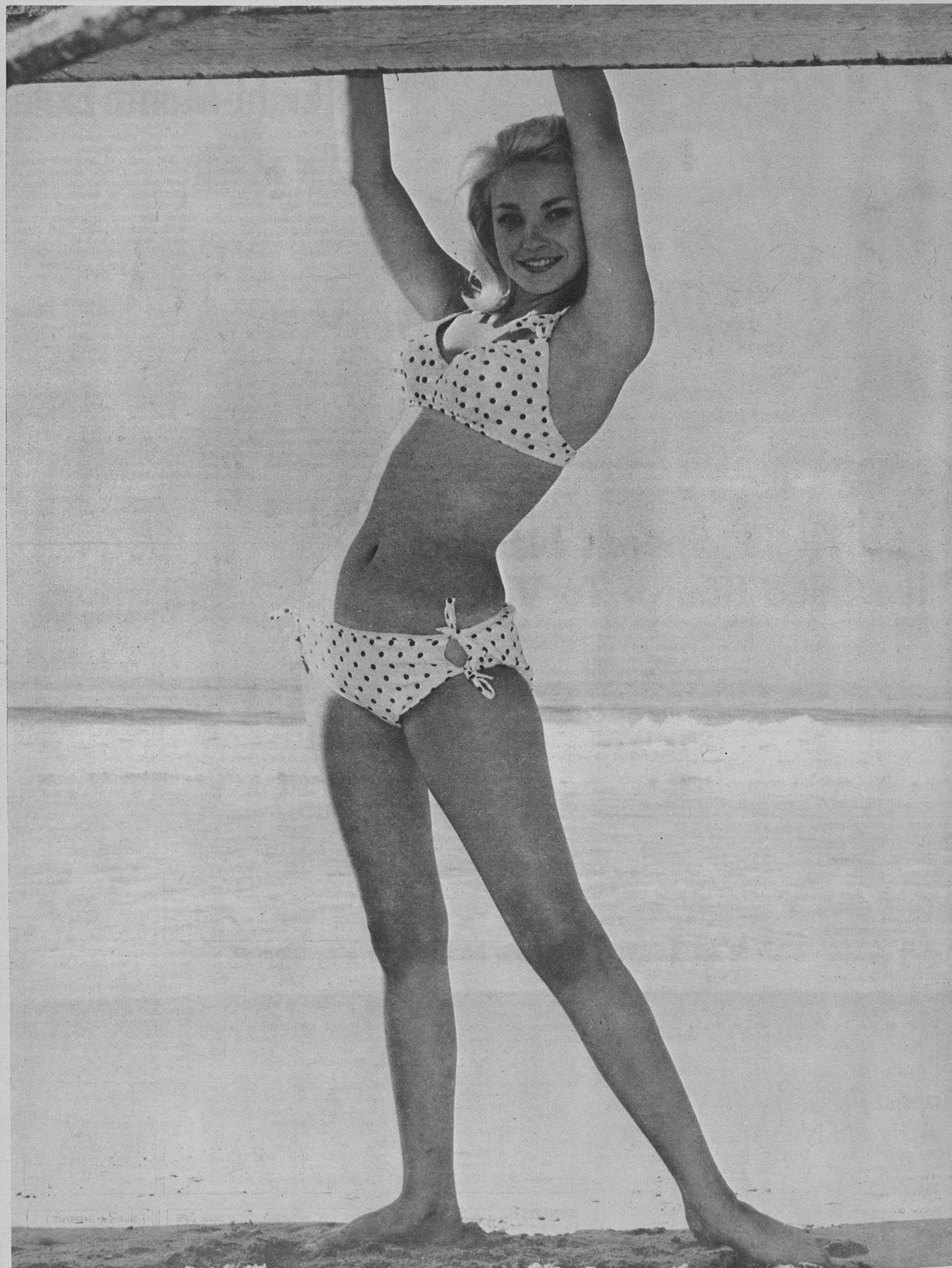
"In an average month we vaccinate about 50 dogs for rabies, most of them pets of armed forces members," said Captain Richardson.

"We have conducted five rabies clinics all over the Delta and welcome invitations to hold others."

Captain Richardson said he has treated all kinds of pets in the Delta, from monkeys to snakes.

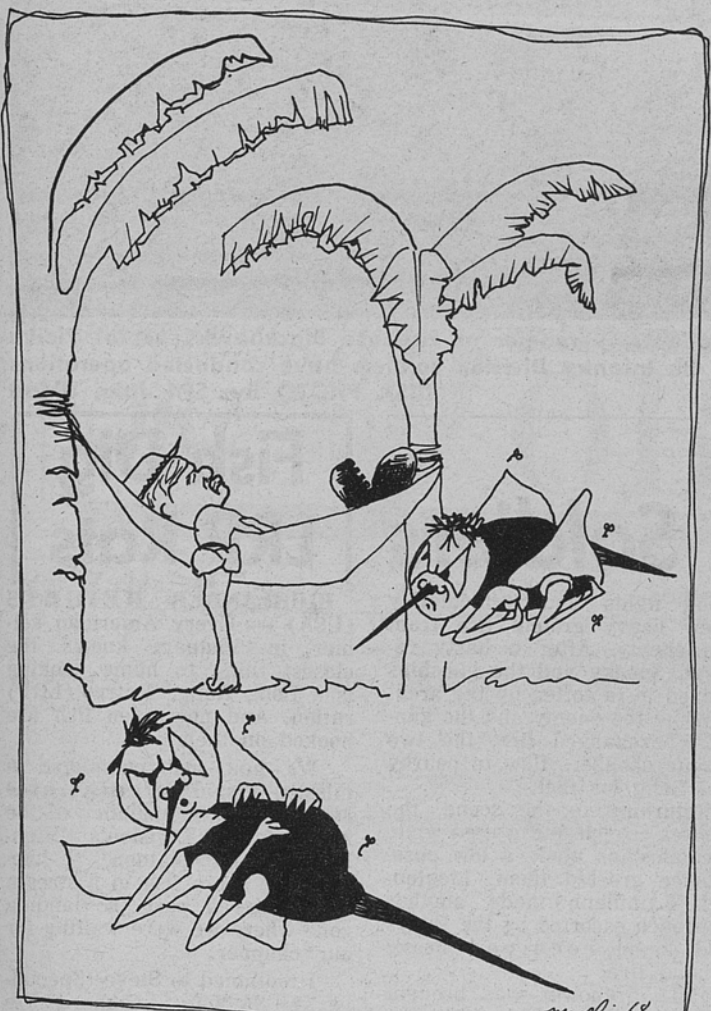
"As a matter of fact," he recalled, "one of the strangest experiences of my life came from treating a rock python snake which was the pet of an American soldier."

The snake had swallowed his meal, a guinea pig, and had choked on it. I had to use a stomach pump to get the reptile unclogged."



BUNKER BUNNY OF THE WEEK—says, "My latest project is trying to vault over this beam. If I were a veteran, as many of you will be soon, I'd take advantage of Project VAULT to get a Bachelor's Degree and Teacher's Certificate in only two-and-a-half years. The program is coordinated by the Department of Defense, Ft. Leonard Wood and Webster College of St. Louis. It aims to provide educational opportunities to men who would not otherwise go to college and to procure badly needed teachers for ghetto schools. But I don't think it would help me to vault over this ol' beam. Perhaps when you graduate you could teach me a few things." (PHOTO COURTESY OF PETER GOWLAND)

ON TOUR BY SP5 MACCLAIN



OH COMRADE... I JUST CAN'T GET USED TO THIS RICH FOOD...

American Forces Vietnam Network - Channel 11

(Programs Subject To Change Without Notice)
(Guide For Week Of February 7-13, 1969)

FRIDAY, Feb. 7

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1330 Turn On | 1800 Jonathan Winters |
| 1413 What's Happening | 1900 Andy Griffith |
| 1415 Sign On News | 1930 Evening News |
| 1430 Big Valley (Re-Run) | 2000 Weather |
| 1530 Dean Martin (Re-Run) | 2006 Bonanza |
| 1630 Star Trek (Re-Run) | 2100 What's Happening |
| 1730 The Monkees | 2200 Mission Impossible |
| 1800 Wild Wild West | 2200 Late News |
| 1900 Bewitched | 2210 Joey Bishop |
| 1930 Evening News | |
| 2000 Weather | |
| 2036 Hollywood Palace | |
| 2100 What's Happening | |
| 2100 Combat | |
| 2200 Late News | |
| 2210 Rowan And Martin | |
| 2300 Boxing From The Olympics | |

SATURDAY, Feb. 8

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| 1230 Turn On | 1315 Sign On News |
| 1315 Sign On News | 1330 CBS Golf Classic |
| 1430 Special | 1500 Melody Ranch |
| 1600 Gunsmoke (Re-Run) | 1700 Greatest Show On Earth |
| 1800 Nashville Vietnam | 1830 Special |
| 1925 Weather | 1930 Evening News |
| 2000 Jackie Gleason | 2030 Let's Speak Vietnamese (Advanced) |
| 2100 What's Happening | 2100 Cotton Bowl |

SUNDAY, Feb. 9

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| 1130 Turn On | 1215 Religious Hour |
| 1215 Religious Hour | 1315 Early News |
| 1330 RB Kraft Music Hall | 1430 Perry Mason |
| 1530 Jerry Lewis Show | 1630 Information Feature |
| 1730 21st Century | 1800 Window On Vietnam |
| 1830 In Town Tonight | 1930 Walt Disney Presents |
| 2000 Variety Special | 2030 Let's Speak Vietnamese (Advanced) |
| 2100 What's Happening | 2100 Rose Bowl |

MONDAY, Feb. 10

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

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1730 Survival | 1800 Jonathan Winters |
| 1900 Andy Griffith | 1930 Evening News |
| 2000 Weather | 2006 Bonanza |
| 2100 What's Happening | 2200 Mission Impossible |
| 2200 Late News | 2210 Joey Bishop |

TUESDAY, Feb. 11

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 1330 Turn On | 1413 What's Happening |
| 1413 What's Happening | 1430 Sign On News |
| 1430 Sign On News | 1430 Jonathan Winters (Re-Run) |
| 1530 Bonanza (Re-Run) | 1630 Mission Impossible (Re-Run) |
| 1730 Big Picture | 1800 Big Valley |
| 1830 Let's Speak Vietnamese #3 (Re-Run) | 1900 Beverly Hillsbillies |
| 1930 Evening News | 2000 Weather |
| 2006 Dean Martin | 2100 What's Happening |
| 2220 Late News | 2220 Feature Movie |

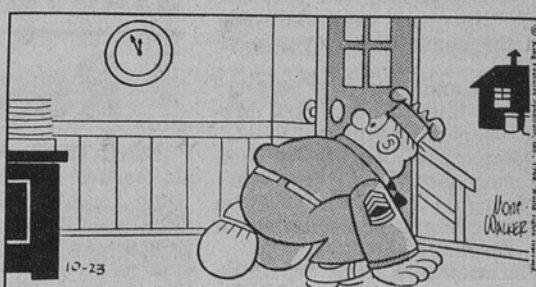
WEDNESDAY, Feb. 12

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1330 Turn On | 1413 What's Happening |
| 1413 What's Happening | 1430 Sign On News |
| 1430 Sign On News | 1430 Super Bowl |
| 1530 Red Skelton Hour | 1630 Auto Racing |
| 1730 Get Smart | 1800 Wide World |
| 1900 Evening News | 2000 Weather |
| 2006 Operation: Entertainment | 2100 What's Happening |
| 2220 Late News | 2220 Feature Movie |

THURSDAY, Feb. 13

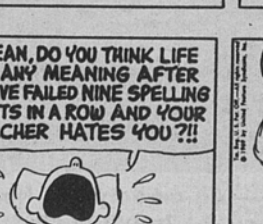
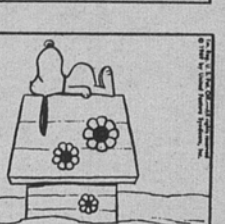
- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1330 Turn On | 1413 What's Happening |
| 1413 What's Happening | 1430 Sign On News |
| 1430 Sign On News | 1430 Super Bowl |
| 1530 Red Skelton Hour | 1630 Auto Racing |
| 1730 Get Smart | 1800 Wide World |
| 1900 Evening News | 2000 Weather |
| 2006 Operation: Entertainment | 2100 What's Happening |
| 2220 Late News | 2220 Feature Movie |

Beetle Bailey



Peanuts

By Charles M. Schulz



His Action Saves Life

QUANG TRI (USMC) — A Marine corporal with no medical training recently saved the life of a stricken Marine Infantryman.

Corporal Arnold Duseberg, crew chief of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 262, was on a troop lift near the Laotian border in the northern tactical zone when his pilot received a request for an emergency medical evacuation from an infantry unit already on the ground.

After the Sea Knight transport helicopter dropped into the landing zone and the casualty was placed aboard, Corporal Duseberg learned that he hadn't been shot. The infantryman, carrying ammunition, food, a pack and rifle, had just keeled over after trudging through rugged terrain in the hot, humid weather.

"He looked bad," the corporal said. "He was cold and pale and the pupils of his eyes were dilated."

The assumption was correct; minutes later the stricken Marine stopped breathing.

Doing "just what I've seen the corpsmen do in the field" Corporal Duseberg began mouth-to-mouth resuscitation on the casualty.

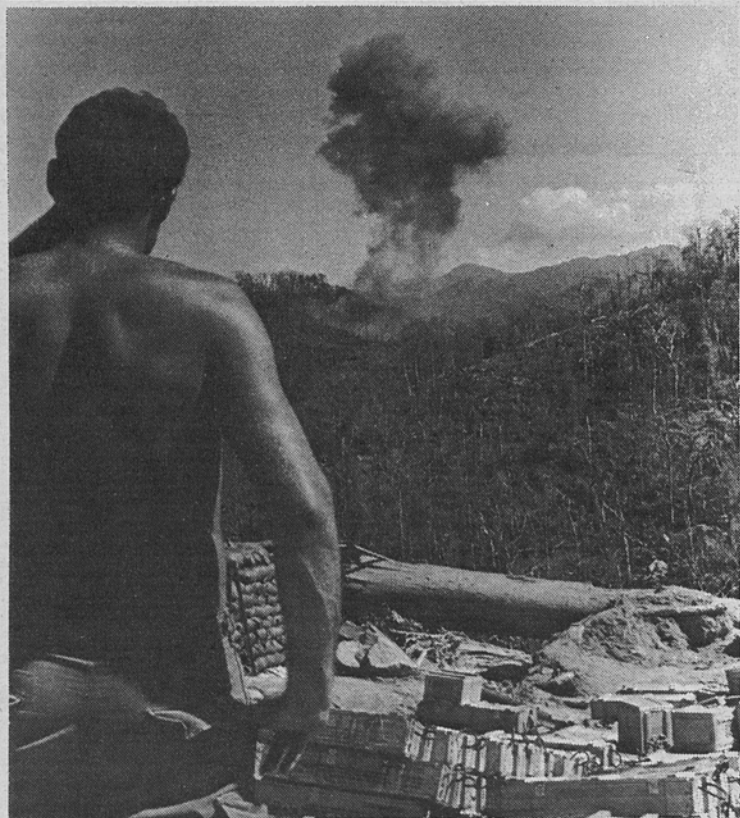
The victim started breathing once again and the young crew chief returned to his vigil as the helicopter continued its 150 mile per hour race against death, to a medical facility.

After a few minutes the casualty ceased breathing for the second time. This time Corporal Duseberg resorted to an external cardiac massage, pushing on the victim's chest in a regular tempo.

The corporal wasn't satisfied with the results he was getting and, after futile minutes, returned to the mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.

He continued for the last 15 miles — stopping twice to check for a pulse — until the helicopter arrived at 3rd Medical Battalion facilities at Quang Tri.

Two days later, with the infantryman in good condition and resting comfortably, Navy physicians commended the young Marine for his quick thinking and credited him with saving a fellow Marine's life.



MISSION COMPLETED — An artilleryman from the 101st Airborne Division's Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 319th Airborne Artillery, observes the results of a fire mission on an enemy mortar position. The enemy had used the position to shell Firebase Mooney. (USA PHOTO By: SP5 Rich Roderick)



NIGHT FIRE — A caliber .50 machine gun is fired on the darkened outer perimeter of Firebase Blackhawk east of Pleiku in the Central Highlands. The firebase is near "VC Valley" where 4th Infantry Division soldiers have conducted operations during the past few weeks. (USA PHOTO By: SP4 John Uhlar)

USAF Team Wouldn't Quit

Rescue Effort Saves Soldiers

BINH THUY (USA) — It took 11 sorties and 13 hours flying time recently before Air Force First Lieutenant Philip H. Kammann and his crew from Detachment 10, 38th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron, were able to pick up two wounded Army men.

The casualties were part of a patrol located approximately 50 miles west-northwest of Bin Thuy in the Mekong Delta. Lieutenant Kammann and his crew of three were alerted at 1 a.m. and five minutes later their HH-43 Pedro was airborne.

The "back-up" chopper, piloted by Captain John Debevec, was launched five minutes later. It was a moonless night.

"It was strictly instrument flying," said Captain Jack Cusano, Lieutenant Kammann's co-pilot.

Both rescue helicopters arrived at the pickup area along with an AC-47 Spooky gunship. Ten minutes later, as a Huey Cobra helicopter gunship team arrived, Spooky began orbiting and crewmen dropped flares in an attempt to find the ground party.

The party was finally located

by radio and they reported no contact had been made with the enemy all evening.

"We circled and asked the Cobras to make a pass to determine if enemy ground fire would be received. Nothing happened," said Technical Sergeant Dudley Peckinpugh.

The rescue chopper circled the area and began to descend through the darkness. When the altimeter indicated the Pedro was 50 feet above ground, Lieutenant Kammann flipped on the

Operation

(Continued From Page 1)

PSYOP (Psychological Operations) leaflets and helicopter broadcasts urged civilians to evacuate the peninsula through check points along the cordon.

After four days of PSYOP saturation, 2,449 refugees had moved through the cordon to small processing centers behind the line and then to a central holding and interrogation center near Quang Ngai City.

The noose began to tighten on the fourth day when Company A of the 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry, forded the Diem River to take over a small island where 39 VC suspects were found and a number of tunnels and fortifications destroyed.

After four days, Russell Beach had accounted for 21 VC killed and six individual weapons captured. The Americal force, named Task Force Cooksey for its commander, Brigadier General Howard H. Cooksey, assistant division commander, had killed 10 VC and taken 3 weapons.

General Cooksey said at least two Communist main force battalions were in the encircled area when the operation began, and at least one battalion if not both, had been trapped by the rapid establishment of the cordon, which took less than eight hours to position.

Rooting enemy troops out of the peninsula has been complicated by extensive networks of tunnels, some three stories deep, and numerous booby traps and minefields.

The cordon is slowly, carefully closing daily with infantrymen probing every tunnel and suspected hiding place, to ensure a complete clearing of the area.

Russell Beach is expected to continue until the joint assault force can turn over control of the Batangan Peninsula to government forces.

flood lights and immediately drew heavy ground fire from the enemy. After a hasty retreat, Spooky and the gunships moved in to soften up the area.

While the enemy and the gunships exchanged fire, the two rescue choppers flew to nearby Chi Lang for fuel.

Returning to the scene, the Pedros circled and waited while the gunships made a low pass. Silence greeted them. Lieutenant Kammann made another approach escorted by the Hueys and again received heavy ground fire.

More firepower was brought into the action. This time the two Cobras and two Spookys fired on the enemy gun positions and began to search for the friendly force below. They were located three-fourths of the way up a small rocky mountain when an alert air crew member spotted the blinking signal of a penlight.

The ground party was advised to change location to a more level pickup area, but they informed the chopper crew that two of their men were wounded and couldn't be moved.

One of the Huey Cobras made a clearing pass with a Pedro following, and Staff Sergeant Gordon Browning, flight engineer, dropped a stretcher and a litter to the wounded men so they could be transported to a secure landing area on the other side of the mountain crest.

While the men made their way up the mountainside, Lieutenant Kammann flew to Chi Lang for fuel, then returned and waited for radio contact from the ground party at the secure landing area. The pickup was finally made.

Fish Dig LRP Rats

HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS (USA) — Every American soldier in Vietnam knows the closest thing to home cooking is a Long Range Patrol (LRP) ration. And now even fish are hooked on them.

"We had just completed a mission," said Specialist 4 Merle Freed, a member of the 25th Infantry Division's "Highlander" LRP platoon. "I happened to see a fish in a stream which flowed past the landing zone where we were waiting for our chopper."

"I motioned to Steve (Specialist 4 Stephen Lockhard) to throw me a string and I took a safety pin from my pocket to make a hook," he continued.

"I knew what Merle was trying to do," said Private First Class Ray McFarr, "so I took a piece of pork from my LRP dinner and threw it to him for bait."

"I dropped the hook in the water and the fish seemed interested," Specialist Freed said. "After nibbling a while, he swallowed the whole thing."

The LRPs brought back what turned out to be a very large Dogfish and, after some dicker-ing with the mess hall personnel, had "filet of sole."

'Sledgehammer'...

(Continued From Page 1)

success of the sweep to the increased morale of his troops. They are now fully equipped with M-16 rifles, M-60 machine guns and 106mm recoilless rifles. All Regional and Popular Forces troops have been retrained, adding to their combat readiness.

Mail THE OBSERVER Home

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

From:

Place Stamp
Here

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

TO:



RVN Riverine Force Gets Boost



Vol. 7, No. 41

Saigon, Vietnam

February 14, 1969



STANDING BY — A crewman of Helicopter Combat Support Squadron 4, Detachment 4, stands by the unit's UH-2B Sea Sprite chopper awaiting passengers and mail for a morning flight to Da Nang. The detachment, whose home base is at the Naval Air Station, Lakehurst, N.J., is presently assigned aboard the USS Eldorado. (USN PHOTO By: PH1 Bill Galligan)

101st Unit Finds Food Cache Near Hue

CAMP EAGLE (USA) — An enemy battalion will go hungry for more than six months as the result of a six-day operation by a platoon of the 101st Airborne Division, operating near Hue.

The platoon, led by First Lieutenant Chip Hart, found 41 tons of rice and 500 pounds of dehydrated potatoes in a farmhouse six miles from the old imperial capital. The stockpile would have provided enough rations to feed an enemy battalion for a half-year.

The 1st Battalion, 501st Airborne Infantry, has been conducting saturation patrols in the area for the past three months. The latest find is the largest so far in the operation.

Lieutenant Hart said that when he approached the house, "it looked innocent enough, but

then I noticed a false partition in the main room. I climbed up on a trunk and saw bins of rice piled to the ceiling behind the wall." He immediately intensified the search and uncovered more rice and potatoes in other

rooms and buried behind the house. More caches were found in neighboring houses.

The villagers said they were intimidated by Viet Cong terrorists, who forced them to store the supplies.

Paratroopers of the 101st are removing the caches, which will be redistributed to South Vietnamese civilians and refugees. Each family is left with 800 pounds of rice — enough to live on for a year.

This Soldier Gets Carried Away With His Job

FIREBASE BLACKHAWK (USA) — Specialist 4 Donn P. Brathwaite's experience is sure to be the basis for many a story in years to come. It will start out, "Did I ever tell you about the time the tiger grabbed me?"

The specialist was a member of a Short Range Patrol (SRP) from Charlie Company, 3rd Battalion, 8th Infantry, working in VC Valley.

The patrol had selected a night position and was just settling down when they heard movement in the bushes nearby. They reported the sounds and went on full alert. Half an hour passed, but nothing more was heard or seen.

Then Specialist Brathwaite heard a rustling sound in the brush again, very close to him. As he raised his head and peered out into the darkness, he

suddenly found himself looking into the luminous green eyes of a tiger. Before he had time to react, the animal had him by the neck and head and was dragging him off into the jungle. The soldier still had his weapon in his hand.

Unable to yell for help because the tiger's jaws held his mouth closed, Specialist Brathwaite allowed himself to be carried along. After the beast had

dragged him about 15 yards, the trooper managed to work his weapon into position and fired two shots, point blank, into the animal. The tiger roared, dropped his prey, and ran off into the night.

The patrol immediately reported the incident and soon the area was saturated with 81mm mortar rounds. The following morning blood trails were followed, but the tiger was not found.

SAIGON (USN) — Two complete river assault and interdiction divisions, totaling 25 heavily armed and armored river gunboats, were recently turned over to the Vietnamese Navy.

The turnover took place during ceremonies on board the Mobile Riverine Force flagship USS Benewah in the Mekong Delta, 36 miles southwest of Saigon.

It was the largest single turnover of U.S. Navy gunboats to date, and represents a major step forward for the Vietnamese Navy's Riverine fleet.

The gunboats will form two River Assault and Interdiction Divisions (RAIDs) to conduct both types of operations their name describes. In their interdiction role, similar to efforts now being made by the U.S. Navy in the western Mekong Delta, the Vietnamese Navy RAIDs will capitalize upon natural infiltration barriers afforded by canals and other inland waterways.

This added function is a step beyond the more traditional, inland amphibious warfare presently conducted by the U.S. Army-Navy Mobile Riverine Force and Vietnamese Navy River Assault Groups (RAGs). The RAGs are made up of similar but more lightly armed and armored craft, many of them turned over by the French when they left 15 years ago.

Commodore Tran Van Chon, Vietnamese Chief of Naval Operations, accepted the 25 gunboats from Vice Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt Jr., commander of U.S. Naval Forces in Vietnam and chief of the Naval Advisory Group. Once the turnover documents were signed, American sailors on the boats took down the U.S. flags and Vietnamese sailors stepped forward to raise the red and yellow colors of South Vietnam.

Value of the 25 boats was estimated to be \$7,700,000.

About 200 American Navymen were made available for reassignment by the turnover. Most of them will be involved with expanded training programs for Vietnamese sailors.

Crews for the new RAIDs were drawn from top-rated Vietnamese Navy officers and enlisted men with experience in riverine assault operations. They took charge of the new boats—

(Continued on Back Page)

A LETTER



HOME

Editorial

Write Often

How many times have you seen the overseas "mail call" where the postal clerk hands out letters until only a few dejected men stand by — those who didn't get one?

This isn't scenario from a movie. It happens quite often for various reasons. Mainly, it's because addresses have changed by constant moves and the letters are somewhere in the pipeline.

However, let's reverse the situation. Family addresses back home seldom change. Yet, there are sometimes weeks and even months when they, too, become dejected waiting for letters.

Writing, between family members, is not always a matter of exchanging news, but of thoughtfulness and caring. Just a note to mom and dad, wife or sister means that you care — merely by sending a few words.

Chaplains very often hear from parents and families who plead for word of their loved ones. In most cases it's found that the "forgotten" letter home was only negligence.

Words from home bring a personal feeling of pleasure that only the reader understands. Remember, writing is a two-way street, and a letter means love and affection — whether you are 50 or 5,000 miles away.

And, your letter brings you home — even for a moment or two.

Just In Case You Have Not Heard

Do You Have Tax Query?

(Editor's Note: This is the second of a series.)

WASHINGTON (ANF) — Question: I'm buying U.S. Savings Bonds to help pay for my son's education. How should I go about this so I don't have to pay tax on the interest?

Answer: The interest earned on a savings bond should be reported by the owner of the bond. If you purchase the bonds in your child's name as owner, then any tax liability will be his. Unless the interest earned on the bonds and his other income amounts to \$600 or more, no return need be filed by him.

If you have your child elect to report the bond interest each year rather than wait until the year they are cashed in, then your child should file a return showing his bond interest the first year you start the plan. No further return will be required until the child has \$600 or more income a year. Keep a copy of this first return to show that the interest has been reported on a yearly basis.

This transaction is a gift to your son. If you give more than \$3,000 to him during the year, you may be liable for federal gift tax return.

Q: I'm expecting a refund, but don't have one of the envelopes you're supposed to use to mail the return. What should I do?

A: Mail your return to the Internal Revenue Service center for your area. You can obtain the exact address by checking the 1040 instructions or by writing the local Internal Revenue Office.

Q: Are membership fees in a charitable organization like the YMCA deductible as a contribution?

A: No, dues, membership fees and assessments paid to a charitable organization are not deductible if you receive benefits and privileges in return. However, you may deduct any gift you make to a qualified organization.

(Next: Profit on house sales.)

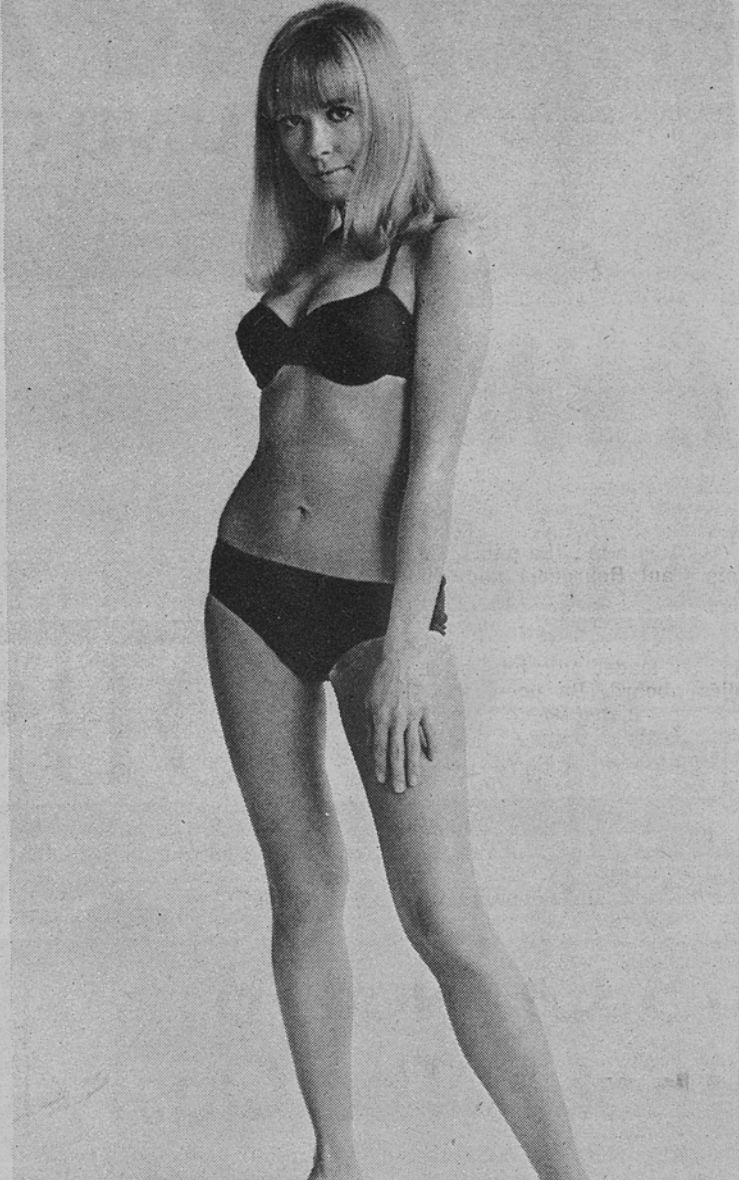
Legislation Aids Aliens

WASHINGTON (NAVNEWS)

— Recent legislation extends the same naturalization benefits to aliens serving in the Armed Forces during the Vietnam conflict as those received by aliens in previous wars.

The new law provides for waiving of the prerequisite of lawful admission to the U.S. The individual must have served honorably from Feb. 18, 1961, to the end of Vietnam hostilities, and he must enlist or reenlist in the United States, Canal Zone, American Samoa, or Swains Island. The enlistment may take place anytime before, after or during the Vietnam conflict.

It does not include enlistments aboard ships on the high seas or in foreign waters.



DON'T ABUSE IT—"When communicating, don't excessively use immediate or flash precedence." That's the word from Playmate Melodye Prentiss. "Also," she says, "don't place personal telephone calls over the military system. Both of these practices are in violation of existing regs and could get you an official fat lip." Stay tuned up with Melodye and follow the rules.

(PHOTO COURTESY OF PLAYBOY MAGAZINE)



SAIGON (MACV) — The family is the basic unit in Vietnamese society and is of utmost importance in the life of every Vietnamese. The family includes not only the living, but those who have died and those who are yet to be born. Ancestors are given the highest respect by the Vietnamese. For example, the Vietnamese have festivals where ancestors are revered during special ceremonies. It is also a common practice to discuss the grandsons and great-grandsons who are yet to be born to carry on the family name.

Being a member of a family places serious obligations on the individual. Members owe their first allegiance to their respective families. They have a serious obligation to insure that their relatives are free from want. To shirk one's duties is to risk losing one's honor in the community.

The structure of the immediate family is somewhat different from what the American is accustomed to. The immediate family usually consists of three

generations: a senior couple, a married son with his wife and children, and the senior couple's unmarried children. The senior couple is given the highest respect by the other members of the family. The father, the formal head of the household, makes all of the important decisions. His wife manages the household but is obedient to her husband in carrying out her duties.

Because the family is the single most important unit in Vietnamese society, an insight into the role of the Vietnamese family can help you in your associations with the Vietnamese people. This insight can make you more appreciative of Vietnamese culture and more willing to respect what you see. Remember, just as there is nothing in the world more dear to you than your family, so the same is true of the Vietnamese. Show the Vietnamese the same respect that you would have him show you, were he to come to your country and into your home.

Respect his family.

"... The people of Vietnam have fought for many long years. Thousands of them have died. Thousands more have been crippled and scarred by war. We cannot now dishonor our word or abandon our commitment or leave those who believed us and who trusted us to the terror and repression and murder that would follow."

LYNDON B. JOHNSON

Providers Risk Mortars To Supply CIDGs

SAIGON (MACV) — A C-123 recently became the target of a mortar attack when it landed at Katum to bring vitally-needed supplies to American advisors at the CIDG camp there.

For the pilots and crew of the 315th Special Operations Wing, the day began as usual. At the pre-flight briefing, the pilots learned that they might expect trouble. Two days before, a C-7 Caribou trailed smoke as it flew from Katum. The hydraulics system had been smashed by enemy gunfire and the pilot had been wounded in the leg.

At 11:30 a.m., the pilots, Captain Paul Bourgeois and First Lieutenant Evan Ray, taxied their lumbering Provider to the "hot pad" where the crew quickly loaded five tons of supplies aboard. By noon, the C-123 was airborne and on the way to the small CIDG camp approximately three and three-quarter miles from the Cambodian border.

The pilots had been informed that their Time On Target (TOT) was set for 12:30 p.m. They would make contact with a Forward Air Controller

(FAC) who was circling the airfield and surrounding areas, searching for possible VC or NVA mortar positions. Above the FAC, two F-100 Super Sabre jets cruised, waiting to

geants Erwin Oetting, loadmaster, and Willie McCoy, flight engineer, to depart from the aircraft rapidly as soon as it touched down and the ramp was lowered.

ground fire during the approach. It would also give the enemy less time to prepare for a mortar attack.

As the aircraft touched down, the loadmaster immediately



be called to drop 500-pound bombs if the enemy should disclose his positions.

Besides the two 5,000-pound pallets of supplies, the aircraft was carrying six passengers bound for Katum. They were instructed by Technical Ser-

Seconds later, the pilot began an assault landing — keeping the craft at cruising altitude until the last possible moment before diving for the field at an angle of more than 45 degrees. The assault landing would decrease the possibility of taking

began to prepare the pallets for swift off-loading. The ramp was lowered before the plane reached the end of the runway. When the Provider swung into the off-loading area to drop the cargo and turn around, the first mortar round landed on

the other side of the runway. Seconds earlier, the aircraft would have been hit.

The passengers scrambled off the ramp as the mortar rounds exploded around the aircraft. Seconds later, the loadmaster started to roll the pallets off the ramp and onto the ground. It circled the off-loading area and lumbered back onto the runway for take-off.

The C-123 was airborne again in less than five minutes from the time it had landed. Nineteen enemy mortar rounds had been launched against the C-123, a greater number than had been hurled against any single aircraft which had landed at Katum before.

Colonel John W. Pauly is the commander of the 315th Special Operations Wing at Phan Rang. The outfit has a demanding mission, ferrying supplies to 39 camps in III and IV Corps. For 13 other camps with no airstrip, supplies float in by airdrop.

ARVN troops as well as American are supplied by the 315th. The wing moves troops and is the prime source of fuel for helicopter operations out of the forward bases.

TB Or Not TB... That Is The Query

SA DEC (USA) — More than 15,000 school-age children in this Mekong Delta city have been tested for tuberculosis in the past three months by Captain Lawrence P. Washington and Staff Sergeant Charles A. Badley, Air Force members of the Sa Dec Military Provincial Health Assistance Program (MILPHAP) team.

This massive testing program is part of an anti-tuberculosis project which is now moving out into the districts of Sa Dec Province.

In addition to the tests, the MILPHAP team members have also administered approximately 11,000 inoculations of a vaccine called BCG which will provide the children protection against tuberculosis for up to 10 years.

According to U.S. health authorities, nearly 10 per cent of the children tested showed posi-

tive results and will require further testing or treatment at the Sa Dec Province hospital.

"We also had a few problems when we first started," Captain Haley said. "The Viet Cong spread propaganda that we were poisoning the children."

To combat the rumors, the men visited each school two weeks prior to testing the students. They explained the process to the teachers, hung posters and distributed literature.

Both Americans said the project could not have been completed without the assistance of an accompanying Vietnamese nurse.

Many of the girls would roll their sleeves up high enough for the test shot but not high enough for the BCG shot in the shoulder. The nurse had to perform the injection in a private room. In some cases, she had to administer the test shot because of the girls' shyness.



SILVER STAR Ray, Roy G. MAJ USA BRONZE STAR MEDAL WITH "V" DEVICE

Abney, Tommy G. SSG USA
Baine, Charles E. SSG USA
Burger, Gerald W. SSG USA
Clark, Robert E. SGT USA
Cobb, Paul D. SFC USA
Crowell, David V. CPT USA *1
Deets, Ronald K. SSG USA
Drosselmeier, Francis J. 1LT USA
Durack, Michael O. 1LT USA
Fishburn, Dannie C. PFC USA
Goodrich, Roger L. Jr. 1LT USA
Grimmett, Robert F. SFC USA
Jackson, Norman L.R. SFC USA *1
Johnson, Francis F. CPT USA *1
Pearce, Donnie D. MAJ USA

Peeff, John T. 1LT USA *2
Recroft, Rollin R. SFC USA
Schoenick, Wayne A. PFC USA
Slaters, Gerald E. SFC USA *1
Squier, Lester L. EN1 USN
Tommie, Karan M. SFC USA *1
ARMY COMMENDATION
MEDAL WITH "V"
DEVICE

Chapman, Don C. MAJ USA *2
Garner, Joe R. SFC USA
George, Franklin D. SFC USA *1
Hale, Johnny W. SSG USA
Harris, Gerald D. SGT USA
Jacobsen, Perry H. 1LT USA
Lyles, John W. SFC USA
Miller, Arthur D. 1LT USA
Raymond, Stephan C. 1LT USA
Self, John J. MSG USA
Tedder, Larry G. SP5 USA
Vega-Alvarez, Jose A. SFC USA

Piers Keep Goods Flowing

DA NANG (USN) — Lines swing taut, pulleys strain, winches squeal and everything from a brown bear to bombs is unloaded by giant winches to the chatter of three languages. Within minutes, cargo is on its way out the gate at the U.S. Naval Support Activity — Da Nang's Deep Water Piers.

These piers accommodate all deep draft ships carrying cargo for forces in I Corps. They are the major source of supply for the five northern provinces of South Vietnam, providing nearly all the logistic support to more than 185,000 Free World Military Forces stationed there.

The piers have handled some unusual cargo. For instance, an elephant and a brown bear have been unloaded there for shipment to other parts of I Corps to serve as mascots for military units.

Employed at the pier are 58 stevedores gangs: 14 U.S. Navy, 22 Korean, and 22 Vietnamese. Two of the Vietnamese gangs are composed of women.

Once the cargo is placed on the pier by the ship's winches, a fork lift rushes it onto a waiting trailer.

Most of the cargo is loaded directly onto waiting trucks and is on its way in a matter of

minutes. When shipments cannot be accepted immediately due to weather, combat, road or other conditions, the goods are stored in an adjoining 33-acre lot to await shipment to their final destinations.

Throughout the past year, the Deep Water Piers have broken many cargo records. More than 600,000 measurement tons were off-loaded in one recent month and more than 200,000 measurement tons were loaded onto the cargo vessels for return to the United States. More cargo has passed through the piers this past year than in all previous years combined.



Deep Water Piers operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to keep I Corps cargo moving.



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Last Tet Was A Time Of Sorrow

SAIGON (MACV) — Tet, the traditional Vietnamese happy, giddy holiday and also a time of great reverence was turned into a time of intense sorrow, a little bit of hell on earth last year.

Enemy forces breaking a truce they had earlier agreed to, hit major population centers throughout war-weary Vietnam—including the capital city.

The first of the Tet attacks occurred at Nha Trang in the wee hours of Jan. 30. The assault was apparently aimed directly at the U. S. Military Assistance Compound in the downtown area of the city.

As darkness fell on the country the next day, the enemy hit 27 of the 44 province capitals. He hit the U. S. Embassy in Saigon. Strikes were also made at Da Nang, Hue, Quang Tri, Qui Nhon, My Tho, Tan Phu Trung, An Khe, Pleiku, Kontum, Dalat, Ban Me Thuot, Hoi An, Tuy Hoa, Hoc Mon, Tay Ninh, Ben Tre and Soc Trang. The VC and NVA also hit military airfields at Da Nang, Chu Lai, Tan Son Nhut, Bien Hoa, Pleiku and Tuy Hoa.

While the enemy soldiers overran many of the cities they hit, they were generally cleared out within 24 hours. Saigon, Hue and

Dalat did not fall in this pattern, however. They were in contention for longer periods.

The Communists had hoped to rouse the people to a popular revolt. They were wrong. They blew it. They had violated the sacred family celebration of Tet by bombing and burning and disrupting city life. By executing civilians, they invoked the anger of the people.

Casualty figures showed the fierceness of the fighting. The Communists—in three days—lost an estimated 10,000. Approximately 3,000 suspects were detained. The South Vietnamese troops, lost 632 killed and 1,588 wounded. American GIs suffered 281 killed and 1,195 wounded. Other Free World Forces lost 34 men. At least 3,000 civilians died and another 350,000 were left homeless.

The city that was hardest hit during the abortive Communist attack was Hue. It was completely overrun by the Communists. Near the end of February, when fighting to retake the city was over, 80 per cent of the city had been destroyed. This included many irreplaceable art treasures of the Citadel, the historic home of Vietnamese emperors for centuries.

Except in Hue, the brunt of the Communist effort was broken 10 days after the first attacks.

And so comes Tet 1969, the



Dawn reveals the results of an attack near Tan Son Nhut Air Base.

year of the Chicken. The prayerful, watchful Vietnamese confidently look forward to a holiday celebrated in time-honored tradition, and in peace.

Story By
TSgt. G. K. Fears
Photos By
Bob Hohman



Troops inspect an area that was struck hard by terrorist bombs.



Homelife was brutally interrupted by Tet attacks.



An ARVN soldier keeps low during a running battle.



Homes in ruin are a stark testimony to the extent of devastation.

Tet All Holidays Rolled Into One

By 1Lt David E. Boudreaux

Combine the fireworks of a Fourth of July with the exuberance of a gala New Year's Eve party, add the solemnity of Christmas as well as the festivities of Mardi Gras in old New Orleans and you begin to fathom what Tet means to the Vietnamese people. Tet is the most important holiday on the Vietnamese lunar calendar.

The lunar new year starts with the first day of the first month of the lunar calendar. But its meaning to the Vietnamese people is more than the start of a new year. It is a time when they review the past and look to the future, a time when everyone celebrates his birthday.

The events of the first day of Tet do much to indicate what will happen during the new year. But before Tet arrives, the people plan and prepare for the occasion so that everything will occur properly. Shopping for gifts, food, new clothing and flowers is part of the preparation. Efforts are made to make the entire household look new. Those who can afford to, paint both the interiors and exteriors of their homes.

On Tet eve, the food for the holidays is prepared. Because there should be no cooking during the holidays, enough is cooked to last four days. The foods include watermelon (essential for the occasion), fruit preserves, sweet meats, pork cooked in coconut milk with nuoc mam and wrapped in rice paper with pickled bean sprouts.

The members of the family also prepare their new clothes for Tet. The women have bought brightly colored "ao dais" (their traditional wear). They do not want to wear white or black,

for both signify mourning, and this would be a bad omen for the entire year.

At midnight many families go to religious services at temples, pagodas or churches—depending, of course, on the religion of the family concerned. Each family returns home and the front door of the house is closed.

There is considerable emphasis placed on the closing of the door. This is based on the belief that the first visitor will influence his host's luck for the rest of the year. A rich man may be invited to be first so that he may bring fortune to the family.

The activities during the early part of the first day are not as boisterous as one might expect. The families pay homage to their ancestors at family shrines.

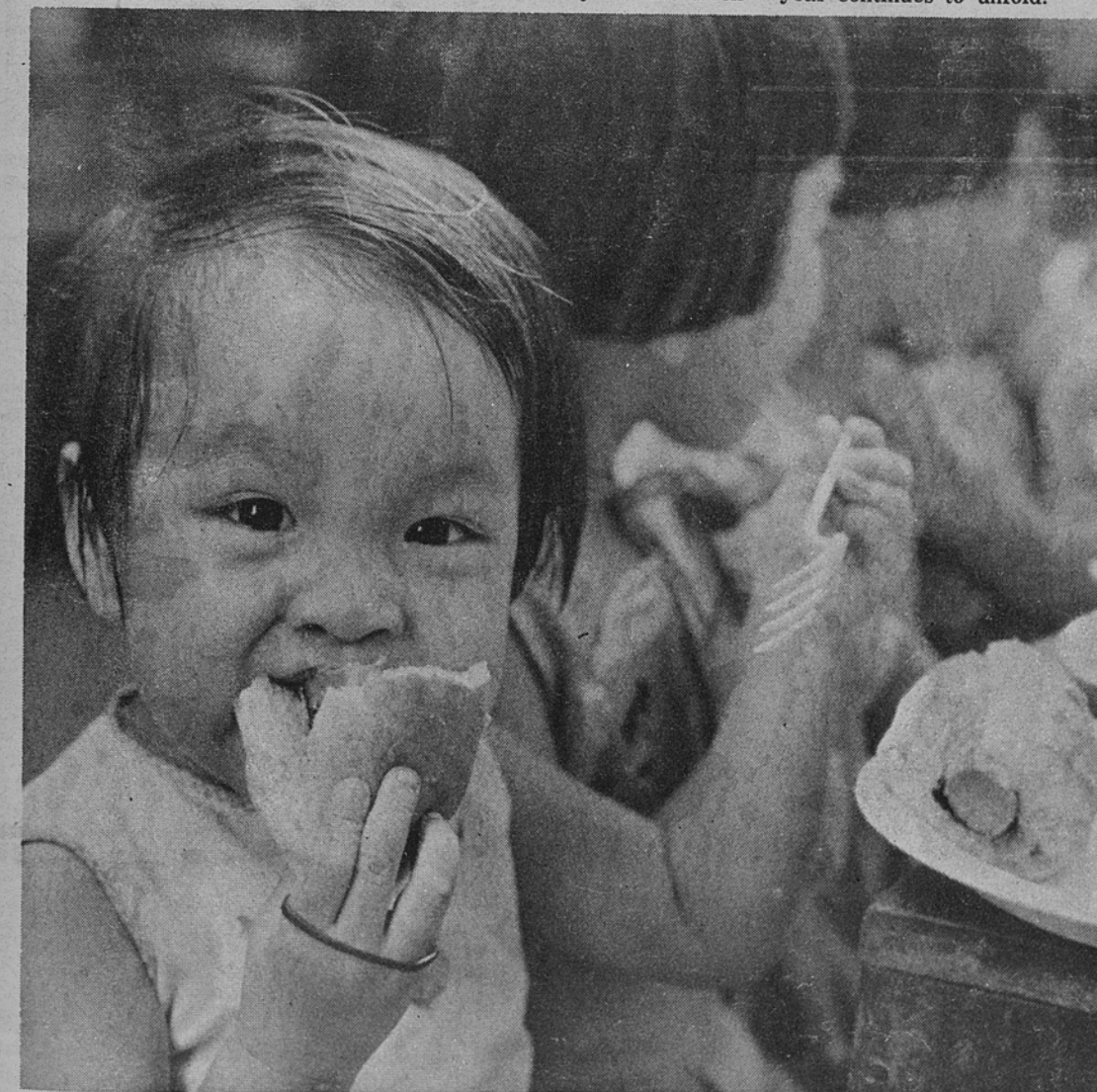
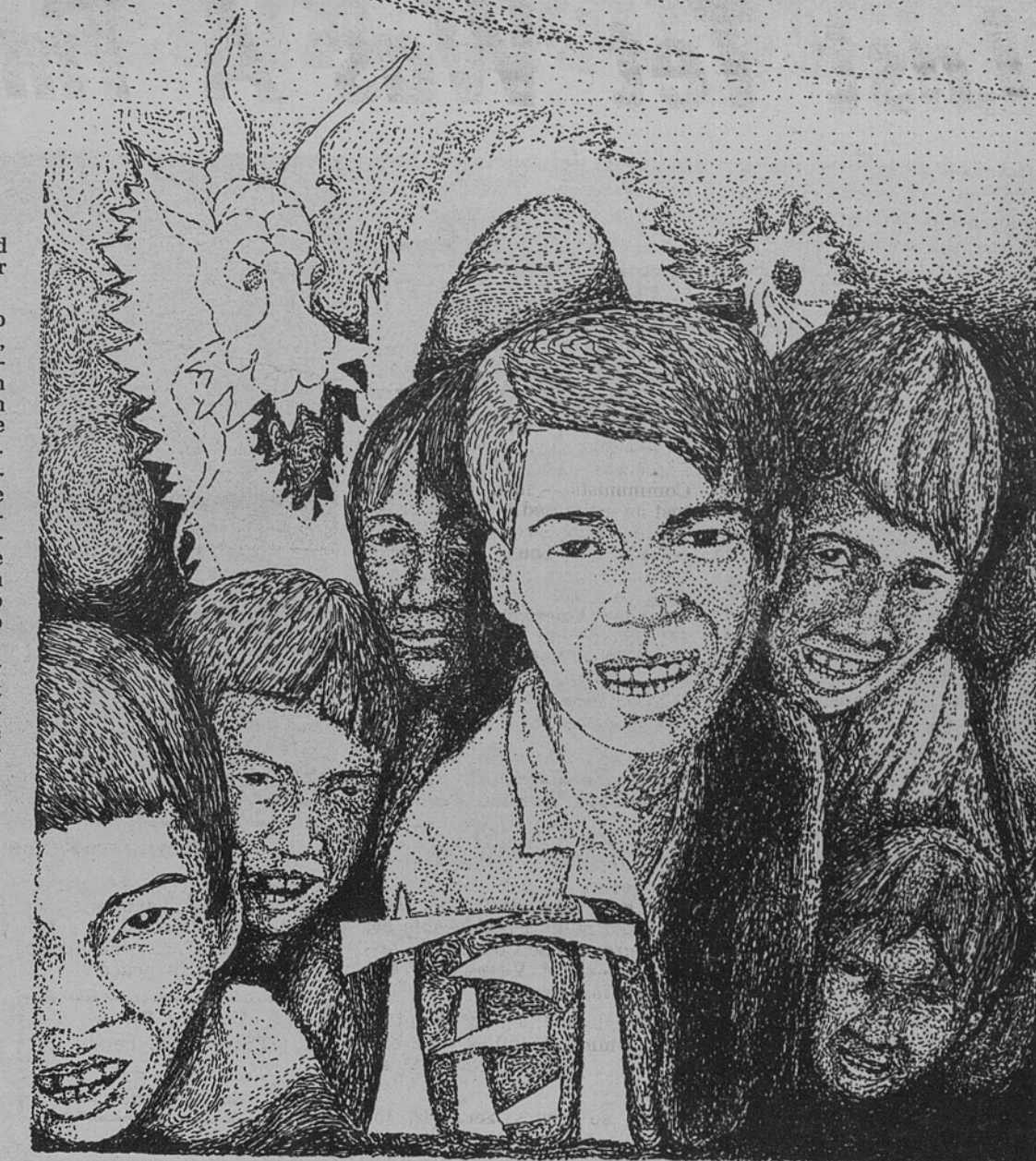
Then the homes of the grandparents are visited. There, the children and grandchildren wish the elders long life, health and happiness. Returning home, the children present themselves to their parents and wish them the same. The parents then present the children with red envelopes filled with money, the amount determined by the children's ages and the family's financial condition.

After the traditional ceremonies are over, the members start to have fun in a more relaxed manner. Card games and other games commence, a dragon dance may take place in the street or in the yard and the festive atmosphere increases by the minute. Fireworks can be heard as dusk approaches. Night finds the cities alive with activities.

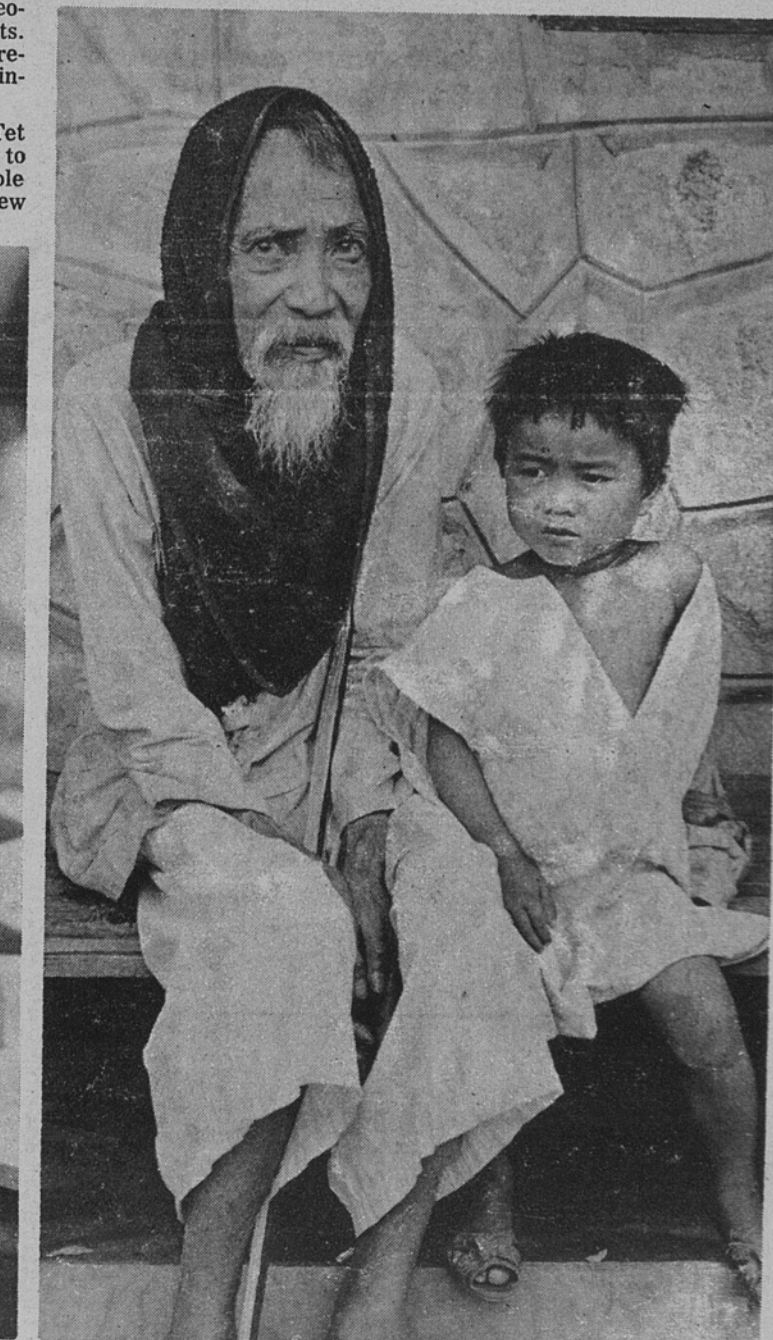
The second and third days of Tet are more festive than the first. The new year has been

welcomed properly and the people now rejoice at its prospects. Everyone visits friends and relatives. Special guests are invited to dine.

On the fourth day of Tet Vietnam begins to return to normal. Markets reopen, people return to work and the new year continues to unfold.



All the festivity of Tet is mirrored in this young girl's eyes at a children's party.



Tet is everyone's birthday—the young and the old.

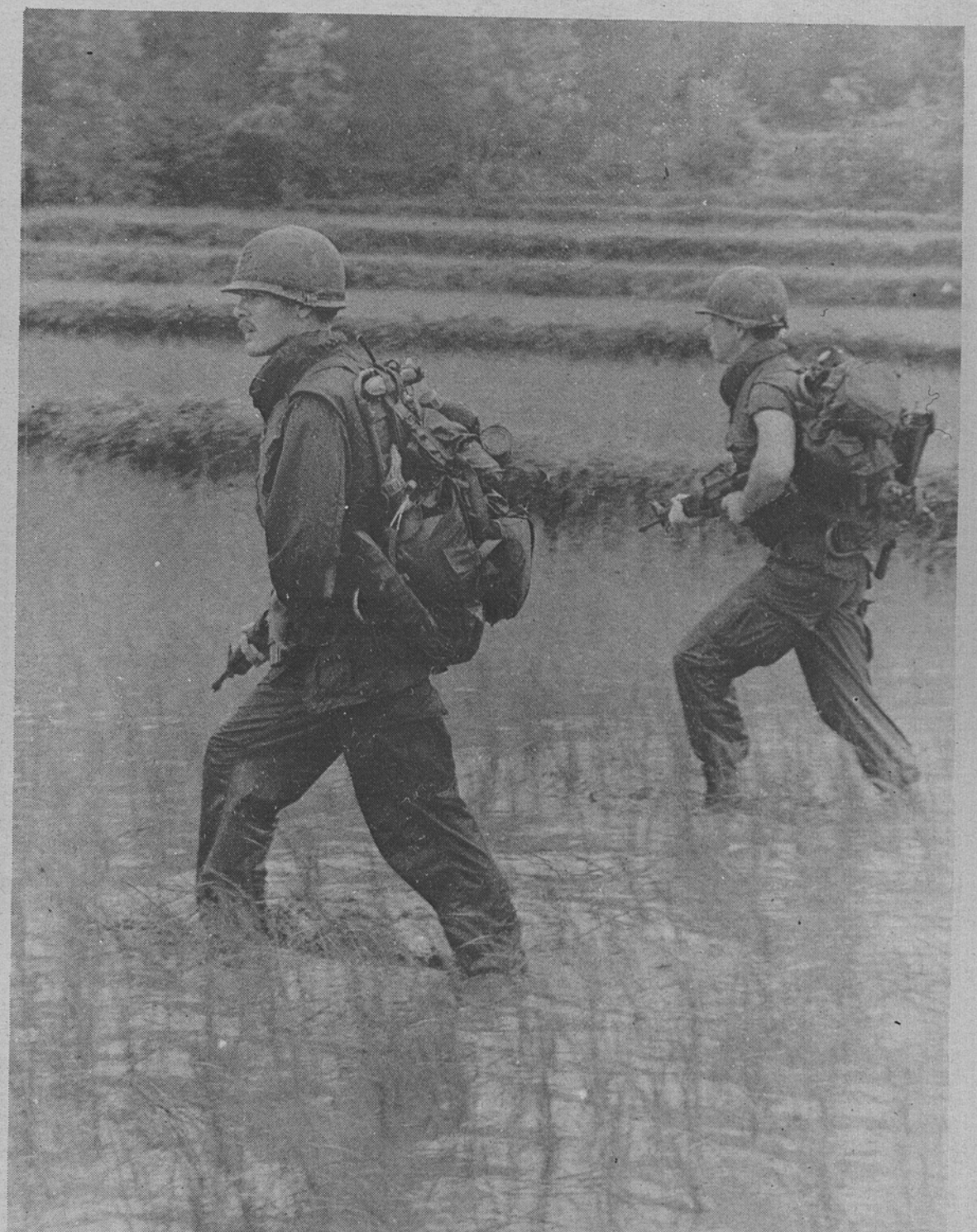
Operation Russell Beach Invades VC 20-Year Stronghold



A National Field Force Policeman interrogates a Vietnamese woman from a small village, during the joint cordon operation being conducted by the Americal Division, ARVN, Navy Swift Boat and Marine units.



Troopers of the 196th Infantry Brigade begin a sweep into the Valley. Out of the 11,297 Vietnamese evacuated, 230 were identified as VC. There were 32 Hoi Chanh. The enemy lost.

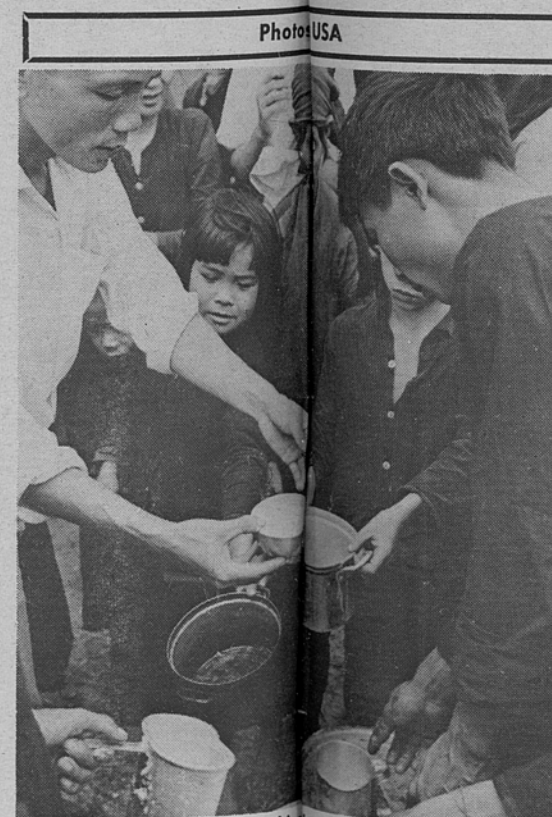


A Vietnamese official processes refugees from Batangan Peninsula, where a massive U.S.-ARVN force has surrounded a large number of VC. The area has been a VC stronghold for more than 20 years.

Americal Division soldiers help refugees carry belongings to a central collection point behind the cordon line. More than 11,297 refugees have been evacuated from the Batangan Peninsula to a combined holding and interrogation center at Quang Ngai City.



Soldiers of the Americal Division share their milk and rations with children evacuated from the Batangan Peninsula.

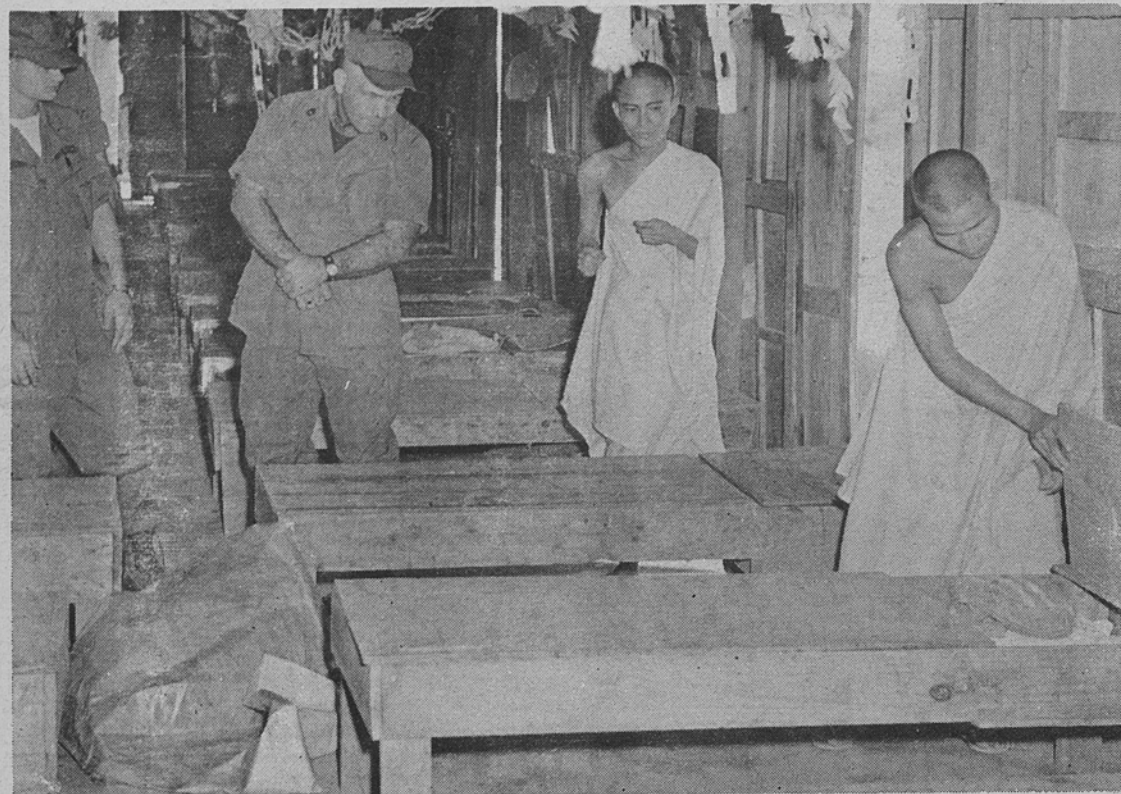


Refugees hold out cooking to receive their rations from a Vietnamese official collection point.



A VC suspect is flushed out of his bunker by Americal Division troops on the Batangan Peninsula, 10 miles northeast of Quang Ngai City.

Americans Help Monks Manage Orphanage



The Monks exhibit the qualities of the wooden beds in the children's barracks.

SAIGON (USA) — For 845 orphans of the Vietnam war, an 18-month-old project is striving to take away some of the hardship of losing their families. The Lang Co-Nhi Orphans' Village, located on the Bearcat Highway on the fringes of Long Binh Post, is providing a ray of hope for these young victims of an adult world they can hardly understand.

Founded from nothing by the Monks of the Monastery of the Ascetics on a sandy, scrub-covered hill in Vietnam, Orphans' Village has come a long way through the energetic work

of the 170-member volunteer staff and the assistance of members of all the Free World Forces.

Army engineer units have built roads across the former wasteland. Contributions of lumber, brick and cement have become barracks, a kitchen, a dispensary and the beginnings of a school through the labor of the dedicated priests and nuns who operate the village. A well, suitable for drinking without artificial purification, has been drilled and provides for all the needs of the village residents. Gardens supply a

large amount of the vegetables used for daily meals.

Faced with lives unlike those of children with parents, the youngsters, who range in age to 15 years old, receive disciplined, but loving care to provide them with the ability to meet the challenge. Originally designed to care for 100 children, Orphans' Village has mushroomed because of the policy that no child will be turned away. Each is equal and the same care is provided for all.

When Radio Maintenance Chief George Sutton, a Tan Son Nhut-based Navy NCO, discovered the orphanage shortly before Christmas, he immediately decided to do something about aiding the children. He got together with other NCOs in the Saigon area and began a drive to secure needed supplies.



A not-so-willing customer receives his regular haircut.

Soon joined by Sergeant First Class Jack Stewart, an operations sergeant with U.S. Army Headquarters Area Command, and Sergeant First Class James Lewis, an AIC Advisor, Chief Sutton began to gather and deliver clothing, food, building equipment and toys to the or-

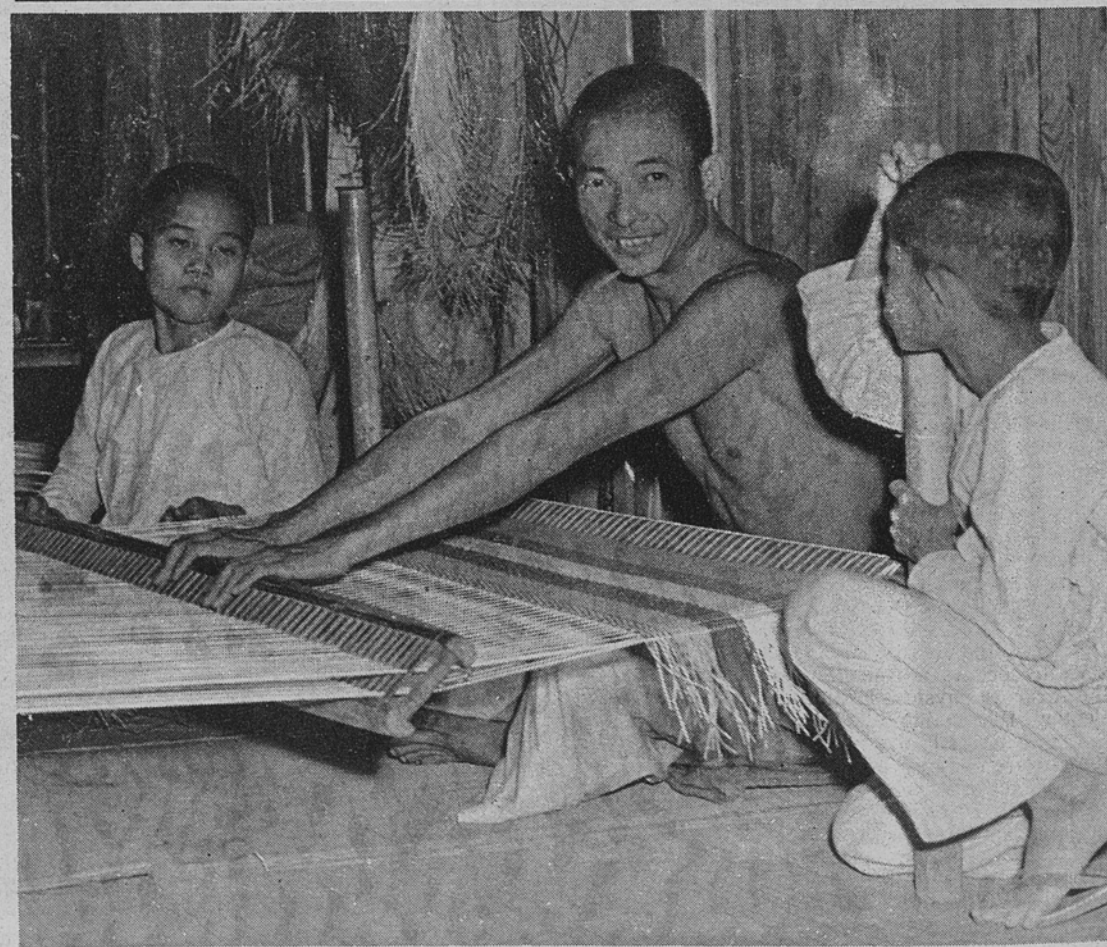
phanage on a regular basis. Others soon added their assistance.

"We've got a long way to go," said Chief Sutton. "The orphanage people are very dedicated in their work, though. It's tremendous to see what they've done already."

Story By SP5 Warren Waite (USA)
Photos By SP5 Gary Colson (USA)



Baths keep the orphanage babies clean, healthy and happy.



A self-help project at the Orphans' Village is the weaving and selling of rugs.

'Super' MEDCAP Increases Aid

QUANG TRI (USA) — Fourteen-year-old Dang Ninh walked along the sea coast and headed toward the MEDCAP tent of the 1st Infantry Brigade. Ninh was walking fast; he wanted to get in line early to see the "American bac si." However, others also came to see the doctor and the small boy was pushed to the back of the line. He waited his turn patiently.

"All we want to do is give the people in Quang Tri Province the best medical aid possible," said Specialist 5 Robert G. Smith, supervisor of the MEDCAP team, 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division (Mech).

Approximately 250,000 people live in Quang Tri Province with only one major hospital to serve them. Most of the people have never had medical aid. Because of this, the 1st Brigade has started a Referral MEDCAP program, known as the "super" MEDCAP, in the Province.

New Concept

This totally new concept in MEDCAP programs for the area began in early December. The Brigade, the Marines, and the ARVN and Popular Forces always have conducted field MEDCAPS in their areas of operation, but they have not been equipped to treat the seriously ill.

Now, however, these teams refer patients with serious medical problems to the Brigade's "super" team by means of a referral card. When the patient arrives at the Brigade's MEDCAP location, the doctor can tell what the field team has done for him by means of the

referral card. If the patient cannot be treated effectively, he is taken to the Province Hospital for proper treatment.

The Brigade's MEDCAP team, made up of one doctor and five medical specialists, each trained in one specific area, rotates between three well-spread villages.

Because the Brigade's "super" team has its own laboratory technician, Specialist 5 Joseph Guerra, most laboratory tests can be performed on the spot to assist the doctor in diagnostic procedures. The team also has a pharmacist, Specialist 5 Allen Nihoff; thus the doctor can prescribe drugs not available at the lower level MEDCAPS. A surgical technician, Specialist 5 Wayne Whitney, is equipped for minor surgical work. The team also has two screeners and a Vietnamese interpreter.

Perhaps even more important, the "super" MEDCAP team doesn't stop with treating the patient or referring him to the Province Hospital. Each member of the team trains a Vietnamese counterpart on location during the MEDCAP and in special training sessions afterwards.

Specialist Smith explained, "If we can help train these people to give medical aid, then we will have accomplished something. They will stay here after we have left Vietnam and use this system to take some of the load off the Province Hospital."

People Eager

Captain Louis A. Cayer, one of five doctors who rotate on the "super" MEDCAP, said, "The people are so eager to receive medical treatment that they pull and push to get to see the doctor. It's hard work for the team; we treat 50 to 80 patients in a day. I have the feeling that this MEDCAP team really helps the people and is going to be responsible for insuring a medical program here long after the Army and Marines have gone back to the States."

Training Completed

CAM RANH BAY (USA) — Two Vietnamese Air Force (VN-AF) doctors recently completed a special eight week course working with specialists at the 12th USAF Hospital at Cam Ranh Bay Air Base.

Doctor (Captain) Nguyen Ngoc Ky, Dispensary Commander at the Air Medical Center, Tan Son Nhut Air Base, received eight weeks observer training in neuropsychiatry. During his visit Doctor Ky learned the latest techniques in treating psychiatric disorders peculiar to air crew members.

As consultant to the VNAF Aircrew Physical Evaluation Center, Doctor Ky will be responsible for the neuropsychiatric phase of all physical examination administered to VNAF aircrew members and flying training applicants. Doctor Ky attended the Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine at Brooks AFB, Texas, during 1968.

Doctor (Captain) Do Quang Truong is commander of the 33rd VNAF Wing Dispensary at Tan Son Nhut. Specializing in ear, nose and throat treatment, he will become a consultant at the Aircrew Physical Evaluation Center. His training was also directed toward the problems that aircrews have encountered in the Pacific area.

The 12th USAF Hospital, the largest overseas hospital in the Air Force, was commended by the Seventh Air Force Surgeon and the Vietnamese Air Force Surgeon for the success of the special training project.



Treatment for the aged occupies members of the 1st Infantry Brigade's "super" MEDCAP. (USA PHOTO)

Pre-Fab Structures Replacing Tents For Delta MAT Teams

CAN THO (MACV) — It's out of the tents and into comfortable prefabricated buildings for many of the 116 Mobile Advisory Teams (MATs) in the IV Corps area.

Delivery is now being made of the do-it-yourself, 12 x 24 non-assembled structures to MATs who are most badly in need of adequate living accommodations.

Regional and Popular Forces (RF/PF), whom the MATS advise and with whom they live, are calling the shots on who has greatest need of the pre-fabs.

All MATS receive a kit when they are first placed into position. The kit includes a living tent. But living in a tent during

the rainy season can be very unpleasant.

The new pre-fabs are built off the ground and are water-tight in the right places.

Ready-cut by the 69th Engineer Battalion at Can Tho Airfield, the pre-fabs once delivered can be assembled by two men in less than five hours.

Plans for the pre-fabs have been in the making for about a

year by the IV Corps Engineer Section. Delivery of the structures by Chinook helicopter direct to the construction site actually began late last year.

As received by the individual MATS, the pre-fab kit includes plywood, nails, screening, tin for a roof and a complete set of instructions on how to do it.

Some 85 of the pre-fab kits were called for in housing plans for MATS as the year ended.

Station 'Charlie Proof'

PLEIKU (USA) — Army Engineers in the Pleiku area recently completed a project that will have lasting effects on the Vietnamese people.

The mission of the 937th Engineer Group, 18th Engineer Bri-

gade, was to construct a radio station underground. Alpha Company, 20th Engineer Battalion (Combat), commanded by First Lieutenant Edward C. Shyloski Jr., was determined to make the 50,000-watt station "Charlie proof."

An existing concrete pad was further reinforced and used as the base for the new structure. After the heavy timber construction was completed, the operation was divided into two shifts, the second platoon working during the day and the first at night. Security for night work was provided by ARVN Regional Forces.

The walls and roof of the station were covered with T-17 runway membrane for moisture protection, and more than 800 cubic yards of crushed rock were evenly distributed around the building, up to roof level, to minimize the effect of hydrostatic pressure against the walls of the bunker.

The complex wiring and ventilation system was installed by Alpha Company in a short time. In addition to the radio bunker, a generator shed and concrete generator pad were built, along with a water tower, latrine and shower.

Upon completion of the project, the officer in charge, First Lieutenant Timothy R. Baumgartner, said: "We hope the men of the first and second platoons have made a lasting monument so that the radio station can broadcast truth to the Vietnamese people."



Dr. Do Quang Truong examines a patient during his 8-week training program. (USAF PHOTO)



BUNKER BUNNY OF THE WEEK—Sez "Alright, here is my suggestion for the week. Today, I have a double-barreled suggestion all wrapped in a very neat package so you can clearly see how you can help both yourself and the Vietnamese, through the Piaster Expenditure Reduction Program, build a strong nation. First of all you can save money by purchasing items through military operated exchanges. Secondly, in purchasing items through these exchanges, large amounts of foreign-generated money is kept out of the already frail Vietnamese economy. This is important because while the Vietnamese are in the process of building a strong nation, they must also build a strong economy. Now that you clearly understand how my neatly wrapped package can help you, do you mind if I proceed with my shower?"

(PHOTO COURTESY OF PETER GOWLAND)

ON TOUR BY SP5 MACCLAIN



American Forces Vietnam Network - Channel 11

(Programs Subject To Change Without Notice)
(Guide For Week Of February 14-20, 1969)

FRIDAY, Feb. 14		1630 Combat (Re-Run)
1330 Turn On	1730 Survival	
1413 What's Happening	1800 Jonathan Winters	
1415 Sign On News	1900 Andy Griffith	
1430 Big Valley (Re-Run)	1930 Evening News	
1530 Dean Martin (Re-Run)	2000 Weather	
1630 Star Trek (Re-Run)	2006 Bonanza	
1730 The Monkees	2100 Mission Impossible	
1800 Wild Wild West	2203 Late News	
1900 Bewitched	2210 Joey Bishop	
1930 Evening News		
2000 Weather		
2036 Hollywood Palace		
2100 Combat		
2200 Late News		
2210 Rowan And Martin		
2300 Boxing From The Olympics		
SATURDAY, Feb. 15		1630 Combat (Re-Run)
1230 Turn On	1730 Survival	
1313 What's Happening	1800 Jonathan Winters	
1315 Sign On News	1900 Andy Griffith	
1330 CBS Golf Classic	1930 Evening News	
1430 Special	2000 Weather	
1500 Melody Ranch	2006 Bonanza	
1603 Gunsmoke (Re-Run)	2100 Mission Impossible	
1700 Greatest Show On Earth	2203 Late News	
1800 Nashville Vietnam	2210 Joey Bishop	
1830 Special		
1925 Weather		
1930 Evening News		
2000 Jackie Gleason		
2050 Let's Speak Vietnamese (Advanced)		
2100 Football		
2100 Halftime News		
SUNDAY, Feb. 16		1330 Turn On
1130 Turn On	1413 What's Happening	
1213 What's Happening	1415 Sign On News	
1215 Religious Hour	1430 Football	
1315 Early News	1700 Red Skelton Hour	
1330 RB Kraft Music Hall	1800 Auto Racing	
1430 Perry Mason	1830 Super Bowl	
1530 Jerry Lewis Show	1900 Wide World	
1630 Information Feature	1930 Evening News	
1730 21st Century	2006 Operation: Entertainment	
1800 Window On Vietnam	2100 Gunsmoke	
Davis Cup	2203 Late News	
1830 Walt Disney Presents	2210 Feature Movie	
1930 Evening News		
2000 Special		
2050 Let's Speak Vietnamese (Advanced)		
2100 Football		
2100 Halftime News		
MONDAY, Feb. 17		1330 Turn On
1130 Turn On	1413 What's Happening	
1213 What's Happening	1415 Sign On News	
1215 Religious Hour	1430 Football	
1315 Early News	1700 Red Skelton Hour	
1330 RB Kraft Music Hall	1800 Auto Racing	
1430 Perry Mason	1830 Super Bowl	
1530 Jerry Lewis Show	1900 Wide World	
1630 Information Feature	1930 Evening News	
1730 21st Century	2006 Operation: Entertainment	
1800 Window On Vietnam	2100 Gunsmoke	
Davis Cup	2203 Late News	
1830 Walt Disney Presents	2210 Feature Movie	
1930 Evening News		
2000 Special		
2050 Let's Speak Vietnamese (Advanced)		
2100 Football		
2100 Halftime News		
TUESDAY, Feb. 18		1330 Turn On
1130 Turn On	1413 What's Happening	
1213 What's Happening	1415 Sign On News	
1215 Religious Hour	1430 Football	
1315 Early News	1700 Red Skelton Hour	
1330 RB Kraft Music Hall	1800 Auto Racing	
1430 Perry Mason	1830 Super Bowl	
1530 Jerry Lewis Show	1900 Wide World	
1630 Information Feature	1930 Evening News	
1730 21st Century	2006 Operation: Entertainment	
1800 Window On Vietnam	2100 Gunsmoke	
Davis Cup	2203 Late News	
1830 Walt Disney Presents	2210 Feature Movie	
1930 Evening News		
2000 Special		
2050 Let's Speak Vietnamese (Advanced)		
2100 Football		
2100 Halftime News		
WEDNESDAY, Feb. 19		1330 Turn On
1130 Turn On	1413 What's Happening	
1213 What's Happening	1415 Sign On News	
1215 Religious Hour	1430 Football	
1315 Early News	1700 Red Skelton Hour	
1330 RB Kraft Music Hall	1800 Auto Racing	
1430 Perry Mason	1830 Super Bowl	
1530 Jerry Lewis Show	1900 Wide World	
1630 Information Feature	1930 Evening News	
1730 21st Century	2006 Operation: Entertainment	
1800 Window On Vietnam	2100 Gunsmoke	
Davis Cup	2203 Late News	
1830 Walt Disney Presents	2210 Feature Movie	
1930 Evening News		
2000 Special		
2050 Let's Speak Vietnamese (Advanced)		
2100 Football		
2100 Halftime News		
THURSDAY, Feb. 20		1330 Turn On
1130 Turn On	1413 What's Happening	
1213 What's Happening	1415 Sign On News	
1215 Religious Hour	1430 Football	
1315 Early News	1700 Red Skelton Hour	
1330 RB Kraft Music Hall	1800 Auto Racing	
1430 Perry Mason	1830 Super Bowl	
1530 Jerry Lewis Show	1900 Wide World	
1630 Information Feature	1930 Evening News	
1730 21st Century	2006 Operation: Entertainment	
1800 Window On Vietnam	2100 Gunsmoke	
Davis Cup	2203 Late News	
1830 Walt Disney Presents	2210 Feature Movie	
1930 Evening News		
2000 Special		
2050 Let's Speak Vietnamese (Advanced)		
2100 Football		
2100 Halftime News		

Beetle Bailey

By Mort Walker

Peanuts

By Charles M. Schulz

ARVN Infantrymen Receive Decorations

BIEN HOA (USA) — Members of the ARVN 25th Infantry Division were recently presented two Silver Stars and two Bronze Stars for gallantry in action.

Private Le Van Be and Private First Class Tran Van Cay, both of the 2nd Battalion, 50th Regiment, received the Silver Stars. The Bronze Stars went to Lieutenant Colonel Son Thuong and Captain Le Dinh Thuc.

Mrs. Bonds Beats Drums For Cause

SAIGON (MACV) — Mrs. U.S. Savings Bonds is scheduled for a four-day visit in Vietnam starting next week.

She is Joy Berlemann of University Park, N. M. Her trip to Vietnam is part of a year-long volunteer mission to help the U. S. Treasury promote the sale of Savings Bonds and Freedom Shares.

Mrs. Berlemann won the title at the Mrs. America Pageant in Minneapolis. As Mrs. New Mexico, she was selected from among the Mrs. America finalists for the Savings Bonds title.

The brown-eyed, brown-haired homemaker was born Dec. 29, 1934. She is 5 feet, 5 inches tall and weighs 113 pounds.

She holds a B. S. Degree in Business Administration from New Mexico State University and is a stockbroker.

Mrs. Berlemann is a member of Delta Zeta Sorority, Las Cruces Business and Professional Women's Club, La Cruces Association of University Women, and Las Cruces No. 20, Order of the Eastern Star.

Her husband, Richard L. D. Berlemann, is a mechanical engineer with the White Sands Missile Range. They have two sons, Richard, 7½, and Randolph, 4.

9th Mascot For Birds

BEN TRE (USA) — "There are no VC here," replied an inhabitant of a hut when questioned by a Tiger Scout from Company C, 3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry, on a sweep south of Ben Tre recently.

Minutes later, both the East and West elements were in contact.

Upon further interrogation by the 9th Infantry Division Scout, the subject, who had been either misinformed or had been purposely trying to mislead the unit, broke down in a cynical laugh. It was decided to detain the subject for further questioning.

The subject — a myna bird — speaks when asked questions and answers in fluent Vietnamese.

"It continued to give false information to our Tiger Scout and had a devilish laugh," remarked First Lieutenant Nicholas Laircona, acting commanding officer of Company C.

While waiting for helicopter extraction, the bird asked for a drink of water, and later, after permission was granted from the owner, the unnamed bird became the mascot of Company C.

The Silver Star awardees were cited for gallantry in action in mid-June of last year. Both were assuming point security with the lead elements of the battalion as they searched for suspected enemy positions. They killed or captured several VC, destroyed enemy bunkers and saved the life of the battalion advisor.

"Their daring and rapid assaults kept the enemy off balance," the citation read, "and enabled the battalion to safely attack across open terrain while sustaining only one friendly casualty."

Captain Thuc was cited for directing helicopter gunships and adjusting artillery and airstrikes onto hostile positions while exposing himself to heavy enemy fire. "He also led his unit in an assault on the enemy," the citation read, "and successfully occupied the positions and inflicted 49 casualties on the enemy force."

The captain, at the time, was commanding officer of the 25th Reconnaissance Company of the 25th Division. It was Oct. 1, 1968, and the company was part of a task force conducting a reconnaissance in force operation along the Vam Co Dong River. They made contact with an estimated enemy battalion.

Lieutenant Colonel Thuong "distinguished himself by heroic action Sept. 8, 1968, while serving as deputy commander for operations, 25th Division," the citation read. The colonel accompanied friendly elements "and his presence on the battlefield inspired the victory. As a result of his tactical ability and courageous actions, 35 enemy were killed and numerous weapons captured."



SLOGGING — Two soldiers of the 9th Infantry Division's 3rd Battalion, 47th Infantry, move through the mud. One soldier has a pair of black pajamas draped over his shoulders. (USA PHOTO By: PFC Robert Shaw)



ARTY STRIKES—A rifleman from Company D, 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry, waits in a tree-line as he watches artillery pound a target. The 2nd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division company was on a search-and-clear mission northwest of Saigon. (USA PHOTO By: SP4 R. B. Williams)

Big Effort In Kontum Province

Police, 4th Troopers Raid VCI

HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS (USA) — The Kontum Province Viet Cong Infrastructure (VCI) recently suffered another blow at the hands of the 4th Infantry Division's 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 8th Infantry, and Vietnamese National Police southeast of here. They lost 10 men in less than 10 days.

Four of them were later found to be high-ranking officials.

The soldiers, using precise timing, joined with the National

Police to cordon and search the connected villages of Plei Rour and Plei Rua.

It was early morning when the armored personnel carriers (APCs) from Company A rolled to a stop near the two villages. The mechanized soldiers dismounted, walked the rest of the way and waited.

When the morning mist had burned off, National Policemen searched the villages and closely checked identification of the villagers. Their scrutiny paid off as they turned up five men and a ton of rice marked for Viet Cong larders.

Further investigation revealed four of the five to be ranking officials of the province VCI.

A few days later, the 4th Division troops from Company A returned to the same villages. National Policemen this time turned up three individuals, one of whom told of a bunker complex southwest of the villages.

"We destroyed the bunkers," said Captain Charles Lauderdale, Company A commander. "They seemed capable of housing about 100 men."

The National Police, nine days after the initial search, had another one under way. As before, the American infantrymen applied a tight cordon and the National Police questioned the villagers. Two men approached them shouting, "Chieu Hoi!

Chieu Hoi!"

The evacuation of the two Hoi Chanh ended a successful 10-day effort for the National Police of Kontum Province and added to the bright record of the 4th Division troopers.

RVN...

(Continued From Page 1)

newer, but similar in most respects to the RAG boats they were already operating — after two weeks of classroom familiarization and a month of on-the-job experience.

The craft turned over were three LCM "Monitors," often called the "Battleships of the Delta;" a command and communications boat; eight assault patrol support boats; and 13 armored troop carriers.

The turnover of U.S. Navy gunboats and patrol responsibilities to the Vietnamese Navy is the latest in a series begun last year. Beginning last June, the Vietnamese Navy received 6 monitors, 10 "Swift" boats, 12 river patrol boats and a large floating repair facility. With these increased assets, the Vietnamese Navy has taken on full responsibility for more than a dozen inland and coastal areas formerly patrolled exclusively by the U.S. Navy.

Mail THE OBSERVER Home

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TO:

'Operation Linn River' Underway



FIRST IN VIETNAM

THE OBSERVER

Vol. 7, No. 42

Saigon, Vietnam

February 21, 1969

1st Cav Skytroops Find Big Rice Cache

TAY NINH (USA) — Skytroopers of the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) recently turned up more than 100 tons of enemy rice in a three-day period, near here.

The cavalymen also uncovered a large bunker complex which was subsequently destroyed by B-52 strikes.

Civvies OK For Travel

SAIGON (MACV) — Want to wear civvies on the aircraft as you head for leave or R&R? Go ahead, unless you're going to Hong Kong or Taipei.

This is the official word from MACV authorities who recently announced the change in a message to all R&R centers and other organizations concerned.

The wearing of civilian clothing includes the time at R&R processing centers.

Military low quarter shoes may be worn, but the message states that there will be no other mixing of distinctive military uniform items with civilian clothes.

"Personnel departing on R&R aircraft, whether in uniform or civilian attire," the message reads, "carry with them the responsibility of representing the military in the eyes of the public." It added that dress must be suitable for the occasion.

Here are some of the rules laid down by the directive:

Dress shirts and sport shirts are acceptable. Listed as unacceptable are sweat shirts, athletic shirts, shirts with printed novelty slogans, and white or camouflage-colored T-shirts normally worn as undershirts. Only shirts with a squared bottom may be worn outside the trousers.

Blue jeans, shorts and cotton khaki uniform trousers are unacceptable.

Footgear and socks must be worn. Civilian shoes, military low quarters, tennis shoes or sneakers, and sandals may be worn. Boots, shower shoes and other generally unacceptable footwear are out.

The change allowing the wear of civilian clothing became effective Feb. 15.

The most proficient rice finders were men from the 1st Brigade's 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry. They raided Charlie's storage areas and made off with more than 179,000 pounds of the cereal. They did not get it without a scrap.

"We knew there had to be something there," explained Lieutenant Colonel Peter Gorvad, the battalion commander, "but it took us three days of fighting to get in."

The grain, stored in 200-pound bags, was camouflaged with trees and shrubs, making it virtually impossible to spot from the air. Underneath the vegetation, the enemy had carefully covered the bags with green plastic sheets.

"There's no question about it. This cache will definitely hurt their plans for this area," said Colonel Gorvad. The rice was found 14 miles northwest of Tay Ninh.

The first caches found by the 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry, totaled 102,000 pounds. More rice was uncovered on the first two days of February. The 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry, got into the act by capturing 31,000 pounds, 50 miles southeast of Phuoc Vinh. That brought the total to more than 200,000 pounds and more than 450,000 since the division moved south.

While some Skytrooper units were busily packing up Viet Cong food, elements from the 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry, were finding more of the enemy's hiding places 20 miles northeast of Tay Ninh. The sprawling 350-bunker complex revealed some prize trophies, including a pair of 12.7mm anti-aircraft guns. The weapons were so new that the VC didn't even have time to remove the cosmoline protective coating from them.

Included in the complex was a hospital still under construction. The medical center boasted five operating rooms and six wards capable of accommodating 15 to 18 persons each. The bunkers ranged in size from small fighting positions to a room 15x40 feet.

FIRE BASE MOORE (USA) — Staff Sergeant Calvin Barker will have quite a hair-raising story to tell back in the States — the story of his involvement in the battle of the bed.

The sergeant, a psychological operations NCO with the 1st Brigade, 9th Infantry Division, was soundly sleeping when a



BIG HAUL — Soldiers look over part of one of the war's largest ammunition and weapons caches. It was located by members of the ARVN 3rd Marine Battalion, 22 miles from An Loc. These anti-aircraft machine guns were still covered with protective coating.

(JUSPAO PHOTO By: Calvin Crane)

DA NANG (USMC) — "Operation Linn River" — the second major cordon and search operation in as many months — has been launched by 1st Division Marines, 12 miles southwest of Da Nang.

Elements of the 7th and 26th Marine Regiments are involved.

The Marines cordoned off the Da Hoa An area just south of Vietnam's Route 4. The area is west of "Dodge City," where highly successful "Operation Meade River" was conducted in the final two months of 1968.

The mission of the new operation is essentially the same as that of Meade River. Marines plan to locate and destroy all enemy forces in the area, deny the enemy use of staging areas within the cordon and capture any Viet Cong infrastructure that may exist within the area.

The main difference in the two cordon operations is that Linn River involves few civilians. Since most of the area consists of abandoned villages, rice fields and forests, there is almost no refugee problem and, as one Marine commander said, "The only people left inside the cordon are either Viet Cong or North Vietnamese Army soldiers."

The enemy soldiers trapped in the cordon realized their fate early in the operation. In the first two days of Linn River, 16 NVA soldiers were killed when they probed Marine lines at various points along the cordon.

During the afternoon preceding the placing of the cordon, elements of the 7th Marines moved to the field and maneuvered into a blocking position.

(Continued on Back Page)

G1 Receives Jail Sentence For Pot Use

SAIGON (MACV) — Two American soldiers on R&R to Hong Kong were recently caught with marijuana in their possession shortly after their aircraft touched down for what was to have been five enjoyable days.

One of them, a young specialist 4, was hit with a two year sentence in a Hong Kong prison. The other, also a specialist 4, has been charged by Hong Kong police and scheduled to appear before magistrates court.

These instances, and others, prompted a MACV Staff Judge Advocate spokesman to again remind servicemen here of the dangers of trafficking in any manner with dangerous narcotics.

"Increasing severity of sentences handed down by the courts in R&R countries attests to the fact that their tolerance of these incidents is lessening," he said.

Sergeant Barker And The Big Battle Of The Bed

noise — little more than a sensation — caused him to freeze.

"I felt a movement at the bottom of my bunk," he said, "and I felt something touch my feet lightly. I didn't move."

Thinking it might be someone going to do harm to him, Sergeant Barker decided to re-

main quiet until he could analyze the situation. Then something occurred to him.

"The way it moved around, it could have been a Viet Cong booby trapping my bed," he said.

The sergeant's poncho liner began to inch down his chest; his muscles tensed as he waited

for the exact moment to strike out at his unwelcome guest. Then the moment came. As the sergeant prepared to charge the menacing figure at his cot, there came the startling cry — "Oink-oink!"

The sergeant finally came face to face with an immense pig that had wandered into his hut.

Editorial

Your Heritage

George Washington, whose birthday we observe Feb. 22, is perhaps the outstanding example of famous men in the history of our Nation.

Washington's life was governed by an unalterable personal code built on duty and honor. To him, no duty was greater, no honor more satisfying than service to one's country.

When he could have been enjoying the pleasant life of a prosperous country gentleman, his country called him. He answered that call, suffering personal hardship and exposing himself to almost constant danger during long, arduous and often frustrating campaigns of the war.

As military commander of the small, ill-equipped, ill-trained American Army during the Revolutionary War, his leadership and genius were instrumental in the American success against the finest army in the world at that time.

When he was chosen as President, he again unhesitatingly left the quiet comfort of Mt. Vernon to serve in the political arena, risking his honor and reputation.

As our first President under the Constitution, his



tact, judgment, ability and devotion guided our government through its critical formative period, establishing a solid foundation on which future generations could build.

But equally important is the other heritage left by Washington—selfless, dedicated service to his country, regardless of the hardships or sacrifices.

His example is no less inspiring today than it was to the cold, ragged men at Valley Forge. If this Nation is to continue as the beacon of freedom for the world, Washington's example of selfless, dedicated service must be followed. (AFPS)



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Just In Case
You Have
Not HeardArmy Seeking
EM Linguists

WASHINGTON (ANF) — The U.S. Army is seeking enlisted personnel to fill a variety of worldwide jobs for linguists and translators.

The language training quotas are filled by volunteers, including those who enlist for this program.

Courses offered include Vietnamese, German, French, Russian, Spanish and other special languages of more limited interest.

Personnel may apply for the training regardless of their Military Occupational Specialty (MOS).

Some of the qualifications: a GT score of 100 or higher; completion of basic combat and advanced individual training (although applications may be submitted while individuals are in basic training); a minimum of 14 months service remaining upon completion of linguist training.

Also, applicants must score at least 18 on the Army Language Aptitude Test (ALAT-1 or ALAT-2) or have successfully completed a language course at the Defense Language Institute.

Complete details on applying for linguist training are contained in AR 611-82.

Expeditious
Naturalization
Offered Some

SAIGON (MACV) — Foreign nationals serving in the armed services since Feb. 28, 1961, have been guaranteed "expeditious naturalization" by a new law signed by former President Lyndon B. Johnson shortly before he left office.

The legislation, Public Law 90-633, waives Immigration and Nationality Act requirements regarding age, residence, physical presence in the U.S., court jurisdiction, the 30-day waiting period after filing and the payment of naturalization fees for eligible alien service personnel.

The requirement of lawful admission to the U.S. for permanent residence is also waived if the alien enters or reenters within the territorial U.S. or its possessions.

The period during which this law is in effect began Feb. 28, 1961, and ends when so directed by Presidential executive order. It may be extended to include any period in which the armed forces are or were engaged in armed conflict with a hostile foreign force.

Foreign nationals serving in the Armed Forces who desire to obtain United States citizenship and who may benefit by the liberalization of these provisions are urged to consult a local office of the Immigration and Naturalization Service or their legal officer for information and assistance.



YOU'LL PROBABLY agree that Heather Young is nice. That last word is the key word in your relations with the Vietnamese. Be nice. "People will like you more when you're nice," says curvaceous Heather, "and you'll enjoy your tour more. You do want to enjoy yourself, don't you?" (PHOTO COURTESY OF COLUMBIA PICTURES)



Language is something many of us take for granted. We almost feel as if we were born speaking our native tongue. Little do we remember the many hours and the efforts spent by our parents who taught us how to speak English.

So indifferent are we to language, it rarely crosses our mind that the rest of the nations of the world speak different languages—languages that many of us do not understand. And, so hearing Vietnamese for the first time can be a most unusual experience.

Vietnamese is a very ancient language, and was spoken by the Viets of the Red River Delta area before the Christian era. During more than 1,000 years of Chinese rule, the Vietnamese vocabulary expanded considerably, especially in the literary and philosophical areas. The Chinese also gave the Viets a written language by putting Vietnamese into characters. In the early 1600s, the Jesuits devised a system for writing the Vietnamese language in the Roman alphabet. Chinese characters, however, continued in use through the early part of this century. In 1920 Roman script officially replaced the Chinese characters.

The principal consideration one must make in seeking to understand the Vietnamese language is that it is a tonal language. English is not. In South Vietnam there are six tones: high rising, high broken, mid-level, low broken, low rising and low falling. Until the American learns to distinguish these tones, he will find the language difficult. However, once he masters these tones, he will learn the language quickly.

If you learn the language you will experience a strong sense of accomplishment and will win a great deal of respect for yourself and your country during your tour in Vietnam.

"... We do not seek, nor will we accept, an imposed coalition between the legitimate constitutional government of South Vietnam and the National Liberation Front."

ELLSWORTH BUNKER
Ambassador

Korean Dragons Roar In Northernmost Corps

DA NANG (USMC) — Korean aviation is playing an important role in I Corps. Flying as forward air controllers in support of the 2nd Korean Marine Brigade is the primary mission of the brigade's aviation unit stationed at the Marble Mountain Air Facility southeast of here. The Republic of Korea Marine Corps (ROKMC) aviation unit flies the O-1E and O-1H

Bird Dog observation aircraft. Bird Dogs are used exclusively as spotter aircraft and they are armed only with white phosphorous smoke marking rockets.

All Korean observation pilots are cross-trained as artillery spotters capable of directing air strikes on enemy positions. When the aviators of the Blue Dragon Brigade are flying in support of Korean Marine op-

erations south of here, they fly with another pilot who acts as a forward air controller (FAC).

When working with English-speaking ground controllers or U.S. jet aircraft crews, a qualified U.S. Marine pilot FAC, assigned to the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, flies in the rear seat. His job is to coordinate with Marine aviators and direct air strikes onto enemy positions.



Blue Dragon Bird Dog keeps an eye on terrain south of Da Nang for signs of enemy.

Troops March Home In Triumph

KONTUM (USA) — Returning home from three weeks of hard fighting, soldiers of the 1st and 3rd Battalions of the ARVN 42nd Infantry Regiment were greeted with a hero's welcome when they arrived here recently.

Both battalions had posted impressive records during the first three weeks of the highly successful Operation Binh Tay 48. The total enemy body count numbered 186 in the search and clear operation fought in the Central Highlands 25 miles southwest of here.

Equally impressive were the many enemy caches captured during the operation. Items captured include 60 individual weapons, nine crew-served weapons, 159,211 rounds of ammunition, 316 mortar and 218 rocket rounds. Also captured were 32 tons of rice and two-and-one-half tons of medical supplies.

Most of the soldiers had smiles on their faces as they strained under the weight of field packs and weapons. The people of Kontum, packed six-deep along the route of the march, cheered and waved signs as the troops passed by.

Students, who had been dismissed from school for the day,

sang songs as the returning soldiers marched by. Many of the younger children had to be held back by guards as they attempted to join the line of march.

Young girls in white dresses hugged and kissed the infantrymen and placed brightly-colored flower wreaths around the soldiers' necks.

Many of the young boys wore smaller versions of the 42nd Regiment uniform.

A group of high-ranking military officials greeted the troops. The group included Major General Lu Lan, commanding general of II Corps; Lieutenant General William R. Peers, CG, I FFV and senior American advisor to II Corps; and Brigadier General James S. Timothy, II Corps deputy senior advisor. Also in the group were five South Vietnamese senators including Senator Tran Van Don, chairman of the Senate Armed Forces Committee.



SILVER STAR
Charlesworth, Russell W. CPT USA
Kitts, Alfred R. COL USA
Leach, Richard H. CPT USA
Wilson, Preston A. SSG USA
BRONZE STAR MEDAL
WITH "V" DEVICE
Black, Bruce R. CPT USA
Fletcher, Douglas M. CPT USA
Fouty, Clifton G. CPT USA *2
Gay, Homer G. Jr. MAJ USA *1

Gooch, Richard K. 1LT USA
Hyland, Thomas W. CPT USA
Leach, James H. COL USA *1
Lindsey, Robert A. SFC USA
Logan, Donald A. SFC USA *1
Newman, Thomas J. 2LT USA
Orlando-Villafane, Worener J. SSG USA *1
Ratto, Jeffrey R. 1LT USA *1
Richardson, Douglas J. CPT USA

Scaglione, Alexander Jr. CPT USA *2
Sneed, James R. MSG USA
Throckmorton, Terril M. CPT USA

ARMY COMMENDATION
MEDAL WITH "V"
DEVICE

Bandelier, Ronald G. SP4 USA
Brock, Major L. Jr. 1LT USA
Byrnes, Richard H. SP4 USA
Carleton, William B. 1LT USA
Howard, James H. CPT USA
Hunt, Lawrence D. SSG USA
Huskey, William T. PFC USA
Loendorf, Walter M. 2LT USA
McAghon, Donald SP4 USA
McNeill, John B. III SP4 USA
Meeks, Roger D. SP4 USA
Phillips, Benjamin F. SFC USA
Rittenhouse, Donald SSM USA *2
Sambolin, Domingo J. SFC USA
Schnittjer, Dale A. 1LT USA

GIs Halt Tunnel Probe

TAM QUAN (USA) — The 19th Engineer Battalion (Combat) recently had unwelcome visitors on three sides of its perimeter.

The battalion was first aware of intruders when two tear flares were set off on the north side of the perimeter, revealing the presence of darkly-clad figures near the wire. While guards were using small arms fire to drive away the intruders, more figures were seen on the south and west sides of the perimeter. In every case, small arms fire caused them to retreat.

The following day, a reconnaissance was made of the area to determine the nature of the visit.

"It is sometimes difficult for Korean communicators to understand English-speaking communicators, and vice-versa, so we plan our flights to coordinate with the unit we're spotting for," said Captain S. J. Yoon, commanding officer of the 2nd ROKMC Brigade aviation unit.

Shortly after sunrise each day, the Korean pilots take off from Marble Mountain and report to their tactical area of responsibility to search for the enemy.

When the enemy is sighted, a priority call is placed requesting an air strike. U.S. Marine jets are then scrambled from Da Nang or Chu Lai. Within minutes the Marine jets are circling above the observation aircraft.

The forward air controller radios instructions to the jet pilots, giving a description of the target and a reference point. The spotter pilot then sets his sights on the enemy positions and marks the target by firing a smoke rocket at it. Seconds later, using the white smoke as an aiming point, the jets come screaming down to blast the enemy position.

With artillery, the ROKMC spotters plot the coordinates and then relay the details to artillery plotters. The positions are located on a map and further information is relayed to ROK gunners.

Instead of marking the enemy positions with rockets, the pilot

flies to a higher altitude and calls for the artillerymen to fire a spotter round. Once the round hits, the FAC radios corrections to bring succeeding rounds right on target.

At mission's end, the Bird Dogs roll to a halt on the Korean flight line. A half-dozen highly disciplined ground crews give their pilots snappy salutes and then swarm over the aircraft.

Other Blue Dragon aviators are gaining operational experience in the UH-1E (Huey) helicopter with the U.S. Marines at Marble Mountain. Captain Yoon, Captain Kim and Captain J. J. Lee, the aviation unit's executive officer, are flying with Huey pilots of Marine Light Helicopter Squadron (HML) 167. The three Korean officers alternate flying co-pilot when operational commitments permit.

The ROK aviators learned to fly before joining the Korean Marine Corps. Since then, they have attended military flight training with the Korean Army and Huey training with the U.S. Army.

"Most of our pilots attended the National Aviation College at Seoul," said Captain Yoon. "We held civilian pilot's licenses before entering the service."

The Korean pilots have taken it upon themselves to gain the experience under combat conditions with the Huey. They anticipate that their unit may receive the aircraft.

Red Warriors Find
Huge Hideaway

OASIS (USA) — The 4th Division's 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry conducted a "house-warming" for the NVA in rugged mountain terrain north of here recently.

The Red Warriors' Companies A and C discovered a large enemy base camp and training center while on a search and clear mission. Alpha Company soldiers were the first to spot the bunker complex.

A mess hall, training area, observation tower and miscellaneous equipment and clothing were found. Included in the equipment were 22 75mm recoilless rifle rounds, 16 B40 rockets, 12 RPG rounds and 500 rounds of AK47 ammunition.

The 1st and 2nd platoons of Charlie Company returned to the area the next day and discovered more bunker systems — all part of a larger complex.

The third day, Charlie Company returned in force to elimi-

nate the bunkers and huts. "We were destroying the complex when they opened up on us with a machine gun and AK47s," said Specialist 4 Eugene Murphy.

The enemy melted into the dense jungle as soon as the Red Warriors returned fire and began to maneuver around the enemy positions.

Sergeant Erwin Dallmeyer discovered a large hospital complex which covered one entire adjoining ridge of the main camp. Various kinds of used medical supplies were found in the area. There were also blood trails leading into the jungle.

The Red Warriors also found an amphitheater type training area. In it was a large easel, mock-ups and manuals. Eleven separate mess halls, capable of feeding 150 men each, were found.

The Red Warriors destroyed 400 bunkers and huts in the regimental-sized complex. All of the bunkers were camouflaged from both the ground and the air.

The 2nd Platoon returned to the same area the next day to set up an ambush. The main body of the platoon had just moved out when they came under small arms fire. The Red Warriors immediately returned fire and began to flank the enemy.

"There were only four of them and they had a machine gun and three AK47s," said Specialist 4 Lyle Bowes. The NVA broke contact as quickly as they had initiated it.

"This camp must have taken a considerable amount of time to construct and we have now completely compromised its usefulness to the NVA," said Major Harold Baughman.

PSYOPs Getting The 'Word' Out

PHUOC VINH (USA) — Before the last shots had echoed away, after the attempt to overrun remote LZ Dot, another battle was being plotted against the badly beaten enemy force. In the new attack no bullets would be used, no men would die and no tangible position would be won.

The new battle, a silent one, was to be fought with words in a struggle for the minds of the enemy soldiers.

The stunned and heavily wounded enemy unit, within hours of its retreat, was flooded with leaflets and loudspeaker broadcasts that instilled doubt in their leaders and their cause.

"Attention members of V-21 Regiment! You cannot win! You were severely beaten when you attacked the ARVN base camp, located west of the Saigon River in Tay Ninh Province. You suffered more than 289 casualties while the ARVN suffered small losses. You fought well, but against a better and stronger force you didn't have a chance. Now many of you are wounded

and dying. Do you want to be buried in an unmarked grave? You have two choices: die where you are or rally to the GVN. If you rally you will be given medicine and be treated well. Rally now. Hide your weapon and rally during daylight hours to any ARVN or Allied soldier or GVN official."

How many NVA rallied primarily because of this message will not be known for a long time. What is known is that because of this and other psychological warfare techniques, the number of rallying NVA is taking a sharp upswing. Deep inroads are being made into the minds of those who "believe that they come here as 'liberators from Hanoi,'" according to Major Harold M. Carter, Division Psychological Operations Officer of the 1st Air Cavalry.

"The key to PSYOPs is timeliness," he continued. "When you hit them with the 'word' as soon as they slip across the Cambodian border into Vietnam — before they see their first action — they may not listen to

you. Your credibility is doubtful. Once they have been hit, and hit badly, then they are vulnerable to what we have to say. They have seen the Cobras, and felt the artillery and B-52 strikes all around them, and they know that they can't just walk in and take over the way they were told by Hanoi. This is the time we have to get to them, while they are still confused and disoriented... and while the defeat is still fresh in their minds.

"We don't go out there and tell lies, or beat around the bush; we tell it like it is. We don't promise things we can't do. The NVA are told that they will be treated well, as PWs or Hoi Chanh and the VC are offered the Chieu Hoi Program along with a chance to be reunited with their families."

Another theme currently being employed against the enemy is the Paris talks. "The enemy is not well informed about the peace talks," said Major Carter.

"According to various documents we have captured, Hanoi has issued instruction that the peace talks are not to be discussed with the troops. It could cause their men to not fight as hard and sort of 'drag their feet' in the war effort. They are urging 100 per cent effort on an around the clock basis. What we do here is just inform them that the talks are going on, and disseminate pictures of their leaders in Paris.

They know what their leaders look like, and when they find out these negotiations have been going on since May, they want to know why they haven't been told about it. Since they have gotten the word, the facts—the political officers have little recourse but to admit it. Since we started telling them about the talks, evidence is turning up that they are doing just what Hanoi doesn't want—dragging their feet."

A large problem is getting the "word" of any PSYOP message to the enemy.

"Their leaders won't let them pick up the leaflets, if they can help it," continued Major Carter.

"Anyone caught is subject to punishment. Because of this we rely upon our airborne 1,000-watt loudspeaker heavily. After all, they can't stop them from listening. On the other hand, the leaders do try to stop the troops from hearing. As the chopper circles, 1,000 feet overhead, in a slow bank, the leaders frequently fire their weapons at it. A primary reason is to stop the troops from hearing the broadcast — if they happen to hit the craft in the process, well and good.

"The entire psychological operations picture is only a part of the overall pacification program which encompasses the military as well as political, economic and social process of establishing or reestablishing local government responsive to the involving participation of the people," concluded Major Carter.

Artificial Limb Brings Hope To Injured Boy

CU CHI (USA) — In 1966 Tran Van Bao stepped on a Viet Cong mine.

For a child of 10, arms and legs are means of expression: running, waving, playing. Since 1966 Bao hasn't been able to express himself in those ways.

Initial treatment at the 25th Division's 12th Evacuation Hospital in Cu Chi allowed the child to return to his home in Soui Cut hamlet to face the rest of his life, minus a leg, minus a hand.

Two years passed. He managed fairly well on the bamboo crutches the villagers made for him, though in time he grew too big for them.

When the Bau Dieu District

pacification festival took place in November, Colonel Eugene M. Lynch, commander of the 25th Division's 2nd Brigade, saw and met the child and was touched by his disability.

The commander picked the boy up and carried him to an Army doctor in charge of a Medical Civic Action center and asked for help.

Since then, Bao has met many new people and seen many new things and understood the looks in many eyes.

New Crutches

Captain John C. Richards, a doctor in the 12th Evac's children ward, took care of Bao and got him a new set of cushioned crutches. Captain Richard Laken, 25th Medical Battalion operations officer, coordinated Bao's transfer to a Vietnamese hospital at Nui Dong and the boy's training with an artificial limb.

Officers of the 2nd Brigade headquarters donated the money for the limb and the former brigade civic action officer, Major Calvin Sivinon and his successor Major Billy May, helped monitor and foster the program.

Since the beginning Bao knew he had friends, even though he did not understand why. But that concern has enabled him to return to school on his own and to carry his own load.

Interest

Best of all, Bao is only the first. The interest generated by this project has begun an effort that may provide similar help for hundreds of amputees.

Want Mail?

The G.I. Mail Lady — Mrs. M. Averitt — has announced a change in her address to all servicemen interested in receiving mail from the States as part of "Operation Morale Boost."

Correspondence should be addressed to: Mrs. M. AVERITT, P.O. Box 166, Rough and Ready, Calif. 75975.



Bao gets new cushioned crutches to replace his homemade, bamboo pair.

MEDCAP Conducted Under Fire

TAY NINH (USA) — An airborne medical civic-action team from the 1st Brigade, and the 3rd Battalion, 22nd Infantry, 25th Infantry Division recently conducted a MEDCAP under fire.

As a helicopter landed the first half of the team at Phuoc Tan Outpost, 20 miles southwest of Tay Ninh City, the VC opened up with rocket-propelled grenades, automatic weapons fire and mortars. The team scrambled for cover in the Popular Forces compound as the helicopter strafed the source of enemy fire, a woodland 600 yards away.

Soon another chopper brought

the rest of the MEDCAP team, enabling two choppers to riddle the VC with their M-60 machine guns.

"When we go on a MEDCAP like this, we usually expect a small amount of peaceful excitement, but nothing like this," said Major Clarence De Young, 1st Brigade civic action officer.

Major De Young, an artillery officer, used his training to direct artillery. "I never dreamed I'd be doing this," he said. "I just turned my radio to the correct frequency, called in the necessary data and before long artillery was coming in, right on target."

During the three hours the outpost was under fire, the

MEDCAP team treated villagers who had taken refuge in the outpost. "We examined more than 75 patients, some of them Cambodians who had come across the border just to see us," said Captain Alden Sweatman, battalion surgeon.

"This action is a good example of how effective our pacification program has become," said Major De Young. "Our intelligence reports had indicated the VC might be waiting for us to try to stop our string of highly successful MEDCAPs. But we showed them that we will continue to aid the people as much as we can despite their threats and attempts to stop us."

Red Cross Girls Eager To Serve

SAIGON (MACV) — "It was the best year of my life," the Red Cross girl was saying, and no one doubted that she meant it.

Rose Karlo, assistant director of the Red Cross Supplemental Recreational Activities Overseas program (SRAO) — better known as the Recreation Center and Clubmobile program — was recalling the year she worked as an SRAO field worker.

The Pittsburgh Pa. native served in the Nha Trang, and Pleiku areas during 1966-67 and remembers it as a "terrific, fantastic year."

"I learned so much about servicemen — they were just wonderful to work with — and the people I met in the Red Cross program were some of the best people I've ever known."

After her first tour, Rose returned to the University of Pittsburgh where she taught part time while working on her Masters Degree in Physical Education and Recreation. She earned her degree and volunteered for her present Red Cross assignment based in Saigon, but with the opportunity for periodic visits to all the SRAO units in country.

As Rose spoke about her year as a field worker, 15 girls — all new arrivals in Vietnam — were completing one of their SRAO classes in a nearby room. The long-awaited moment was almost there: the day they would leave for their various assignments with military units.

Mrs. Quinn Smith, director of SRAO, explained that during the girls' 12-month tour, they would have two or more assignments at different locations within Vietnam.

"SRAO supplements what the military does in the area of recreation," said Mrs. Smith.

"It involves two areas: recreation centers which are fixed facilities at base camps and include such things as pool tables, ping pong, games; and the Clubmobile which takes our program to servicemen wherever they may be — at firebases, for example; it is geared toward those areas without available activities," she continued.

"Girls are recruited by the Red Cross specifically for this assignment; they must be between ages 21 and 25 and college graduates. They attend two weeks of training at the National



MPs HAVE A TOUGH LIFE—PFC Richard Crump, of the 716th Military Police Battalion, surrounded by Red Cross girls.

Red Cross Headquarters in Washington, D.C. There they get a general orientation to the Red Cross, what the Red Cross is doing in Vietnam and their specific jobs in Vietnam. The SRAO program is in operation only in Vietnam and Korea. We get groups of from 10 to 30 girls through here seven times during a year."

The girls receive an additional three-day orientation at Red Cross Headquarters in Saigon.

"They come in pretty much with an open mind," said Mrs. Smith. "They've been hearing a great deal about the jobs they are to have, but they've not seen the program in operation yet. More than anything else they want to get to the unit — to get out there and see what it's all about."

And indeed the girls were anxious to get to work.

"I'm really looking forward to the job," said Bobbi McDaniel

who was headed to Bien Hoa Air Base.

Susan Simmons of Sacramento, Calif., has a background in recreation, gained from her former job as a social worker. Her brother is stationed with the 175th Medical Detachment at DaNang. Susan, who was bound for Qui Nhon, said: "I'm anxious to get up there. It's a great challenge to try and present a good program to the troops."

"In a way, I don't know what to expect, but I can't wait to get there," said Carina Harmon, anticipating her assignment in DaNang.

"I enjoy working with the military and I'd like to do some-

thing for the servicemen," she said.

In 12 months these girls would pass through these same rooms at the Red Cross Headquarters

during their out-processing. Looking ahead to their commitments then, at the end of the year's tour, Rose said: "They'll love it. I'm sure they will."

ARVN 1st Armored Marks 15th Birthday

SAIGON (MACV) — The Army of the Republic of Vietnam's (ARVN) 1st Armored Cavalry Regiment, 5th Infantry Division, marked its 15th anniversary with ceremonies conducted recently at Phu Loi.

A unit with an enviable battle record, the 1st Armored Cav has progressed from a unit with armored cars to one with combat vehicles such as the M-24 (Light Gun Tank), M-113 (Armored Personnel Carrier) and the M-114 (Armored Reconnaissance Vehicle).

Under the direction of Lieutenant Colonel Tran Van Ty, regiment commander, a review of the troops was conducted by Major General Pham Quoc Thuan, commanding officer of the 5th Division, and Colonel James H. Leach, the Division's senior U.S. advisor.

Afterwards, a dedication and memorial service was held for the slain troopers of the unit, followed by a brief address by the general.

During the awards ceremony, Second Lieutenant Luu Ba Hung was presented the American Bronze Star Medal with "V" device for heroic actions Feb. 1, 1968, when ordered to attack a large, well-entrenched enemy force near Go Dau in Binh Dong province. When intense enemy fire disabled and set afire two armored personnel carriers, Lieutenant Hung, then executive officer of the 3rd Troop, moved his vehicle into

the line of fire between the enemy and the burning vehicles to provide suppressive fire. Disregarding his own personal safety, he began evacuating and treating the wounded troopers. When enemy fire increased, he directed the towing of the disabled vehicles to a more secure area and completed the evacuation, thus saving the lives of many friendly soldiers.

Also receiving awards were Colonel George S. Patton, Jr., commanding officer of the U.S. 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, and Major Decatur F. Waddell, the senior advisor to the 1st Cavalry Regiment.

Colonel Patton received the Vietnamese Armor Badge, which is equivalent to the American soldiers' Combat Infantry Badge. Major Waddell was presented the Vietnamese Army Staff Service Medal First Class for his contribution to the unit.

Presentation of gifts to the widows and children of soldiers killed in action concluded the ceremony.

Originally named the 1st Escort Brigade, the unit was given the task of escorting trains from Saigon to Loc Ninh, Phan Thiet, Nha Trang and back.

In 1966 the unit was reorganized into its present structure of a squadron staff, a headquarters and service troop, an M-41 Tank Troop and two armored cavalry assault vehicle troops.

The record of the 1st ARC includes the annihilation of two Viet Cong battalions.



Lt. Hung is presented the Bronze Star Medal with "V" device by Col. Leach.

Army, Nav Join Forces To Haunt Charlie



Troops of the 25th Infantry Division and scout dogs found, searched and demolished many bunkers.

SAIGON (USN) — There was little to distinguish soldier from sailor as six Navy river patrol boats (PBRs) loaded an element of 25th Infantry Division troops near Dau Tieng, 50 miles northwest of Saigon, and churned downstream to look for Viet Cong.

It was their first joint Army-Navy operation. Nonetheless, "Tropic Lightning" troopers of A Company, 27th Infantry, and "Brown Water" sailors of River Division 594, from Nha Be, 15 miles southeast of Saigon, instantly formed an effective team. Their uniforms were almost identical and every man could use the other's weapons.

As the infantrymen boarded the PBRs, they checked the

heavy firepower of the small boats and joked about joining the Navy. The sailors were happy to have the additional firepower that came with their counterparts.

The first appearance of PBRs far north in the III Corps Tactical Zone resulted in considerable curiosity. Vietnamese crowded the banks of the upper Saigon River as the 31-foot fiberglass boats passed their villages.

For the next seven days, enemy forces in the area saw their first Army-Navy river patrol force. Early each morning the soldiers boarded the boats and the day-long search of river banks began.

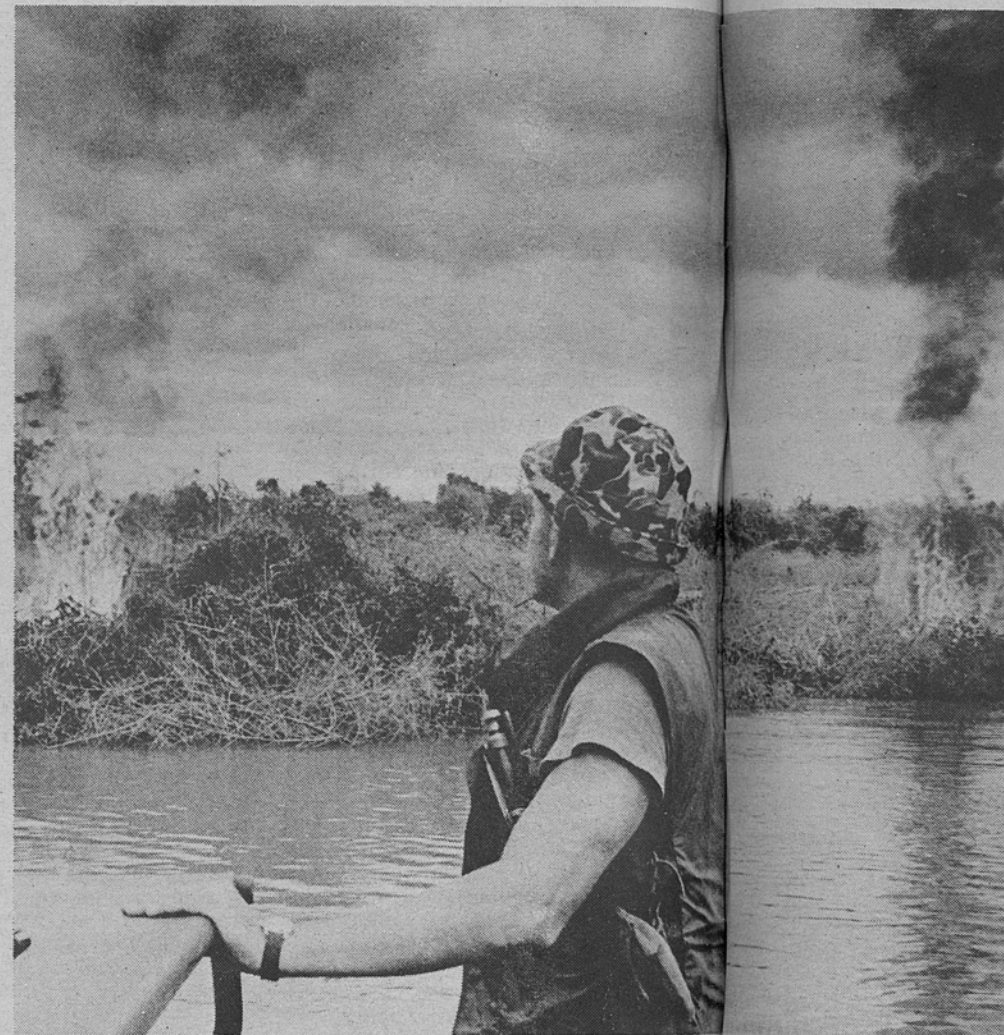
The PBRs would nuzzle into a bank and the infantrymen would move ashore, set up a tight defense perimeter and probe for the enemy. They found bunkers, spider holes, temporary staging areas, fishing gear, dishes, and a number of junks and sampans.

With the exception of occasional sniper fire, the enemy was not to be found. Freshly washed dishes found drying in a bunker, however, proved the enemy had abandoned his river sanctuaries only moments before the joint force arrived. The Army-Navy team then proceeded to capture his sampans, demolish his bunkers and burn staging areas which had been contrived by clearing underbrush and tying tree limbs together to form semi-natural canopies.

Sometimes the sailors went ashore to assist with the search and demolition of enemy positions, and it became a common sight to see a soldier grab a line as the boats moored alongside each other.

As the PBRs churned up the Saigon River, the day before the operation began, one of the boats displayed a hastily-scrawled sign proclaiming, "This is an all-Navy boat!" After the first day's operation, the sign came down and never went up again.

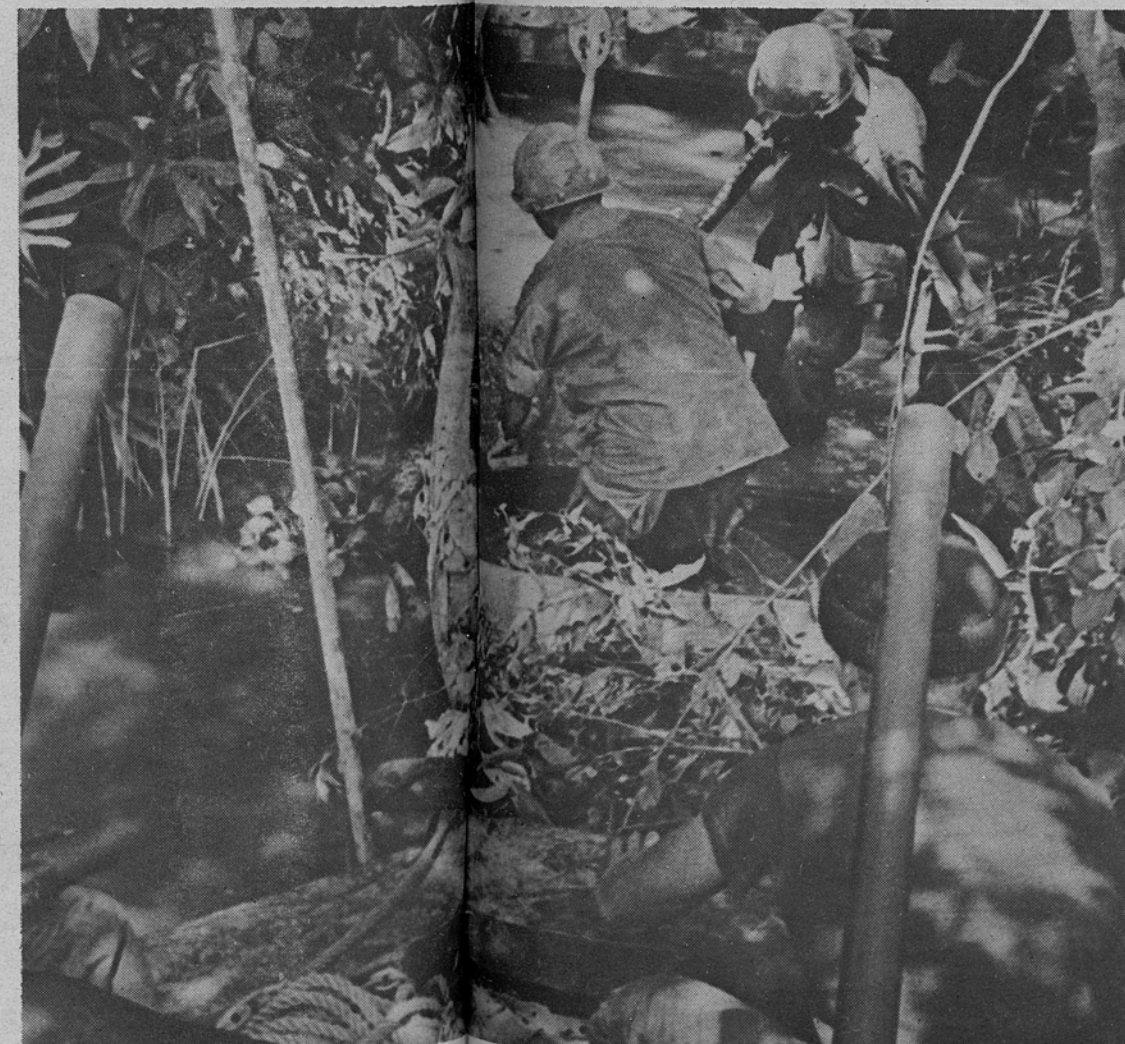
Story & Photos
By
JOCS Ed Nelson



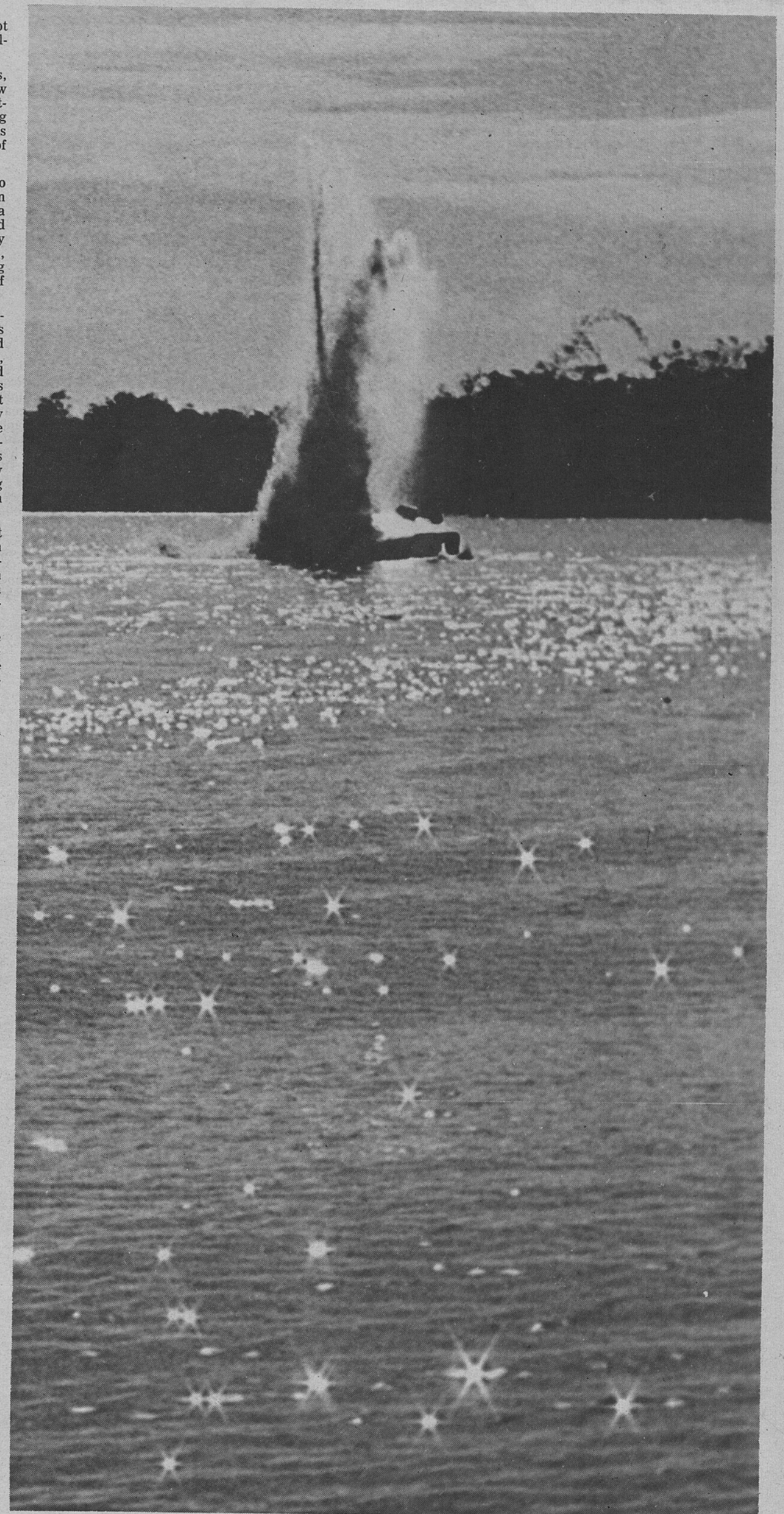
Brush and tall grass concealing enemy spider holes and bunkers is set aflame.



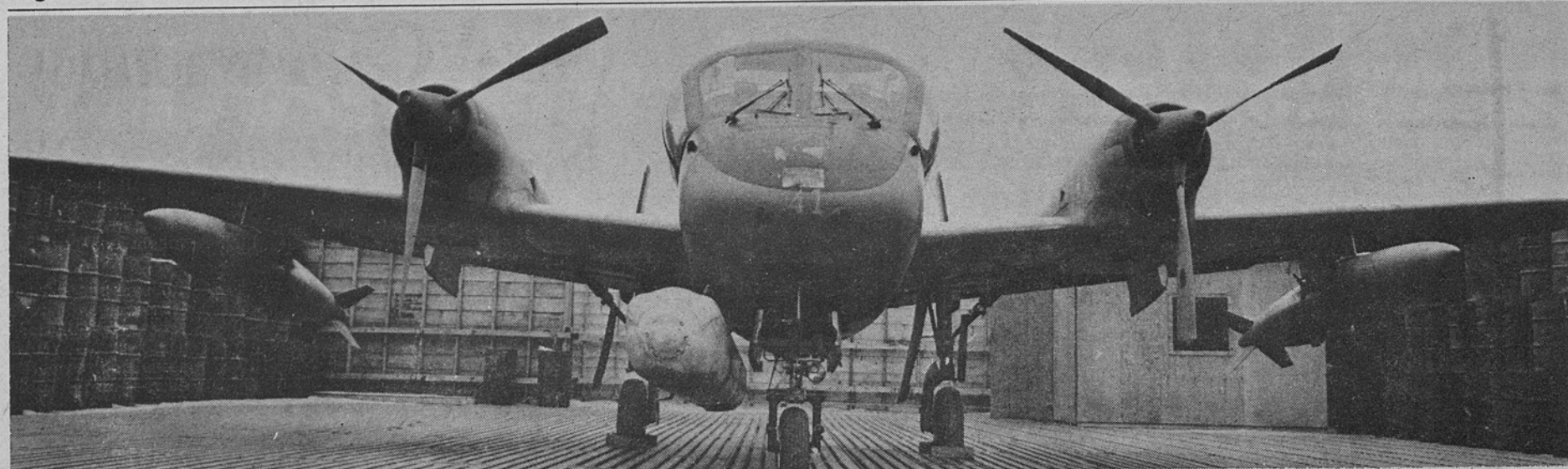
Four U.S. Navy river patrol boats churn up the Saigon River into areas never before patrolled by American sailors.



Soldiers check a sampan for booby traps. PBR prepares to tow the watercraft from a secluded cove.



An enemy junk is demolished by joint Army-Navy task force as sunlight bounces off river.



Mohawk, equipped with side-looking airborne radar unit, stands ready for mission in revetment at 245th Surveillance Aircraft Company's base at Da Nang.

"Redeyes" Keep Their Eyes On The Reds

SAIGON (MACV) — The 245th Surveillance Aircraft Company (SAC) of the 212th Aviation Battalion at Da Nang has the mission of providing

sustained aerial surveillance in the I Corps Tactical Zone. Commanded by Major Carl A. Weaver, Jr., the Army's "Redeyes" are under the operation-

al control of III Marine Amphibious Force. Unlike Bird Dog companies, which conduct strictly visual surveillance, the Redeyes fly

OV-1 Mohawk aircraft equipped with highly-sophisticated electronic gear for both visual and photographic detection.

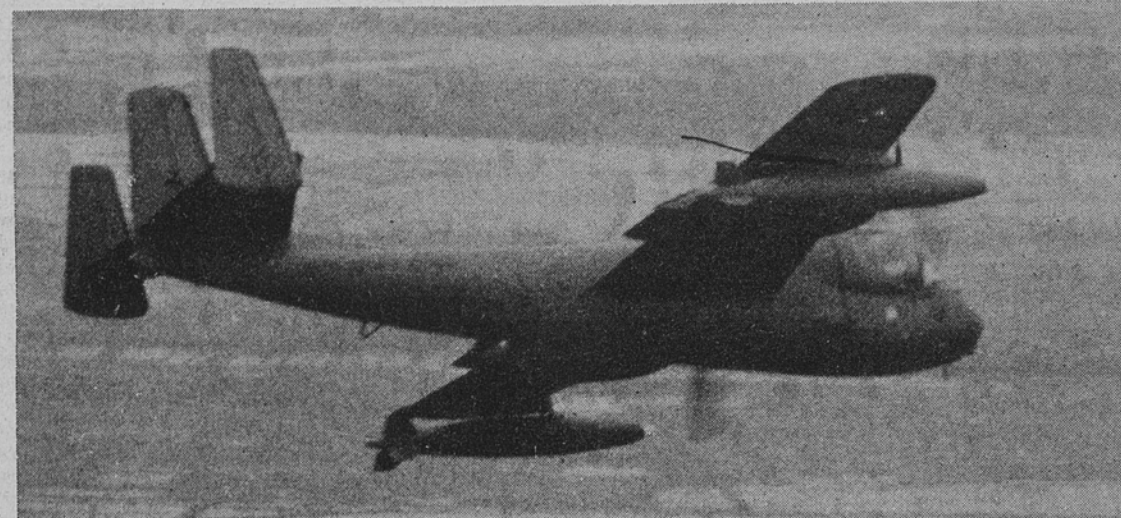
Some of the Mohawks carry SLAR (side-looking airborne radar). Others carry cameras, mounted in the nose and belly, which can take high-quality black and white or color prints or slides of the land below.

At the airbase, the 245th SAC has its own maintenance capabilities. One of the most important shops is the Ejection Seat Room where the Redeyes' pri-

mary means of escape are tested or repaired. "This is the room that saves lives," remarked Major Weaver.

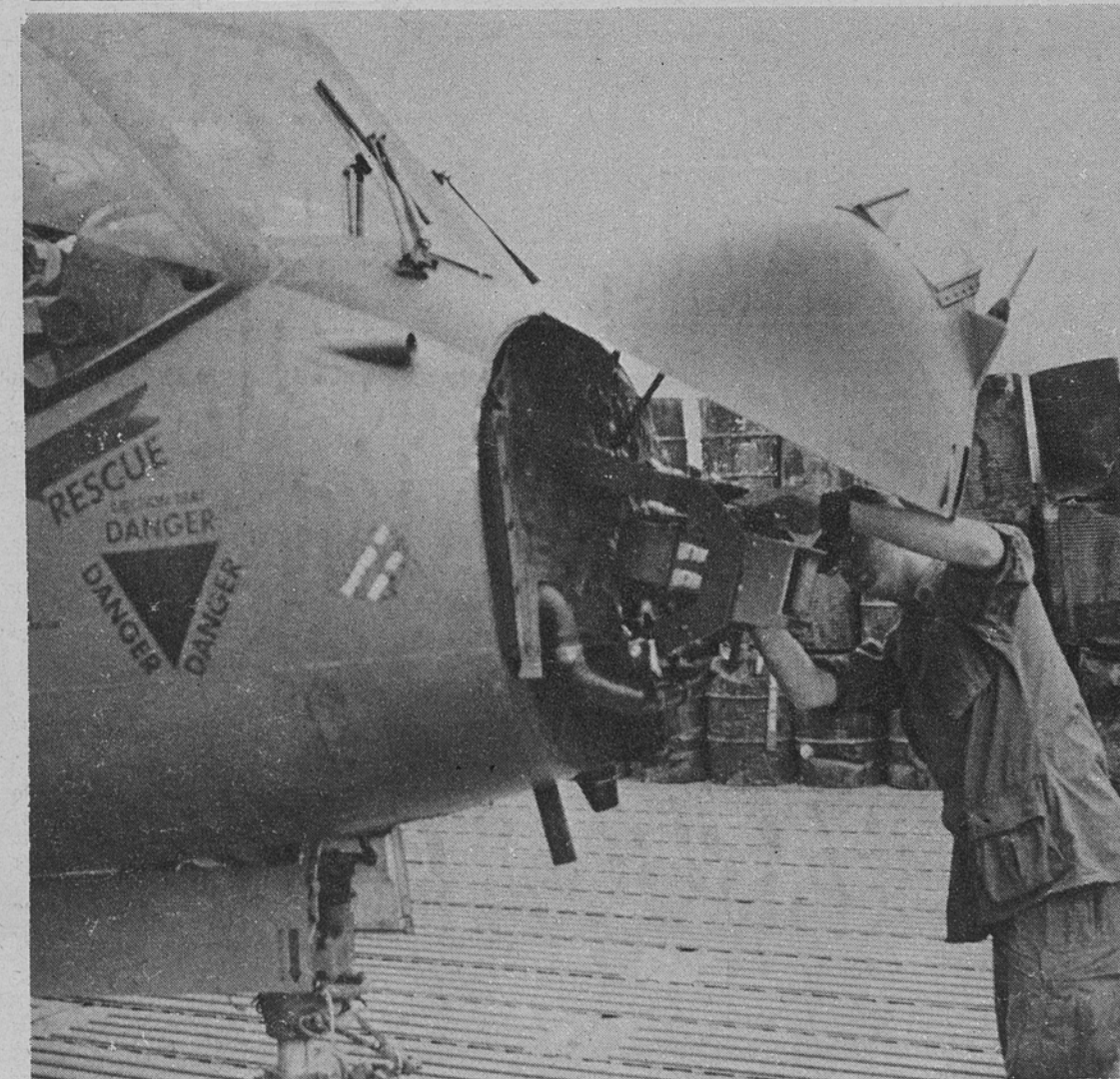
Maintenance on the electronic surveillance equipment can also be performed at the Redeyes' base.

When a Mohawk returns from a photographic mission, its film is unloaded and processed immediately in one of the company's four photo labs. The 245th SAC processes more than 50,000 feet of film per month.

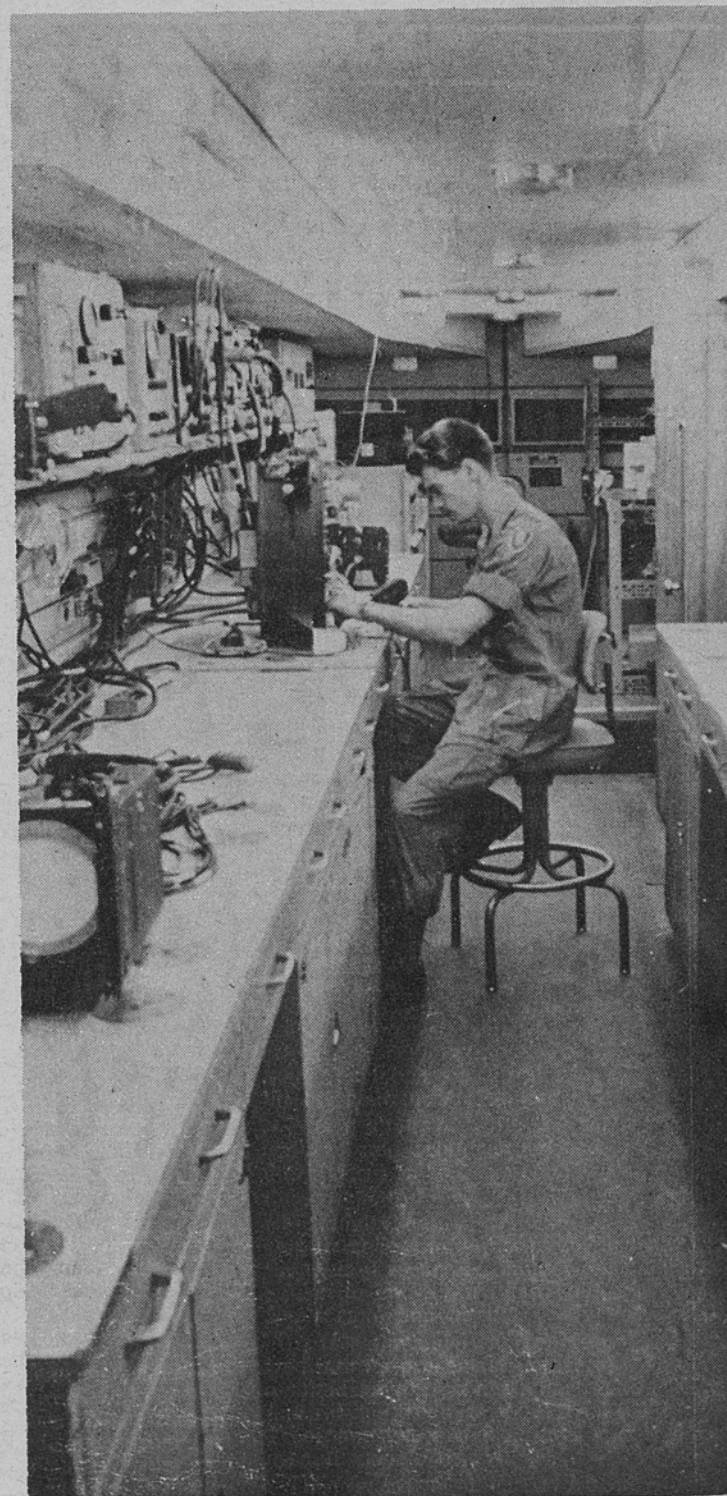


Swift-moving OV-1 flies over I Corps Tactical Zone on photographic surveillance mission.

Story by SP5 David M. Gerrol
Photos by SP4 Thomas L. Tynes



SP4 Wayne Melton, crew chief, makes adjustments on camera mounted in nose of Mohawk.



Technician works on electronic gear in one of 245th's labs.

Ex-VC Commander Meets Psy War Pilots

BINH THUY (USAF) — U.S. Air Force psychological warfare pilots and crewmen based at Binh Thuy Air Base recently met a former Viet Cong company commander, who had rallied under the Chieu Hoi program.

The ex-VC Nguyen Dong Tang, former company commander with the 269th Viet Cong Battalion operating in Kien Hoa province, was treated to a close-up view of U.S. Air Force psywar activities during a visit with the "C" Flight, 5th Special Operations Squadron at Binh Thuy.

Tang was escorted on a tour of the "C" Flight facilities by Captain Stanley F. G. Jones, a 5th SOS C-47 pilot.

Briefings

The visit included briefings on C-47 Skytrain and U-10 aircraft used by the unit to drop leaflets and broadcast appeals to enemy forces, urging them to rally to the side of the government, promising rehabilitation, amnesty, vocational training, job opportunities and reunion with families.

The unit is the only such Air Force psychological operations organization in the IV Corps Tactical Zone, and was directly responsible for Tang's decision to rally to the Republic of Vietnam, officials said.

"My company came down from Tay Ninh to support Viet Cong harassment in Kien Hoa province," said Tang during his visit.

"We were primarily an anti-aircraft unit, armed with 57mm and 100mm anti-aircraft guns," explained Tang. "Kien Hoa province was the closest I had been to my family in a long time."

He is a native of Vinh Binh Province and his wife and family were there at the time of his repatriation.

"It was a very hard decision to make," he said. "I had been a Viet Cong for about 20 years and I feared for my family's safety. I had heard the broadcasts from the airplanes and read the leaflets which were dropped, but I still was not sure what would happen to my family." Tang continued.

Brother

After much deliberation, Tang contacted a brother — not a VC — and told him of his plans. Following their meeting, they went to the nearest Chieu Hoi Center, where Tang surrendered.

"I guess I came over to the Republic's side because I realized the Viet Cong can never win. And, of course, I wanted to see my family again," stated Tang.

Useful Citizen

Now living with his family, Tang goes to school. Later, he will return to a Chieu Hoi camp where he will teach newly arrived Hoi Chanh how to become useful citizens again.

"I thought that Americans would be mad at me for being a Viet Cong," he said, "but now I know they are friendly and I like them very much. I am very happy I became a Hoi Chanh. It is much better this way."

"Tang's visit marked the first time we met a Hoi Chanh in person," said Lieutenant Colonel Gerald W. Might, "C" Flight commander. "We seldom have the privilege of seeing the results of our work."

Bozo Gets New Bike

HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS (USA) — Bozo was no different from any other nine-year-old boy in Kontum as he often made the trip to the staging area outside Highlander Heights to watch the convoys come into the 4th Infantry Division firebase.

One day, after leaving his bicycle behind a dump truck so he could get a closer look on foot, he returned to find his transportation in twisted ruins.

The driver of the five-ton dump truck had unknowingly backed over it.

While military police calmed the boy, a call was placed to the Highlander civil affairs office, Major Robert Brooks, and he quickly sent a jeep to pick up the boy and his bicycle.

"When I saw the boy and his bike I knew both were in pretty low spirits. The bicycle was beyond repair but Bozo's feelings weren't," said Major Brooks.

While Bozo sat on the sandbag wall, sadly eating a bag of candy and eyeing the twisted bike, "Operation New Bike" swung into high gear.

"I sent my interpreter to Kontum to find a similar model and he came back within an hour with success," Major Brooks continued.

The frown on Bozo's face changed to an ear-to-ear grin as he fingered the shiny metal.

"We drove him to his village," the civil affairs officer said, "where he's probably still telling the story of his new bike and his new American friends from the Ivy Division's 2nd Brigade."



INSPECTS—A 13-month-old resident of Bethany Orphanage in Ho Nai inspects a gift from the people of New York City. Private First Class Michael Burke, Headquarters Battery, II Field Force Artillery, initiated a recent drive for toys at the orphanage with a letter to his parents in New York.

(USA PHOTO)

Villages Get First Medical Aid

LONG BINH (USA) — A six-man U.S. Army medical team assisted by a five-man U.S. advisory team, provided the first medical examinations and treatment ever experienced by two Vietnamese villages recently.

There are no doctors in the district of Nhon Trach, 12 miles east of Saigon, to care for its 51,000 inhabitants, so District Advisor, Major Paul Meyer, decided to do something about it.

After contacting the II Field Force's 61st Medical Detachment at Long Binh, Major Meyer and four members of the MACV Advisory Team joined with Doctor (Captain) Larry Wigginton and five other medics on a MEDCAP tour of the area.

First Stop

The first stop was Vung Gam hamlet where nearly 400 people had never been examined by a qualified doctor. Captain Wigginton and his men set up a make-

shift dispensary and examined more than half of Vung Gam's inhabitants. Children were vaccinated and shots of penicillin were administered to villagers with respiratory infections.

Sophisticated medical equipment was used to examine more serious cases. An ophthalmoscope, for example, was used to examine eyes for cataracts.

In addition to receiving medical aid, the villagers of Vung Gam were in for a bonus surprise. Bundles of clothing, sent to Major Meyer by the St. Anthony's Ladies Guild and the East Texas Military Wives Club of Longman, Texas, were distributed by the District Chief, Captain Long.

After every villager had received an article of clothing and a thorough medical examination, the men moved to the nearby Dong Nai River. Vietnamese patrol boats took them up-river to the hamlet of Thanh Loi.

Water Problems Solved By 5,000-Gallon Truck

CAMP FRENZELL JONES (USA) — During the dry season, rice farmers, fishermen and other villagers in Vietnam, especially in the Delta, have problems acquiring adequate supplies of fresh water.

Villagers of An Lac are further troubled by a low water table. They must usually rely on commercial water that can only be purchased in Saigon, five miles to the northeast.

A CORDS representative recently notified the 199th Light Infantry Brigade of the existing

problem.

Members of the Brigade's Civil Affairs section investigated and were led by the village chief to a couple of concrete water tanks built by the South Koreans last year. The tanks were empty.

First Lieutenant Gilbert T. Hatcher then contacted the Brigade's 7th Support Battalion and arranged to borrow a 5,000-gallon water truck.

Sergeant Dennis Cox and Lieutenant Stephen Ward drove the portable water truck, filled with water from Saigon, to the village, located off Highway Four.

Sergeant Nguyen Van Son, an interpreter for the 6th PSYOPS Battalion, told the villagers where the water came from and then played a tape recording urging the people to support their government.

Villagers streamed to the water tanks. Sergeant Cox refilled the water truck at Tan Son Nhut Air Base for another trip to the village.

The scene was repeated two weeks later. "We hope to be able to fill these tanks every two or three weeks if a truck is available," said Sergeant Cox.

For the villagers of An Lac at least, relief is now a swallow away.

Tire Repairs Help Civilians

TAN TRU (USA) — A planned MEDCAP by the 8th Division's 2nd Battalion, 60th Infantry was almost postponed recently but wound up doubling their work.

Elements of the unit's civil affairs office had a flat tire enroute to the proposed MEDCAP site. During repairs they noticed three Vietnamese civilians who had been injured when their motorcycle overturned at the same spot. By the time the civilians were treated, the tire was fixed and the convoy continued to the original MEDCAP site.



BUNKER BUNNY OF THE WEEK—says, "Did you know that the U.S. Army has awarded a contract for the production of a new kind of goggles that will enable a soldier to see better at night? The new goggles differ from earlier night-vision devices because they do not require infrared light to illuminate the target area. Instead, they operate on existing low levels of natural illumination. It'll literally strip away the dark spots that protect the enemy. I sure hope they stick to stripping the enemy's spots or I'll be in trouble with the Review and Analysis men." (PHOTO COURTESY OF PETER GOWLAND)

ON TOUR BY SP5 MACCLAIN



THE DMZ IS NOT THE MASON DIXON LINE... SO STOP CALLING THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE JOHNNY REBS!

American Forces Vietnam Network - Channel 11

(Programs Subject To Change Without Notice)
(Guide For Week Of February 21-27, 1969)

FRIDAY, Feb. 21		1630 Combat (Re-Run)
1330 Turn On	1730 Survival	1800 Jonathan Winters
1413 What's Happening	1900 Andy Griffith	1930 Evening News
1415 Sign On News	2000 Weather	2006 Bonanza
1430 Big Valley (Re-Run)	2100 Mission Impossible	2200 Late News
1530 Dean Martin (Re-Run)	2210 Joey Bishop	
1630 Star Trek (Re-Run)		
1730 The Monkees		
1800 Wild Wild West		
1900 Bewitched		
1930 Evening News		
2000 Weather		
2006 Hollywood Palace		
2100 Combat		
2200 Late News		
2210 Rowan And Martin		
2300 Boxing From The Olympics		
SATURDAY, Feb. 22		1330 Turn On
1313 What's Happening	1413 What's Happening	1415 Sign On News
1315 Sign On News	1430 Jonathan Winters (Re-Run)	1530 Bonanza (Re-Run)
1330 CBS Golf Classic	1630 Mission Impossible (Re-Run)	1730 Big Picture
1430 War Of 1812	1800 Let's Speak Vietnamese #5	1850 Let's Speak Vietnamese #6
1500 Melody Ranch	1900 Beverly Hillbillies	1930 Evening News
1600 Rowan & Martin (Re-Run)	2000 Weather	2006 Dean Martin
1700 Greatest Show On Earth	2100 Star Trek	2200 Late News
1800 Nashville Vietnam	2210 Feature Movie	
1830 Special		
1925 Weather		
1930 Evening News		
2000 Jackie Gleason		
2050 Let's Speak Vietnamese (Advanced)		
2100 NFL Play-Off Game		
2100 Halftime News		
SUNDAY, Feb. 23		1130 Turn On
1213 What's Happening	1215 Religious Hour	1315 Early News
1330 RB Kraft Music Hall	1430 Perry Mason	1530 Carol Burnett Show
1630 Information Feature	1730 21st Century	1800 Window On Vietnam
1800 Davis Cup	1830 Jerry Lewis	1930 Evening News
1930 Perry Como	2000 Perry Como	2050 Let's Speak Vietnamese (Advanced)
2100 NFL Play-Off Bowl	2100 Halftime News	
MONDAY, Feb. 24		1330 Turn On
1413 What's Happening	1415 Sign On News	1430 Football
1530 Jackie Gleason (Re-Run)	1730 My Favorite Martian	1800 Carol Burnett Show
	1850 Let's Speak Vietnamese #5	1900 Gentle Ben
	1930 Evening News	2000 Weather
	2006 Kraft Music Hall	2100 Perry Mason
	2200 Late News	2210 Feature Movie
TUESDAY, Feb. 25		1330 Turn On
1413 What's Happening	1415 Sign On News	1430 Jonathan Winters (Re-Run)
1530 Bonanza (Re-Run)	1630 Mission Impossible (Re-Run)	1730 Big Picture
1800 Let's Speak Vietnamese #5	1850 Let's Speak Vietnamese #6	1900 Beverly Hillbillies
1930 Evening News	2000 Weather	2006 Dean Martin
2100 Star Trek	2200 Late News	2210 Feature Movie
WEDNESDAY, Feb. 26		1330 Turn On
1413 What's Happening	1415 Sign On News	1430 Football
1530 Bonanza (Re-Run)	1630 Mission Impossible (Re-Run)	1730 Big Picture
1800 Let's Speak Vietnamese #5	1850 Let's Speak Vietnamese #6	1900 Beverly Hillbillies
1930 Evening News	2000 Weather	2006 Dean Martin
2100 Star Trek	2200 Late News	2210 Feature Movie
THURSDAY, Feb. 27		1330 Turn On
1413 What's Happening	1415 Sign On News	1430 Football
1530 Jackie Gleason (Re-Run)	1730 My Favorite Martian	1800 Carol Burnett Show
	1850 Let's Speak Vietnamese #5	1900 Gentle Ben
	1930 Evening News	2000 Weather
	2006 Kraft Music Hall	2100 Perry Mason
	2200 Late News	2210 Feature Movie

Beetle Bailey

By Mort Walker



Peanuts

By Charles M. Schulz





SGT Ronnie Ferguson and a Montagnard team member furnish cover for an extraction ship which came in under fire to lift the LRP's to safety. (ART By: PFC Carson Waterman)

LRPs Find Tunnel Complex

FIRE BASE McNERNEY (USA) — In action southeast of VC Valley, a 1st Brigade Long Range Patrol (LRP) recently killed three enemy soldiers discovered in a heavily camouflaged tunnel complex.

Shortly after setting up their night position, the 4th Division LRP team heard men chopping wood in the area of a high-speed trail discovered earlier the same day.

"Later, we spotted large campfires about 200 meters on either side of our location," reported Sergeant Ronnie Ferguson, assistant team leader. "They burned most of the night."

After moving about half a mile along the trail the next morning, the lead element of the party encountered a stream. Three tunnels were burrowed into the small hillside that bordered the creek. Scattered around the complex were wicker baskets and miniature carvings of a rifle and crossbow.

The Ivymen secured the area and sent out a patrol to investigate further. Three more tunnels, four bunkers and a long, low hooch were discovered.

The LRP's then set up an ambush in the area of the hooch. Later, as they were preparing to leave the area, "I spotted a Viet Cong with a crossbow as he stepped out of the brush," said Sergeant Ferguson. "He was aiming at us when I put him under fire."

The next day, all that remained of the enemy casualty was the crossbow — found in the elephant grass.

A more thorough investigation of the area led to the discovery of additional tunnels, bunkers and hooches. There were a number of chicken coops built on stilts and warm remains of early morning cooking fires.

As the team prepared for a scheduled extraction, two NVA soldiers came around the corner of a hooch near their position. "It looked as though they were making an inventory of the chickens in the coop," Sergeant Ferguson said. Two Montagnard team members killed the soldiers.

Seconds later, as the Ivymen moved for cover, two more NVA soldiers began firing at them. After a brief exchange, the enemy fire was silenced.

When two of the Montagnard LRP's made an attempt to recover the discarded weapons, hostile fire became intense. "They must have closed in on our position through the tunnel complex at the sound of the earlier fighting," the sergeant said.

Team Leader, Sergeant James McLaughlin reported the action as he called for artillery and air strikes on the area.

The Ivymen moved, two, then three steps at a time, in an attempt to discourage the enemy from zeroing in on them.

Enemy soldiers stood up in the brush and elephant grass as they tried to pinpoint the friendly location. The LRP's continued moving and firing.

Cobra gunships arrived and began working over the area just as a Montagnard team member reported seeing NVA reinforcements coming across the proposed landing zone toward the scene of action.

As enemy fire died, the gunships settled back into the clouds, permitting the extraction helicopter to lift out the embattled LRP's.

Fliers Blast VC In Delta

TUY HOA (USAF) — U.S. Air Force fighter-bombers struck deep in South Vietnam's Mekong Delta region recently, blasting an enemy base camp in An Xuyen Province, 13 miles north of Quan Long City.

Ten enemy sampans and 10 fortifications were destroyed or damaged in the raid, a forward air controller (FAC) reported.

Lieutenant Colonel William O. Sneed and Major John M. Cook, F-100 Supersabre pilots with the 31st Tactical Fighter Wing (TFW) at Tuy Hoa Air Base, flew the preplanned mission.

Commenting on the strike, Major Cook said, "Our targets were located on the banks of a network of canals. There were a lot of enemy fortifications down there. After our FAC marked the ones he wanted hit, we rolled in. On the colonel's first bomb run he put two just a little short of the FAC's smoke. I followed and put two just a little long. We really blanketed the first several fortifications on that pass. Later we strafed the sampans which were on shore."

Pair Of R&R Sites To Close

SAIGON (MACV) — Rest and Recuperation officials said this week that two R&R centers are scheduled to be closed in the near future.

They are Penang, which will close Mar. 1 for 90-120 days, and Kuala Lumpur, which will close when Penang opens. A reopening date for the Malaysia capital has not been set.

IRS Answers Tax Questions

(Editor's Note: This is the third article of an Army News Feature series on federal income tax matters.)

WASHINGTON (ANF) — Question: I made a profit when I sold my house. Is it true that I won't have to pay tax on it if I use the money to buy another house?

Answer from the Internal Revenue Service: On the sale of personal residence, the tax on any gain from the sale is postponed

providing you purchase and occupy another home within a year at a price equal to or greater than the "adjusted" sale price of your old home.

Q: Were there any changes in the tax law last year I should know about when I file my 1968 return?

A: Adoption of a surtax in 1968 was the major change. This surtax will increase the amount of income tax most individuals pay for 1968 by 7½ per cent. A line has been added to the tax form to help taxpayers make this calculation and it is explained in the instructions that come with the tax form.

Q: My son earned more than \$600 working this summer on a construction crew. He's now back at college and has a part time job there. Will the money he makes cost me my dependency deduction for him?

A: Not necessarily. If he is under 19 at the end of the year or a full time student, he may earn \$600 or more and you may

still claim the exemption if he otherwise qualifies as your dependent.

If any tax has been withheld from his wages, he must file a return to obtain a refund. In any event, he must file a return when his gross income is \$600 or more.

(Next: Life insurance benefits.)

Operation..

(Continued From Page 1)

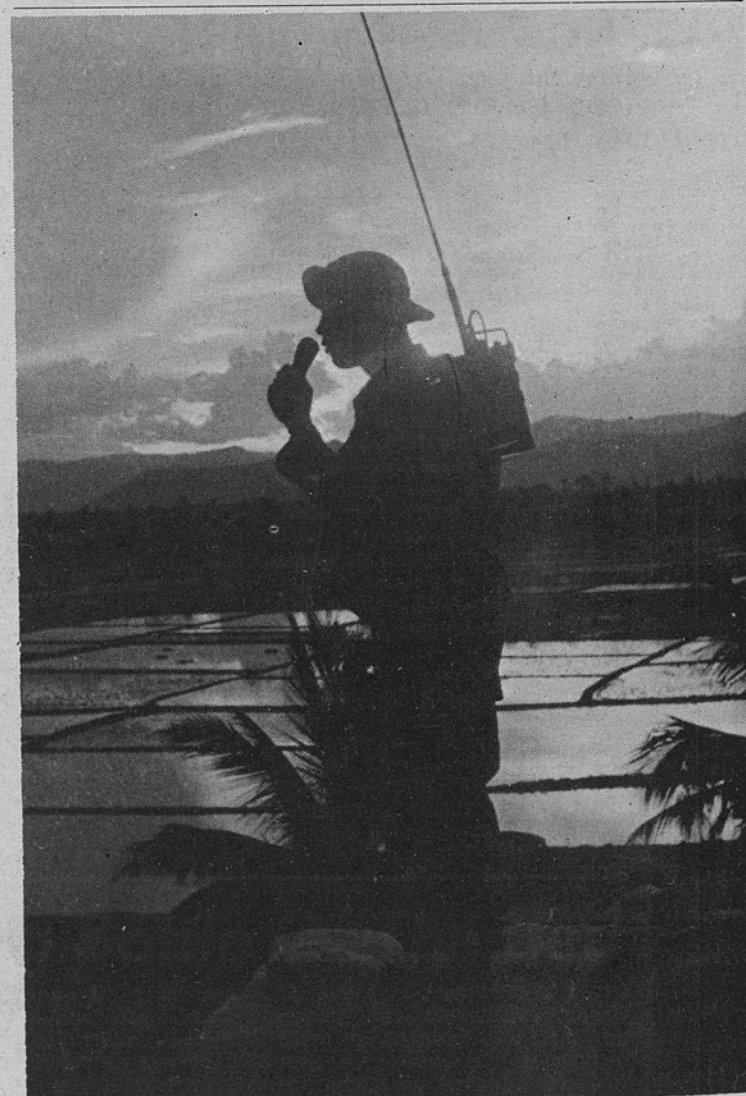
east of the actual site of the operation. The Marines maintained the deceptive position that night and at 8 o'clock the next morning, after heavy artillery bombardment, moved to a position along the east, west and north sides of the cordon.

Almost simultaneously, elements of the 26th Marines were inserted by helicopter into three different landing zones and formed the south and southwest portions of the cordon.

The reminder of the first day of the operation was spent in tightening the noose around the Da Hoa An area. Heavy sniper fire was received at various points and mortars, tanks and both Marine and Vietnamese planes were called in to silence the suspected enemy positions.

Several concrete bunkers were destroyed along the eastern edge of the cordon by 1st Marine Division tanks operating in support of the infantrymen.

The second day of the operation was marked by the insertion of elements from the 26th Marines into the southern portion of the cordoned area. Their mission was to smash suspected enemy strong-points, and then join forces with the rest of the cordon to push the enemy north toward Route 4 and other Marine units.



COMMUNICATING — A radio-telephone operator from the 173rd Airborne Brigade gets a "commo" check with his elements before going out on an early morning patrol. (USA PHOTO)

Mail THE OBSERVER Home

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

From:

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TO:

4th Troops Pound NVA On Chu Pa

FIRST IN VIETNAM **OBSERVER**

Vol. 7, No. 43

Saigon, Vietnam

February 28, 1969



SCRATCH ONE — A 9th Infantry Division soldier of the 2nd Battalion, 60th Infantry, watches as an enemy bunker is destroyed by grenades in a recent operation in the Mekong Delta. (USA PHOTO By: SP5 John Strachan)

While On Harbor Patrol

MPs Kill 10 VC In Qui Nhon

QUI NHON (USA) — Ten Viet Cong were killed recently in a battle with waterborne military policemen on the shores of Qui Nhon harbor.

River Patrol Boats (PBRs) from the 458th Transportation Company, 18th MP Brigade, their crews augmented by MPs from the 127th MP Company, 93rd MP Battalion, tangled with an enemy group of unknown size in the swamp surrounding the harbor.

"We were patrolling the harbor near the shore," said Specialist 4 Wayne Staples, "and a spotter plane was overhead." The aircraft spotted movement near the bank and radioed the position to the boats.

A Canh Sat (National Policeman) said that the movement was caused by VC. The MPs told them to come out and surrender. "The VC ran," continued Specialist Staples. "We

opened up on them with small arms. We had three boats and one of them was getting shot at, so we turned the .50 caliber machine guns on them and the incoming fire stopped."

The boats pulled out for several air strikes and artillery barrages. Then the boats moved back in and the MPs swept the area. They found food, ammunition, a .45 caliber U.S. pistol, and communist propaganda leaflets.

After the battle, elements of the Port Security Team of the

5th Transportation Command, including the local MP unit, searched the area. They found the 10 VC bodies within a 200-meter radius of where the attack occurred. The sweep also disclosed that 20 other enemy bunkers had been heavily damaged.

First Lieutenant Larry Bryan, officer in charge of the PBR detachment in Qui Nhon, said that in addition to 10 VC being killed, 13 sampans, 10 bunkers, 10 sleeping areas and a kitchen were destroyed.

Charger 'Prohibitionists' Raid Merry VC Party

CHU LAI (USA) — "Chargers" of the 196th Infantry Brigade are conducting midnight raids in the prohibition era style of Eliot Ness.

Operating on a night search and clear mission, recently, 32 miles northwest of Tam Ky, a platoon of Company A, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry, encountered a lone VC, who was apparently on sentry duty.

He was subdued without a struggle, but he began yelling loudly, obviously trying to alert

someone about the presence of the Americal unit.

After securing the VC, First Lieutenant Eddie Zuleger led his platoon down a trail for about 500 meters. Then to their front the troopers detected loud laughing and talking.

The lieutenant split his platoon into two elements, forming a half-circle around the hamlet, and advanced through the shadows in the direction of the uproar.

The platoon leader and his

Fliers Zap 38 Enemy

TAN SON NHUT (USA) — In an immediate strike recently, Air Force F-100 Supersabre pilots and F-4 Phantom crews joined Marine A-4 pilots in striking an enemy position 13 miles south of Da Nang. They were credited with killing 38 enemy soldiers.

The Supersabre pilots were from the 37th Tactical Fighter Wing (TFW) at Phu Cat and the Phantom crews from the 366th TFW at Da Nang.

men entered the hamlet where they found more than 30 VC having a boisterous party. At this point the VC noticed the party crashers and scattered in an attempt to escape.

In the melee that followed, one VC was killed and a second wounded. A total of 14 VC were captured.

In typical "Roaring Twenties" fashion, 30 gallons of rice wine was discovered. Nobody knew if it had been made in a bathtub, but everyone was sure it was the

OASIS (USA) — Battling down the side of rugged Chu Pa mountain 14 miles northeast of Plei Djereng, the 4th Division's 3rd Brigade has accounted for 83 NVA and VC killed in action.

Bearing the brunt of the battle during the six-day sweep, Company B, 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry, commanded by Captain Garret Cowser, accounted for 58 of the total enemy killed.

The difficult sweep operation began after a five-hour air and artillery strike. Fifty-two tons of artillery and 29 tons of Air Force ordnance crashed into the side of Mount Chu Pa.

"The mountain has been the base area of the 24th NVA Regiment," said Colonel Richard L. Gruenther, 3rd Brigade commander, "and they have been fighting since Jan. 3 to defend it."

Elements of the 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry, and the 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry, occupied the 4,800-foot peak of Chu Pa while a screening force was set up from south to west to north at the base of the mountain.

(Continued on Back Page)

9th Applies Tight Grip

DONG TAM (USA) — Mobile Riverine Force infantrymen of the 9th Division killed 472 Viet Cong in the first month of the New Year, more than had been killed by the 2nd Brigade troops in any single month since February 1968 when 601 enemy died during the Tet outbreak.

Operating solely in Kien Hoa Province, Colonel R. C. Rainville's River Raiders used a well-established intelligence net to continually harass enemy units.

The brigade's maneuver battalions were supported by the 162nd Assault Helicopter company; Troop D, 3rd Squadron, 5th Cavalry; the 3rd Battalion, 34th Artillery; and 7th Air Force aircraft.

As in past months, in Kien Hoa, the VC stayed on the defensive, operating in small units in hopes of avoiding 2nd Brigade troops who used air, land and waterborne assaults to cut off enemy infiltration.

"My battalions have been able to cover the critical areas so effectively that the enemy's movement and plans have been disrupted over and over again," said Colonel Rainville, who assumed command of the Brigade Jan. 19.

He said his men were going to keep the pressure on so that every district in the province would feel the brigade's presence.

main source of the VC's short-lived merriment.

"We definitely ruined what was obviously a wild time," said Lieutenant Zuleger.

The "Chargers" have been untouchable so far since they've been enforcing their own prohibition act. The enemy is going dry in the 196th Area of Operations and its a good bet the VC and NVA will "speak easy" from now on when they have a party while this Americal Division unit is near.

Editorial

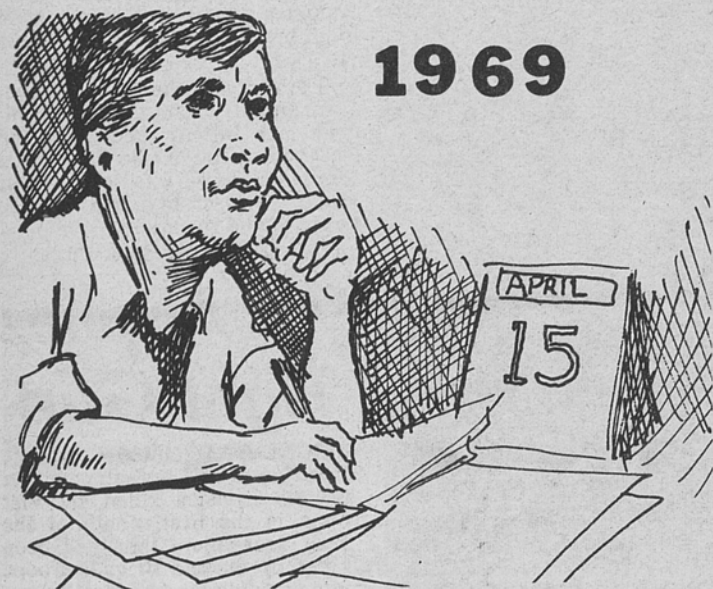
It's Tax Time

Refund or payment, that is the question concerning most citizens as the deadline draws near for filing our 1968 income tax returns.

Whether you will be among those receiving a refund or having to make up the difference between what was taken out of your pay and what is due Uncle Sam, the result is inevitable—even though you have 180 days after you leave Vietnam to file your return, the sooner you get it in the mail the sooner you can quit worrying about it.

And, it stands to reason that the sooner you receive the money, in the case of those receiving refunds, the greater amount of time you will have for it to draw interest. Therefore, it can mean a few more dollars in your child's educational fund, the family Christmas fund or that retirement nest egg that you have been building up over the years.

In any event, the moment of truth has arrived—it's time to get busy and compile those figures and compute those exemptions and deductions. And, although we have a highly complex tax system, the government



1969

has made every attempt to make it as simple as possible.

When you compute your tax, or have someone else do it for you, remember this—the government does not want you to pay more than your fair share of taxes. So if you are in doubt about a deduction, consult your legal officer or a tax expert, don't simply ignore it with the idea that "they wouldn't accept it anyway." If you are legally entitled to a deduction, no matter how insignificant, the government wants you to take it.

On the other hand, don't try to "slink" the government out of their just due. The Internal Revenue Service takes a dim view of anyone trying to pull a fast one, and will take vigorous action against those individuals who attempt to shirk their responsibility. It isn't fair to try and shift your part of the country's tax burden to the conscientious taxpayer.

Your annual federal income tax is one of the responsibilities that comes with the rights of citizenship. All it takes for you to meet this responsibility is to be honest and accurate when you file your 1968 income tax. (AFPS)



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Just In Case
You Have
Not Heard

★ ★ ★

Direct Army
Commission
Available

WASHINGTON (ANF) — Qualified warrant officers and enlisted personnel in grades E5 through E9 can apply for direct appointment as commissioned officers in the infantry.

Due to the continuing requirement for qualified company grade infantry officers, the Army is encouraging personnel who meet the qualifications to apply for commissions.

Details for applying are contained in AR 135-100 and DA Circular 601-24. Applicants must have completed at least six months honorable active duty as a warrant officer or enlisted man in grades E5-E9 in any component of the Armed Forces.

Completion of the Army pre-commission extension course is not required but is desirable for personnel without wartime service. Applicants must not have reached their 28th birthday at date of appointment. Waiver of maximum age limitations can be considered in certain cases.

New Medal
Authorized

WASHINGTON (CD) — In one of his last acts in office, President Johnson signed an Executive Order Jan. 16 authorizing a new medal for those who have distinguished themselves by outstanding meritorious achievements or service.

Designated as the Meritorious Service Medal (MSM), it would rank between the Legion of Merit and the Service Commendation Medal, as a non-combat award.

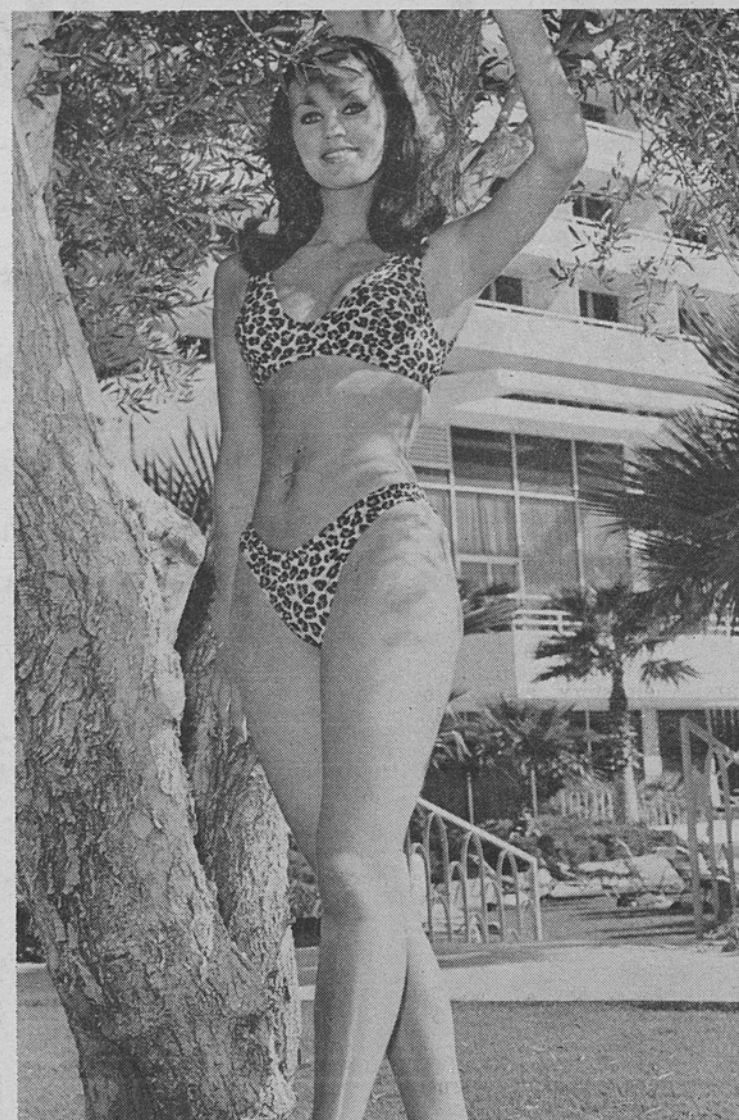
A White House statement said the need for the MSM has become apparent within the military services in the past few years. Before its adoption, only the Legion of Merit was available to those members of the services credited with meritorious achievement or outstanding service.

Center Is
Redesignated

WASHINGTON (ANF) — The U.S. Army Artillery and Missile Center, headquartered at Fort Sill since 1957, became the U.S. Army Field Artillery Center (USAFAC) last month.

In the same Department of the Army order, effective at the same time, Fort Sill's U.S. Army Artillery and Missile School became the U.S. Army Field Artillery School (USAFAS).

The new designations stem from the separation of the artillery branch into field artillery and air defense artillery branches. The Air Defense Center is at Fort Bliss, Tex.



HOI CHANH—If Miss Margaret Laverdy popped out of the bushes or trees and yelled "Chieu Hoi," I am sure you would give her courteous and not Prisoner of War treatment; treat her with respect; segregate her from the PWs; and even deliver her safely to your unit intelligence officer for prompt debriefing. I am also certain that you would give her a receipt listing and describing all the weapons she'd bring in—if you have an expansive vocabulary. Sorry gentlemen, I can't help you with your receipt. Propriety prevents me from going into detail about our swinging showgirl's arsenal. (PHOTO COURTESY OF LAS VEGAS NEWS BUREAU)



Does a Buddhist go to heaven when he dies? Well, that depends on one's definition of heaven. Just as the Judeo-Christian individual strives for a state of eternal bliss, which he calls "heaven," so too does the Buddhist strive for a state of eternal happiness which he calls "Nirvana."

Shortly after Buddha was enlightened, he gave a sermon in which he explained the method by which the individual could reach the state of Nirvana. Buddha called this method the "Middle Way." Basically, he called for a life of moderation. According to Buddha, to exist is to be unhappy simply because man is basically selfish. However, man can obtain happiness by destroying his selfish desires, and by following the "Eightfold Path." This requires right views, right speech, and right living. Buddha also gave a list of five prohibitions, which are very

similar to the Ten Commandments of the Old Testament: Do not kill, steal, be unchaste, lie, or drink alcohol. By following the Eightfold Path and by not violating the five prohibitions, the Buddhist is on the road to Nirvana.

Almost everyone realizes that the idea of reincarnation fits into the beliefs of the Buddhist. Accordingly, the wheel is a very old and significant Buddhist symbol, representing the unending cycle of birth, life, and death. The Buddhist strives to escape this cycle by entering the state of Nirvana. To do so, he must live a life of self-denial and good deeds, as mentioned earlier.

Buddha did not teach his followers to worship any deity or any objects. Today, however, Buddhists place statues of their Founder in their homes and pagodas. But Buddha is not their god. He is their example, their guiding light their hope that they too may one day achieve Nirvana. (Next Week: Buddhism In Vietnam)

"No man can be fully free while his neighbor is not. To go forward at all is to go forward together."

RICHARD M. NIXON
President of the United States

LRPs Stand Off Enemy

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Recently, a long-range patrol (LRP) team of Company E, 52nd Infantry, supporting the 1st Air Cavalry Division, made contact with an enemy force that outnumbered it by a ratio of approximately 20 to one northwest of Phuoc Vinh. For more than two hours, the men were pinned down by enemy fire. As a result of their action, two of the LRPs were awarded Silver Stars and the other three received Bronze Stars with "V" Device. The Silver Star winners are Staff Sergeant Ronald J. Bitticks and Sergeant Howard Fatzinger III. The two men were also promoted to their present ranks. Staff Sergeant Guy McConnell, Sergeants Edward Moline and John Geiger won the Bronze Stars. Their story, as told by Sergeant Bitticks, is found below.)

PHUOC VINH (USA) — We were inserted by a Huey shortly after dawn and began to move through the thick bamboo. Our mission was to locate enemy elements believed to be operating in the area. We hadn't been on the ground too long when Sergeant Geiger, our medic, spotted some commo wire running along the ground. I called in and reported it and received instructions to check out the area.

Although the terrain was flat, it had very thick underbrush which caused movement to be slow. We spotted a trail which was so well-used it was difficult to determine how many people had used it recently and in which direction they were travelling.

While I was examining the trail, Sergeant Moline, the front scout, spotted two enemy soldiers wearing light-colored uniforms and carrying AK-47s moving down the trail approximately 50 feet away. They were approaching rapidly and afforded us no opportunity to set up an ambush.

I jumped out onto the trail 10 to 15 feet from the NVA. It was evident by the surprised expressions on their faces that they didn't believe what they saw. For a few seconds, they just stared; then they went for their weapons. I opened up with my M-16, killing one. The other escaped into the bamboo.

By then, Sergeant McConnell, my radio telephone operator, had established communication with our base camp. We received word to continue our mission. I considered it to be unsafe to follow the escaped NVA, fearing he might have brought reinforcements. We headed in a different direction.

Three hours later, we had moved only 300 meters from the contact area. We were forced to move slowly through the thick growth to keep noise at a minimum. The trail on our right flank made a sharp, L-shaped bend. We spotted a group of enemy soldiers coming around the bend.

We counted 18 in one group and, after a short pause, 24 more. I thought the line would never end.

We called for a gunship. When it arrived, we tried to signal the pilot with a mirror without giving our position away.

The enemy became suspicious when the gunship approached our position. Three of them slowly moved toward our position. Realizing that they would soon spot us, we opened up when they were within 20 feet of us, killing all three.

Having given our position away, we began to receive a heavy volume of fire from three sides. We popped smoke to keep our position marked for the gunship as he sprayed the area with

rockets and minigun fire. If it hadn't have been for the gunship we would never have gotten out alive.

At one point, a machine gun opened up on us from 25 feet away. It cut a path between us as it raked our position. We engaged the enemy with grenades and rifle fire. It was difficult to throw grenades because of the thick growth, but the machine gun was silenced.

Later in the afternoon, another gunship and a scout team arrived. The team was trying to locate a pickup zone (PZ) in which to extract us. They finally located one. It was 50 meters on the other side of the enemy. The gunship made a run, cutting a trail for us with his rockets and miniguns.

Our PZ was only a small opening in the jungle—too small as we found out when the first attempt to extract us failed. The Huey broke its tail rotor while trying to descend into the PZ.

At 5:15, more than two hours after the initial contact began, we were extracted. The gunships hit the area again and an Air Force jet strike followed. The scout team counted 32 confirmed enemy killed from the air. The Air Force had killed 27.

Foe Takes Raincheck

AN HOA (USMC) — When communist forces buried ammunition along a riverbank near here they forgot to make allowances for the shifting water. The oversight cost them 192 82mm mortar rounds, 13,000 rounds of AK-47 rifle ammunition, nine B-40 rocket rounds and two Bangalore torpedoes.

Working on the theory that the enemy may have hid too many eggs in one basket, two companies from the 1st Battalion deployed the next day to search the riverbank. The Marines probed the area with a metal rod for additional supplies.

The day's sweep up and down the bank proved to be successful for the Leathernecks and put a dent in the communists' ammunition supply.

Chemists Bring Charlie To Tears

CAMP ENARI (USA) — The role they play is an inconspicuous one, but the effectiveness and quantity of the support the famous 4th Division Chemical Section gives to Ivy units is essential.

The chemical section's vast assortment of equipment enables them to maintain a high degree of flexibility in mission capabilities.

One of the section's many jobs is in the use of tear agent to drive the enemy from bunker complexes.

The involved nature of their mission is complicated by the necessity of insuring that tear agents are used only in areas free of civilian personnel.

Once an area has been cleared, the real task begins. Lieutenant Colonel John W. Gillespie, division chemical officer, explained it this way:

"The variables involved in this type of mission necessitates accurate coordination and detailed planning before and during the drop."

The wind speed, direction, time of day, terrain features, altitude and speed of the CH-47 Chinook which carry the tear agent cannisters are a few of the variables.

The cannisters themselves contain 264 self-propelled modules which explode from the cannisters at any desired altitude.

When the Chinook has left the ground, the initiators which determine detonation altitude are set and the safety pin retaining wires are cut.

The chemical team stacks the



AFTERNOON STROLL—Ninth Division handler and Labrador Retriever negotiate a canal in the watery Mekong Delta. They are part of a tracker team assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 39th Infantry for a recent operation.

(PHOTO BY: SP4 Larry Sandage)

cannisters on the open loading door and on signal, the men shove the 50 pound cannisters out of the chopper with a prearranged interval between each one.

Each module contains about half the tear agent of an anti-riot grenade. If a mission calls for 40 to 50 cannisters, the jungle gives the illusion of being covered with snow. Thousands of square meters of jungle terrain are saturated with the tear

agent. "Minutes after each drop," stated First Lieutenant Gary S. Botsford, "a heavy concentration of artillery and air ordnance is dumped on the drop area."

In a recent mission, the Chemical Section dropped tear agent on a known enemy stronghold and bunker complex. The result following the artillery and air strike was a confirmed 200 enemy killed.

Coordination Stuns VC

DAU TIENG (USA) — In a coordinated barrage of artillery and gunship fire coupled with airstrikes, 13 enemy were killed after they tried to shoot down a 25th Infantry Division hunter-killer team.

The enemy force was spotted from a light observation helicopter (LOH) of Delta Troop, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry in the Michelin Rubber Plantation 50 miles northwest of Saigon.

The small helicopter and an accompanying Cobra gunship engaged the group, believed to be VC, with rockets and miniguns.

The enemy responded with heavy groundfire from a .51-caliber anti-aircraft machine gun and other weapons. The "Centaur" team called for help from artillery and airstrikes.

Guns from Charlie Battery, 2nd Battalion, 77th Artillery at Fire Support Base Mahone and Alpha Battery, 1st Battalion,

27th Artillery in Dau Tieng base camp opened up on the enemy as Captain Jon Swift arrived overhead in an OV-10 Bronco spotter plane.

Captain Swift got the gunships to mark the location of the VC, then marked the spot with his own rockets to enable two strikes and several strafing runs by F-100 Supersabres to find the enemy who were in an X-shaped trenchline complex.

"It was incredible," said the captain. "They must have been inexperienced troops because many of them stayed above ground during the strafing runs. They seemed to be confused."

Five of the enemy ran into a bunker which took a direct bomb hit.

"It was a classic example of artillery and airpower coordination," said the captain. "As the jets and choppers lifted away, the artillery filled in immediately. The enemy never had a chance to move."

SILVER STAR
Hyland, Thomas W. CPT USA
Ruth, Charles W. LTC USA
BRONZE STAR MEDAL
WITH "V" DEVICE

Baldwin, Ted L. CPT USA *1
Boyette, John W., Sr., SFC USA
Crandall, Charles D. CPT USA
Duncan, Billy R. SSG USA
Hines, Sidney S. Jr. SSG USA
Huddleston, Russell M. SFC USA
Luisetti, Stephen M. 1LT USA
McFarren, Freddy E. CPT USA
Moore, James H. SSG USA
Reynolds, William A. SSG USA *1

Warren, Edward L. SSG USA
Young Ronald R. SFC USA
ARMY COMMENDATION
MEDAL WITH "V"
DEVICE

Allen, Lacy H. Jr. SSG USA
Allton, Wayne D. CPT USA *1
Bevel, Jackie L. SFC USA *1
Butterworth, Robert F. SSG USA *1
Cook, Michael E. SP4 USA *1
Cooper, Eddie SFC USA
Edwards, John R. Jr. 1LT USA
Lamothe, Richard P. SSG USA *2
Lazenby, Gerald A. CPT USA
McCullers, Joseph A. SP4 USA
Mendonca, Jose M. Jr. SGT USA *1
Pilcher, Michael P. 1LT USA *1
Rusnak, Terrance J. CPT USA
Saville, Larry G. SGT USA
Selecky, John R. CPT USA
Siler, Kenneth K. CPT USA
Stark, Henry L. SP7 USA
Tracey, Richard R. SGT USA
White, James A. SP4 USA

District People Make Progress

QUAN LOI (USA) — Dusty red earth and regiments of tall, slender rubber trees along the hills form a picturesque backdrop for An Loc District in Binh Long Province.

In late October, 1968, the 3rd Brigade led the 1st Air Cavalry Division's move south to take over the Quan Loi Post within the district.

At the center of the district is the province capital, An Loc, with a population of about 13,000. Originally it was called Hon Quan. The old railroad station which sits idle on a small side street, still bears the former name.

Late

The hamlet of Tan Loi lies about two and a half miles over a once paved, now bumpy, road to the east. Here, raw latex from thousands of rubber trees belonging to the French Terres Rouges (Red Earth) Plantation, is converted to concentrated liquid latex or bales of sheet rubber. The plantation has been the economic foundation of the area for nearly a half-century, and more than 2,000 Vietnamese employees are furnished housing in the hamlet itself.

A mile to the east, atop a plateau and circled by moatlike gullies, is the Quan Loi Post, renamed LZ Andy by the 1st Air Cavalry Division. It was once the refuge and domain of the French plantation executives and their servants. Its nine-hole golf course has given way to an all-weather airfield. The spacious swimming pool, with gardens, lies in back of the pounding of an artillery battery.

Ralliers Pay Off

DIAN (USA)—One VC suspect led to the next in a chain reaction recently as 1st Infantry Division and Vietnamese soldiers dealt a telling blow to the communist infrastructure in the Thu Duc area, northwest of Saigon.

During a three day period, four enemy were killed and six suspects were detained, among them several men believed to be high ranking officials in the Thu Duc VC organization.

The action began when an element of the 2nd Battalion, 28th Infantry engaged the enemy about a mile south of Di An. A platoon of the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry operating nearby was called in and quickly set up a cordon around the area.

A 2nd brigade PSYOPs helicopter flew overhead playing Chieu Hoi broadcasts. Three enemy who chose to fight were killed and their rifles and an RPG launcher were captured. One man rallied and provided information about the enemy activities in the nearby village of Dong Hoa.

The rallier led members of the district forces to a tunnel complex where three suspects were detained and two rifles and a pistol were taken. In domino-like action the next day, one of the detainees led the way to another tunnel where Allied soldiers picked up two AK-47 rifles. On the third day, the same detainees led the way to another tunnel where one Viet Cong was killed and his AK-47 rifle confiscated.

An Loc District was developed in the 1920's by French who cleared the jungles and imported rubber trees in order to take advantage of the expanding trade markets of the period. Since there were only scattered Stieng tribespeople (part of the Montagnard tribal group) living in the vicinity, the French hired many workers from what is now North Vietnam.

World War II

World War II interrupted French efforts to continue development of the rubber plantations, but Viet Minh violence brought European forces back shortly after the war. Then in 1957, administrative control was turned over to the South Vietnamese, and Binh Long Province was made a district territorial unit. Currently, the Saigon government appoints the district chief while 37 of the 42 hamlet chiefs are elected.

Viet Cong insurgents, beginning in 1964, disrupted the few peaceful years of the past decade. In 1966, the 1st Infantry Division arrived to help counter the guerrilla tactics.

Enemy Hampered

Generally, this part of the country has been less a specific target for North Vietnamese attack than an avenue of approach to the Saigon area. The need to halt this movement brought the 1st Cavalry here last fall. Enemy activity is now hampered by ARVN, Regional and Popular Forces units as well as the 1st Cavalry.

The hostilities, falling market prices in rubber, export taxes, and growing production costs, have all hurt the district's economy. Also, constant heavy use of National Route 13 Highway by tracked vehicles and convoys has caused considerable deterioration of this once fine main road. But, there is little poverty in the province, for the people and several pacification civic action programs are striding towards improving living and economic conditions.

AMERICAN RED CROSS WORKERS SERVE MEMBERS OF THE U.S. ARMED FORCES

IN SOUTH VIETNAM AND WORLDWIDE

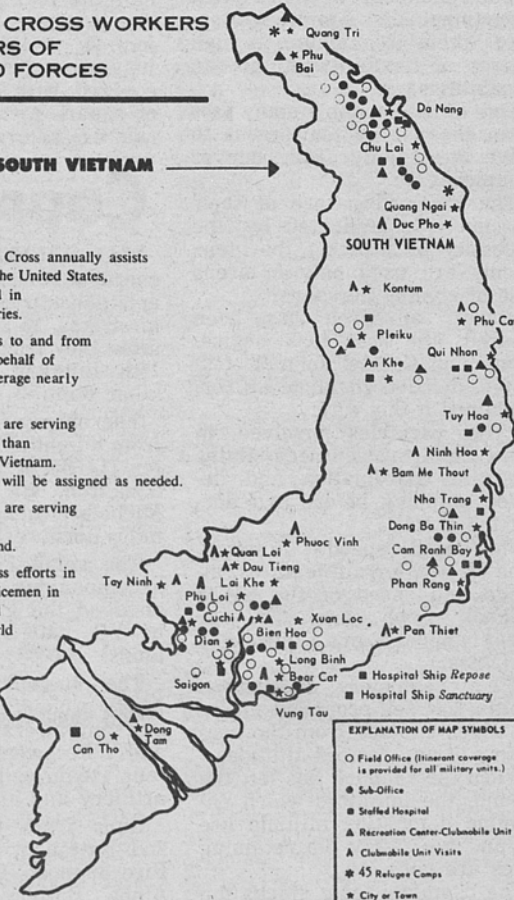
The American Red Cross annually assists 1 of 3 U.S. servicemen in the United States, South Vietnam, and in 30 other foreign countries.

Red Cross messages to and from South Vietnam in behalf of U.S. servicemen average nearly 1,100 a day.

370 Red Cross workers are serving U.S. troops at more than 60 locations in South Vietnam. Additional workers will be assigned as needed.

26 Red Cross workers are serving U.S. troops at 9 locations in Thailand.

American Red Cross efforts in behalf of U.S. servicemen in South Vietnam and throughout the world are supported by volunteer and career workers in chapters.



HELPING HAND—A Vietnamese family gets a helping hand from soldiers of the 3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry during a recent 9th Infantry Division operation south of Ben Tre in the Delta. (USA PHOTO)

Problem Dam Shapes Up Twice

HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS (USA) — When Sergeant Daniel Keller of the 4th Infantry Division's 2nd Brigade civil affairs team, paid a visit to the village of Desomai he was looking for problems.

"I met with the chief and asked him if he had any difficulties in his village," the civil affairs sergeant said.

"The chief pointed to the village water point and said that the water was bad."

Sergeant Keller and the chief walked down the hill to the fast running stream and immediately saw the problem.

Dam Needed

"A short distance from the drinking point, animals belonging to the village were drinking the water and using the surrounding grassy areas for pasture land," he said. "A dam was

needed."

Sergeant Keller went back to Highlander Heights to get the needed supplies for the dam which would enable the people of Desomai to have a ready supply of clean water.

Early the next morning, the civil affairs jeep arrived laden with lumber, barbed wire and a chain saw.

"I had never built a dam before and neither had the Montagnards so it was a learning experience for all," the Sergeant said.

After all the supplies were transported to the work site, the children dug a new channel for the stream while the men placed the heavy square timbers on the muddy bottom.

It was late afternoon before the four foot high dam was braced and packed with mud, and, at a given signal, the stream was swung into its original channel.

"It looked really good but we

still had to put up the wire and construct the spillway," the S-5 sergeant said. "I told the chief I would be back the next day to complete the work."

Sergeant Keller returned the next day but to his dismay he found the water well below the dam.

Start Again

"The water had eroded the bottom beneath the timbers so we had to start all over again."

"By taking some of the cement planned for the spillway," Sergeant Keller continued, "and pouring it into forms set in back of the dam we stopped the erosion problem."

As the first drops of the cool, clean water came through the pipes, the Desomai villagers broke into smiles of self-achievement for they had built this dam too.

Wire was laid around the stream and the animals were driven down below the dam so contamination would not take place again.

Indoor Market Vastly Aids Business Climate

DA NANG (USMC) — "It may not be a modern supermarket, but it's a step in the right direction," said Staff Sergeant Clarence W. Kelly, top NCO of Company C, 1st Military Police Battalion, Marine Force Logistic Command.

He was describing his unit's newest civic action project — a fully enclosed marketplace for An Thuong Village near Da Nang. The new market, with its screened-in sides, metal roof and concrete floor, will give villagers an all-weather market with vastly improved sanitary conditions.

Taking Shape

The indoor market is rapidly taking shape under the skillful hands of local village workmen who use building materials donated by the Marines.

Soon the people of An Thuong will no longer have to squat in the dust or get drenched by the rains as they sell fish, rice, meat and garden vegetables. Disease bearing flies will be

screened out when the new facility is complete.

"The village itself is quite self-sustaining," said Sergeant Kelly. "Many of the Vietnamese people work in the city or at nearby U.S. and Vietnamese military bases, while others operate their own shops."

Clothing made by the village sewing shops, statues carved out of marble from nearby quarries and locally made household goods are also sold in stalls surrounding the market.

Healthier Conditions

"The people can buy and produce many items because they have money for basic materials," Sergeant Kelly added. "With the new market, they will have a place to conduct their business under healthier conditions."

"These people are industrious workers," concluded Sergeant Kelly. "If we can get them the materials, they are more than eager to improve their living conditions."

Marine Recon Blasts NVA

By Lance Corporal Bob Partain

QUANG TRI (USMC) — The eyes of the slim, 20-year-old Marine scanned the hillside as the Huey helicopter gunship carrying his reconnaissance team slipped down toward the valley below.

For Corporal Sandy R. Reid, the most decorated man in the 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, this was his 23rd recon patrol.

"Let's go!" ordered Corporal Reid even before the helicopter had actually touched the ground.

Five Marines and one Navy hospital corpsman were out of the Huey and running through the tall elephant grass before the pilot had time to turn around to check on his passengers.

Other gunships that had escorted the reconnaissance Marines to the jungle valley just south of the Demilitarized Zone made a few wide, sweeping circles to make sure the team wasn't receiving enemy fire and then whirled out of sight.

The team was on its own. After establishing radio communication with a relay station, Corporal Reid, who earned a Purple Heart at Khe Sanh, led his patrol to an area that would provide the Marines a better hiding place.

The team moved into a thick jungle undergrowth.

First Sign

They stood in a 360 degree circle watching and listening, when Private First Class Ruben Zapata, the team's point man, spotted the first sign of enemy activity in their RZ (recon zone).

The smell of smoke from a small fire was blowing from within the jungle.

"We can't afford to check out the smoke down here...we've got to find out what's above us, first," Corporal Reid told his assistant patrol leader, Lance Corporal James W. Consaul, as he called in a situation report.

They silently worked their way up the steep mountain, pushing aside the bushes and trees and then carefully replacing them so as not to leave a trail behind for the enemy to follow.

The team reached the top of the mountain and stopped for a rest when cigarette smoke and Vietnamese voices caused the recon Marines to freeze with their rifles at the ready. Three North Vietnamese soldiers were moving down a small trail not more than 25 yards away.

Wanting to reconnoiter the area further, Corporal Reid, who has also earned the Silver Star and Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, let the unsuspecting enemy pass, rather than ambush them.

The Marines watched the three enemy soldiers with their weapons trained on them until the soldiers were out of sight.

The next day passed slowly for the Marines as they searched for enemy trails and looked for more signs of enemy activity.

While on watch the third night, Private First Class Johnny L. Hood, received a report from the team's radio relay point that a large enemy force was moving toward the team's position.

After receiving the report from Private First Class Hood, Corporal Reid woke up Lance Corporal Consaul. The two sat under a poncho liner and studied their map with a tiny penlight.

"If they continue their line of approach, they should go through the valley below," Corporal Reid told Lance Corporal Consaul, as they scrutinized the map.

"And if they go where the trails indicate, we might get some artillery practice tomorrow," added Lance Corporal Consaul as he flicked off the light.

The next day the Marines sat hidden in the thick jungle and watched the valley below for signs of the enemy. There were none.

After a day of seeing nothing, the Marines debated about moving to a different location. "They might have stopped and hidden for the day," Lance Corporal Glen E. Patterson ventured, as he looked down into the thick jungle. The Marines decided to spend one more day watching the valley before moving to a new location.

They were awakened the next morning by Hospitalman Duane C. Stinke, who handed each waking Marine his daily malaria pill.

They ate their "long rats" (dehydrated rations) for breakfast and then resumed their observation of the valley below.

Silence Broken

Sounds from the valley broke the long silence that dominated their vigil. The sounds of saws cutting bamboo and other sounds of construction soon told the Marines that the enemy had moved into the valley below to build a base camp.

But Corporal Reid and his men had other ideas.

Corporal Reid plotted the enemy position, made a report of the NVA activity below and requested an artillery mission.

Within minutes, 105mm artillery rounds from a fire support base assigned to provide support for Corporal Reid's team, found their mark in the valley below. The hillside echoed with the sounds of exploding artillery shells.

Corporal Reid knew from experience that if anyone were alive after that artillery barrage, they would soon be looking for them. All he wanted to do was move out of the recon zone.

He had accomplished his mission.

He radioed and asked when the team would be taken out. He was told that the team was scheduled for helicopter pick-up the next morning.

The Marines found a good place to stay and decided to remain there until morning, when they would move to their pre-designated pick-up zone.

Ready to Move

Corporal Reid's team, winner of the Navy Commendation medal for its outstanding record, was ready to move out at first light.

They carefully made their way down the mountain and then hid in the bushes to wait for the sounds of approaching helicopters, but they heard nothing except the sound of a steady downpour of rain. By mid-afternoon, the recon team had its doubts about being extracted that day.

But then suddenly the rain stopped, and shortly afterward the sound of approaching helicopters grew louder.

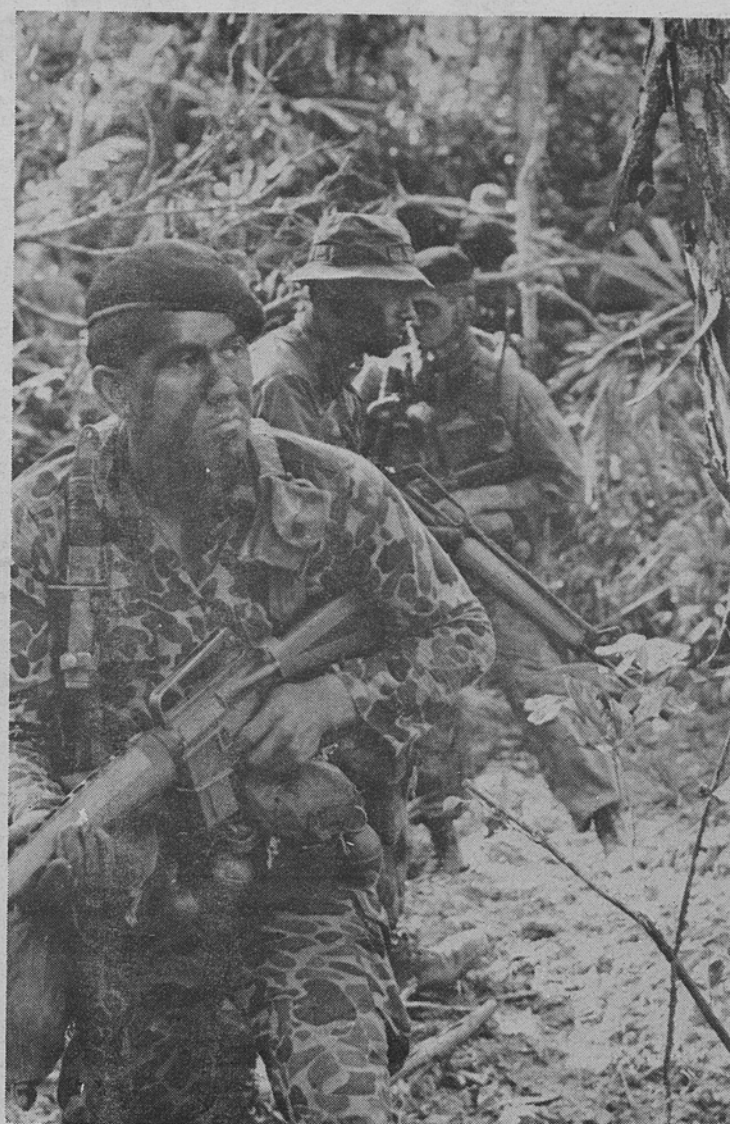
Lance Corporal Patterson switched his radio frequency to the pilot's and confirmed the Marines' hopes that the 'copters were heading toward them.

The recon team waited until the pilots had seen them and then ran for the landing zone just as a CH-46 transport helicopter settled down to pick them up.

The Marines scrambled aboard and the helicopter headed home.

For Corporal Reid it was another successful mission — his 23rd. "A routine mission," said Corporal Reid, as he listened to the drone of the helicopter engines taking him back to the base camp.

He hoped that his 24th would be just as routine.



Recon team's point man leads the way through dense jungle.

Beachcombers Strike!

By Major Willis J. Haas, Jr.

QUANG TRI (USA) — Traditionally beachcombers have been a rather lazy bunch, content to roam up and down the coastlines of the world, looking for valuable or unusual flotsam carried in on the tides.

But today, on the northernmost beaches of the Republic of Vietnam, the men of the 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 61st Infantry are beachcombing for another, more deadly purpose. They are seeking out and tracking down the remnants of a Viet Cong battalion — one that for years has made the beaches and sand dune areas of Quang Tri Province its stamping grounds.

By day the heavily-armed personnel carriers and attached tanks of the 1st Battalion, 77th Armor sweep the sandy stretches, searching for hidden bunkers, spider holes and tunnels that the enemy has built where there is seemingly no place to hide. On line, the infantrymen probe the sand with long poles, waiting for the poles to suddenly sink into a hole that doesn't appear to be there, or feeling the "clunk" that tells them something is buried beneath the surface. At the same time, the tanks and personnel carriers flatten the many small hillocks in the area that frequently hide bunkers, arms or food caches.

At night, the same infantrymen and tankers quietly slip out of their fire bases and fan out over the sandy wastes to set up ambush sites along known trails. The harassed enemy cannot rest. By day he lies in his hole, dreading the roar of the approaching armor. At night he slips out of his hiding place in search of food or drink, and as many times as not, he hears the deadly crack of a bullet that is seeking him. Sometimes he never hears the crack. The American seems to be everywhere.

Not long ago the Viet Cong and their North Vietnamese bos-

ses were able to roam this area freely. Consisting of not only barren beaches and sand dunes, but also deep streams and canals, seemingly endless miles of rice paddies, and hundreds of tiny hamlets where they could easily find abundant food and shelter, the black-clad guerrillas were secure from all but powerful attacks from mechanized, infantry and airborne forces. And then, likely as not, he could slip away in the night. The frustrated French soldiers who fought here unsuccessfully in the Indochina war of 1950-1954, called the area the "Street Without Joy."

Today his large, main-force units have been destroyed, his shelter is gone. The people of the area, who once were friendly, no longer give him food or a place to rest. They are more likely to tell the American where he is hiding. His leaders are disappearing in numbers, with frightening regularity.

Last week he carefully buried his prized Chinese communist automatic rifle under a grave. Yesterday he watched the Americans, with their tanks and long poles, dig it up. This morning he found a Chieu Hoi pass. He read it with interest. Instead of throwing it away, he carefully folded it and put in his pocket. If his leaders found him with it, it would mean death. But his leaders are no longer around. Maybe tomorrow he'll read it again.

The beachcombing units of the 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized) are finding what they are looking for. In a 10-day period their ambushes claimed two Viet Cong lives, including a platoon leader. They have captured 17, including a captain and several high ranking political cadre. And they have deprived the enemy of 13 weapons. The beaches of Quang Tri Province are no longer the place for the Viet Cong and his counterparts from the north to have fun in the sun.



A tank-infantry team conducts sweep operations along the beaches of Quang Tri Province.

ARVN 3rd Cav's 'Iron Horses' Shatter Enemy's Dreams



With its turret gunner directing blazing machine gun fire, a tank from the ARVN 3rd Armored Cavalry moves off Highway 14 and into the jungle, flushing out ambushes.



An ARVN Cav officer directs his tanks moving along highway during a road sweep.



A truck convoy heads toward Kontum along a road cleared by 3rd Cav troops.

PLEIKU (USA) — The 25 miles of road winding between Pleiku and Kontum is a tortuous highlands route. Highway 14 is the type of place that could easily become a graveyard of men and equipment. In places it is an ambusher's dream.

That dream has become an enemy's nightmare, however, with the daily sweeps on the road by a crack armor unit, the Army of the Republic of Vietnam's (ARVN) 3rd Armored Cavalry Squadron.

Highway 14 is one of the critical roads in South Vietnam — a route that must remain open to military convoys and civilian traffic if the war effort is to progress and the area's civilian economy remain viable.

The road clearing begins early every morning. The tanks and armored personnel carriers of the 3rd Cavalry "rev up" their engines, pull into formation and start to sweep north from their base camp near Pleiku. The unit is joined by American and ARVN minesweeping teams and three companies of infantry.

Shortly thereafter, the first military convoys can roll from Pleiku. The road has been swept clear of mines, ambushers flushed out and firepower of armored vehicles positioned strategically along the road.

"The motto of my squadron is 'Quick, Effective and Thorough', said Lieutenant Colonel Nguyen Duc Dung, commander of the 3rd Cavalry. "I intend to see that my men are always ready to live up to it."

On a typical operation, the sighting of an enemy unit along Highway 14 will be followed by a platoon of M-41 tanks swinging into line and attacking. Machine guns lay out a withering field of fire and 76-millimeter guns hammer at automatic weapons positions.

The pace of a passing convoy quickens as artillery rounds, called in by the squadron commander, begin to fall on the enemy. When the artillery stops, the tanks push into the jungle to

search for remaining enemy soldiers.

Road security is the daytime mission of the 3rd Cavalry. At night the squadron stands ready at Pleiku as a reaction force protecting ARVN II Corps headquarters.

During 1968, the enemy tested the 3rd Cavalry on about 20 occasions, including three battalion-size ambushes. The enemy toll: 926 killed, 313 known enemy captured, 320 suspects detained and more than 290 weapons seized. The Cavalry's losses were 17 killed and 74 wounded. Equipment losses were negligible.

The Vietnamese cavalrymen earned 4 Silver Stars, 18 Bronze Stars and more than 180 Vietnamese Gallantry Crosses during 1968. A recommendation has been submitted for a Presidential Unit Citation.

The 3rd Cavalry is an elite and proud unit. It keeps its soldiers and families together at the Pleiku camp, and brings new men into the unit with its own tailored basic and advanced training programs. Originally organized with four troops, the squadron recently sent one troop to the newly-activated 14th Armored Cavalry Squadron.

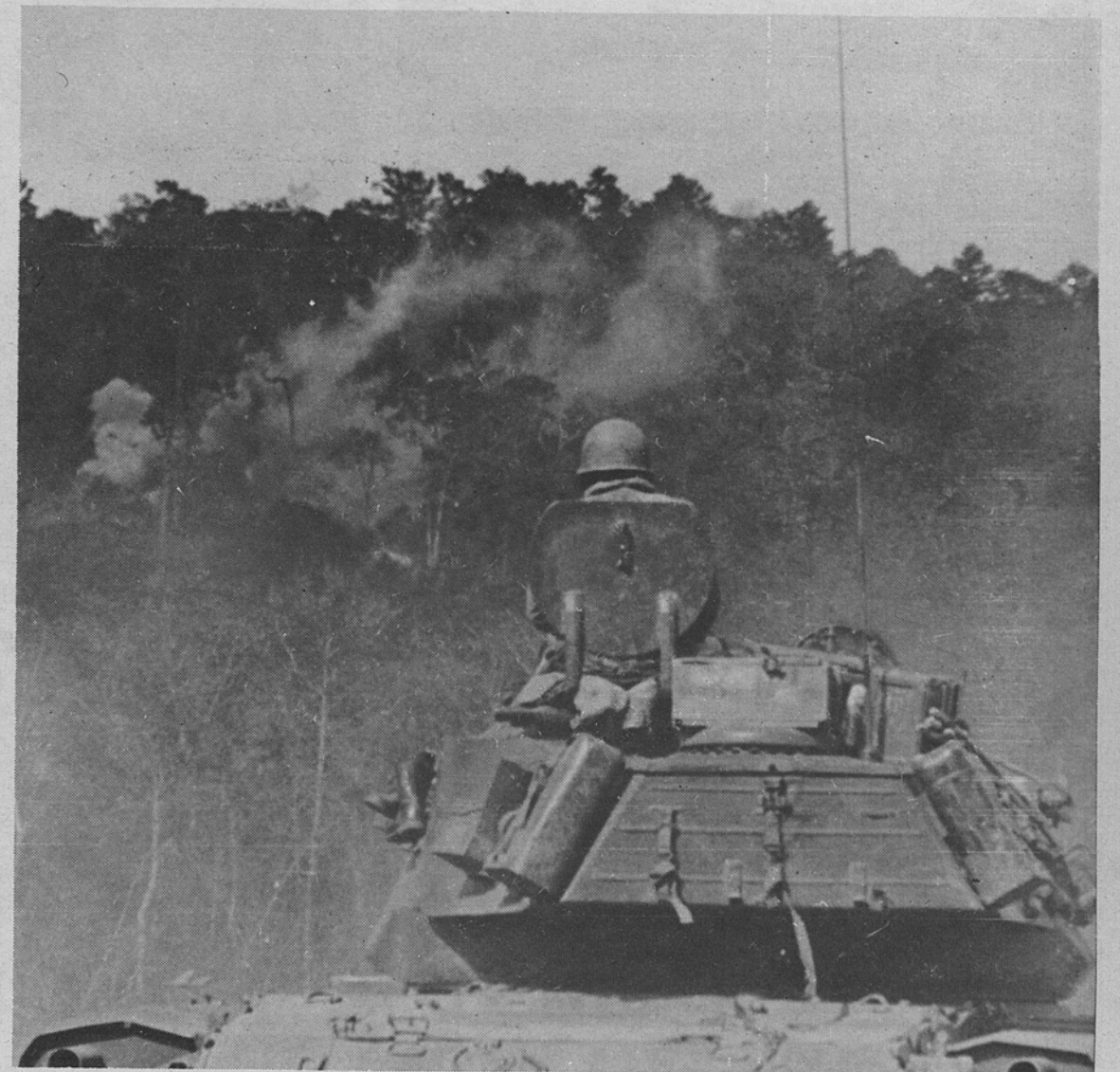
Two of the remaining troops are used daily on the road security operations. One troop is equipped with M-41 tanks and the other with M-113 armored personnel carriers. The third troop, formerly equipped with M-8 armored cars, has been re-equipped with 113s. The outfit returned to the ARVN Armor School at Thu Duc to be issued the new equipment and to conduct basic and advanced training. The troop rejoined the Cavalry in January.

At its Pleiku base camp, the squadron houses more than 300 dependents, and is planning more housing. More than 200 attend the squadron school, which is staffed mostly by 3rd Cavalry troopers. The unit has its own dispensary, doctor and commissary.

Story & Photos By I Field Force



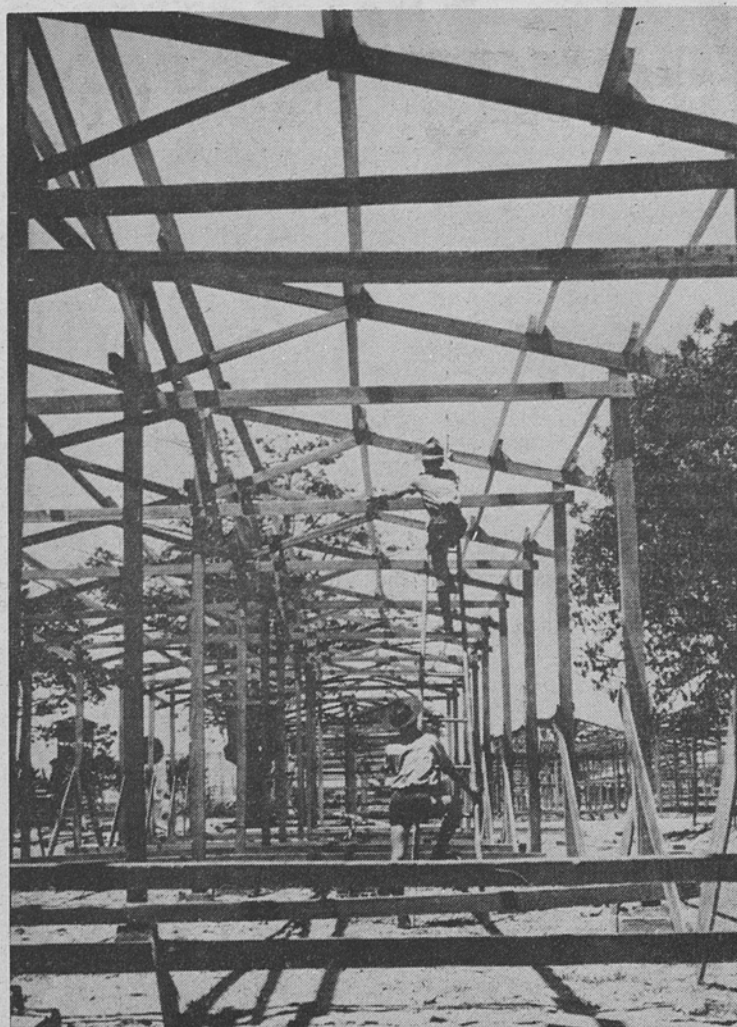
Officers study a map before moving north of Pleiku.



A tank commander directs 76-millimeter gun fire onto an enemy weapons position.



Troopers take a breather after road clearing operation between Pleiku and Kontum.



The Rovers build homes for war disaster victims.



Outdoor skills of Senior Girl Guides enable them to help operate refugee camps.

Vietnam's Scouts Answer Call To Serve Country

SAIGON (MACV) — What does a war-ridden country do with 17,000 restless youngsters keen to demonstrate — demonstrate their skills, leadership and loyalty to their country? The answer is Scouting. And Vietnam's scouts are demonstrating their worth through the Boy and Girl Scouts movements.

The Boy Scout movement was started in Vietnam in 1926 by missionaries interested in educating children and adolescents through the widely acclaimed scouting methods. Ten years later other scout units were organized in Central and South Vietnam and by 1943 the Vietnamese Boy Scout movement boasted a membership of 30,000 boys and a few Girl Scouts.

However, beginning in 1945, war and revolutions halted scouting activities in Vietnam until the early 1950s when they were reactivated and formally recognized by the government. By 1957 the Boy Scouts Association of Vietnam (BSAV) joined the World Boy Scout Bureau. That same year Vietnam's first Girl Scout society, the Girl Guides of Vietnam (GGV), was formed in Saigon. Presently 15,000 boys

and 2,000 girls are active in scouting throughout Central and South Vietnam and in major cities such as Saigon, Hue, Da-Lat, Pleiku, Da Nang and Tay Ninh.

Scouting in Vietnam is based and organized on the traditions and principles established by Lord Baden Powell. Though similar to the Boy and Girl Scouts of America, Vietnamese scouting resembles the British and French Scout movements more closely.

The BSAV has three branches: Cub Packs, ages from 7 to 12; the Boy Scouts Units, ages from 11 to 17; and The Rovers, with scouts from 17 to 25. The GGV branches are: The Young Birds, ages from 8 to 11; The Girl Guides, ages from 12-16; and The Senior Girl Guides, from 17 years and above.

Training and activities of scouting concentrate on education and social development. Education includes the permanent activities of the troops such as meetings, camping, hiking, leadership, and specialist training through a Badge/Merit system. Social activities concentrate on the good turns scouts

can perform each day and, more important, on service projects which can help Vietnam's war effort.

Since the communist threat the Vietnam scouting programs have encountered some difficulties. Camping areas are scarce or unsafe, constant security is needed for outings and hikes outside city limits, and the war has reduced the number of trained men available as leaders for Boy Scouts and The Rovers. Often Senior Girl Guides fill leader positions for the young Cub Packs and Boy Scouts Units.

Most unique about Vietnamese scouts are the adult roles they must assume because of prevailing war conditions. Girl and boy scouts work as teachers, nurses, construction builders, managers, and even as fathers and mothers. It is not uncommon to see scouts working in flood, fire and bombed areas giving rescue and relief, staffing and managing summer camps, building and operating refugee homes and camps, conducting fund drives to help disaster victims, and instituting public hygiene programs for needy hamlets and villages.

Story and Photographs By Major G. A. Olson



Training for Vietnam Scouts aims at morale, physical fitness and truth.



Girl Scouts operate a Saigon Day Nursery.

Air Force Doctors "Joining" Army

LONG BINH (USA) — Working with Vietnamese doctors, a surgeon removes an appendix from a Montagnard youth. A doctor puts a splint on an injured soldier's leg before he is evacuated from his forward position. In a period of a few hours more than 100 patients with tuberculosis are treated.

These are recurring situations in Vietnam. Army doctors are constantly at work throughout the country. But a new face has appeared in the Army's medical program. Throughout the Republic of Vietnam, Air Force doctors with their distinctive blue and white name tags are playing an important role on the Army's medical team.

From September to December, 1968, fifty Air Force doctors joined the ranks of the U.S. Army, Vietnam (USARV). These men now find themselves working in hospitals and forward areas stretching from the Mekong Delta to the DMZ.

Berry Plan

The doctors are part of the Defense Department's Berry Plan, which enables them to elect the year they prefer to come on active duty. Under the plan, a doctor has the option of entering after internship or after the first year of residency or at the completion of a residency. Each service estimates its future needs and grants deferments accordingly.

Last year the Air Force discovered it had a surplus of doctors and offered their services to the Army. Fifth Air Force doc-

tors arrived in country and are now serving with USARV, even though they hold Air Force commissions. These men fall into two groups; twenty-five are assigned to the 44th Medical Brigade, the others are with combat Divisions in the field. After six months they may request reassignment to the 44th Brigade.

Rapport

At first the airmen were apprehensive about "joining" the Army, but these feelings were quickly dispelled. Captain Lewis Parker, presently assigned to the 45th Surgical Hospital in Tay Ninh, said "Everyone in the Army has been extremely pleasant to work with. The rapport is outstanding and extremely gratifying."

Captain John Gaebler, Battalion Surgeon for the 7th Battalion, 11th Artillery, Tay Ninh, expressed the feelings of the men. "In my present assignment I have an opportunity to treat cases I would never come in contact with in the Air Force." As Battalion Surgeon, Dr. Gaebler is responsible for conducting sick calls, immunizations, sanitary inspections, and for the general health of the entire battalion. "Perhaps the most enjoyable thing about working with the Army is the sense of accomplishment you get by being able to get involved with the men, not just as statistics, but as individuals."

Another doctor, Captain Amo Funderbunk, the 25th Division's Aviation Medical Officer, is responsible for the overall health

of the aviation personnel in the command. He enjoys a spirit of mutual respect which "demonstrates a high level of inter-service cooperation between Army and Air Force."

Involvement

These men enjoy a feeling of involvement afforded them by assignment with USARV. Through the efforts of Captain Hyman Miller, commanding officer of the 185th Medical Detachment at Phu Loi, six Army doctors are working with a Philippine medical team at the Phu Cuong hospital.

Every day Dr. Miller and his team travel to the hospital to make rounds in the various

wards and treatment rooms. The doctors confer with the Vietnamese nurses, analyze problems, and recommend appropriate action.

Nurses

A large part of the team's time is devoted to training the young and inexperienced nurses. Many of the practices in the hospital are considered backward by American standards, and the doctors are teaching the nurses new methods of treatment that they will be able to employ after the Americans leave.

One of the team's most difficult jobs is impressing upon the patient's family the need for proper care of their relatives af-

ter the patient leaves the hospital.

Most Air Force doctors enjoy their assignment with USARV. As the first six months of their tour ends, USARV has received requests from some of them to remain with their present units.

And what do the Army doctors say about their fellow physicians in "Air Force Blue?" Brigadier General Neel Spurgeon, USARV Surgeon, said, "By accepting hardships not usually encountered by Air Force doctors, they are demonstrating a caliber of professionalism which is a credit to all doctors, to the Air Force and the United States Army. We are glad to have them with us."



MOVING TO SAFETY—A Leatherneck of the 26th Marine Regiment carries a small child to a collection area where the child and its mother will be helilifted to a temporary location center, away from the fighting as the Regiment sweeps through the Batangan Peninsula to uproot and destroy the VC political underground. (USMC PHOTO)

Famous Viet Artist Portrays Universal Themes On Canvas

CAMP ENARI (USA) — Five years ago President John F. Kennedy wrote an especially warm letter congratulating a South Vietnamese soldier whose paintings had been judged best among entries submitted by artists from 32 different countries. To the winner of the Kennedy

International Honor Prize for 1963, Sergeant Vu Hoi, President Kennedy wrote in part, "You have shown yourself to be friendly, talented, and well informed, which has helped increase the bonds of friendship and understanding between Vietnam and the United States."

Today Mr. Vu Hoi is a celebrated South Vietnamese artist who through his paintings is markedly intent upon further strengthening those ties of friendship and understanding between the two allied nations. Born in Tam Ky Quang Tin Province, Vu Hoi studied art and photography in Saigon at Gia Dinh School. A veteran of 14 years in the South Vietnamese Army, Mr. Vu Hoi was discharged in 1967.

Since then, his paintings — rural Vietnamese landscapes, portraits, and abstracts — have enjoyed great popularity not only in South Vietnam and the United States, but also in Korea, Japan, France, England and Italy. His famous portrait of the late President Kennedy still graces the walls of the White House, an honor which the artist considers to be one of the high points in his career.

Presently, however, Mr. Vu Hoi is at work on a special collection of paintings which will depict the humanitarianism of American soldiers in South Vietnam.

"Militarily," said Vu Hoi, "the United States has been extremely successful in combating communist aggression and ter-

rorism. Yet I am not primarily interested in portraying the success of their military operations. "I wish with all my heart and with what creative ability I possess, to depict what we Vietnamese so greatly appreciate — the compassion, humanity and friendliness of the dedicated American soldiers."

"Moreover, when I complete my collection I plan to exhibit it in all fifty of the United States. This is my goal: I want the parents, wives and children of American soldiers to know how much the Vietnamese value American friendship and sacrifice. It is this gratitude that I hope my art will convey."

Among the fifty paintings recently exhibited at Camp Enari was one which Vu Hoi originally intended for his projected collection. It depicts a 4th Division soldier on a MEDCAP mission, tending a Vietnamese child cradled in its mother's arms.

"This painting is titled 'A Study of American Humanity.' Its theme is characteristic of my future collection. You will note the enthusiastic concern for mankind in the face of the young American soldier, the welcome relief in the face of the soothed child, and the deep and genuine gratitude reflected in the face of the Vietnamese mother."

Formerly the director of the International Art and Television Association of Vietnam, Vu Hoi now works for Pacific Architects and Engineers and maintains studios in Saigon and Pleiku.

Appeals Answered

DAK TO (USA) — The children of Tan Canh village were crowded into a school constructed of bamboo, thatched straw, and scraps of lumber, now they have a new school.

The new school was constructed by the 15th Engineer Company (Light Equipment) of the 299th Engineer Battalion (Combat). It is the largest of its kind in the Dak To area, measuring 96 feet long and 29 feet wide, with eight classrooms, each measuring 24 by 12 feet. Capable of holding 300 children, the building is paneled inside, screened on all sides, and has a covered porch running the length of the building. Materials used in its construction were supplied by the villagers and were obtained from a local sawmill.

Construction of the school came about as the result of an appeal to the engineers by Father Qui, pastor of the parish of Tan Canh. The large number of children and the poor condition of the building prompted the need for a new school.

In dedication ceremonies held recently Captain Stephen Shepherd, commanding officer of the 15th, commented, "Being equipment operators, the men had little experience in this kind of work, but considering the end product, one would believe they were carpenters by trade."

In an address to those present at the ceremony, the District Bishop from Kontum, who celebrated the dedication Mass and

blessed the school, stressed the importance of the school opening up new opportunities to the children of the area.

Major John H. Sullivan, executive officer of the 299th Battalion, added, "The children are the real hope of a peaceful and better Vietnam for tomorrow. We feel this is the best means for us to help while we are here."

The school is named in memory of Saint Nguyen Quang Tuan, an ancestor of Father Qui, who was martyred in 1861 at the command of a Buddhist king when he refused to give up his faith.

Soldier's Job Varied

NHA TRANG (USA) — He is an author, teacher, interpreter and soldier. His American friends call him Johnny. His real name is Pham Tan Lac. Johnny, a sergeant first class in the Vietnamese Army, is an interpreter attached to the Regional Forces/Popular Forces Division of CORDS in Nha Trang.

An accomplished linguist, Johnny has written six texts and handbooks on the study of English, French, and Vietnamese. The last of those, titled "Conversations in Vietnamese Made Easy," he wrote especially for the American soldier.

Johnny attended Jean-Jacques Rousseau High School in Saigon and studied at the University of Paris from 1959 to 1961. He returned to Vietnam as a high school teacher first in Saigon then Cholon and later in Phan Thiet. He holds English proficiency certificates from England's Cambridge University and the Vietnamese-American Association in Saigon. He also speaks French, German, Canto-

nese and several Montagnard dialects.

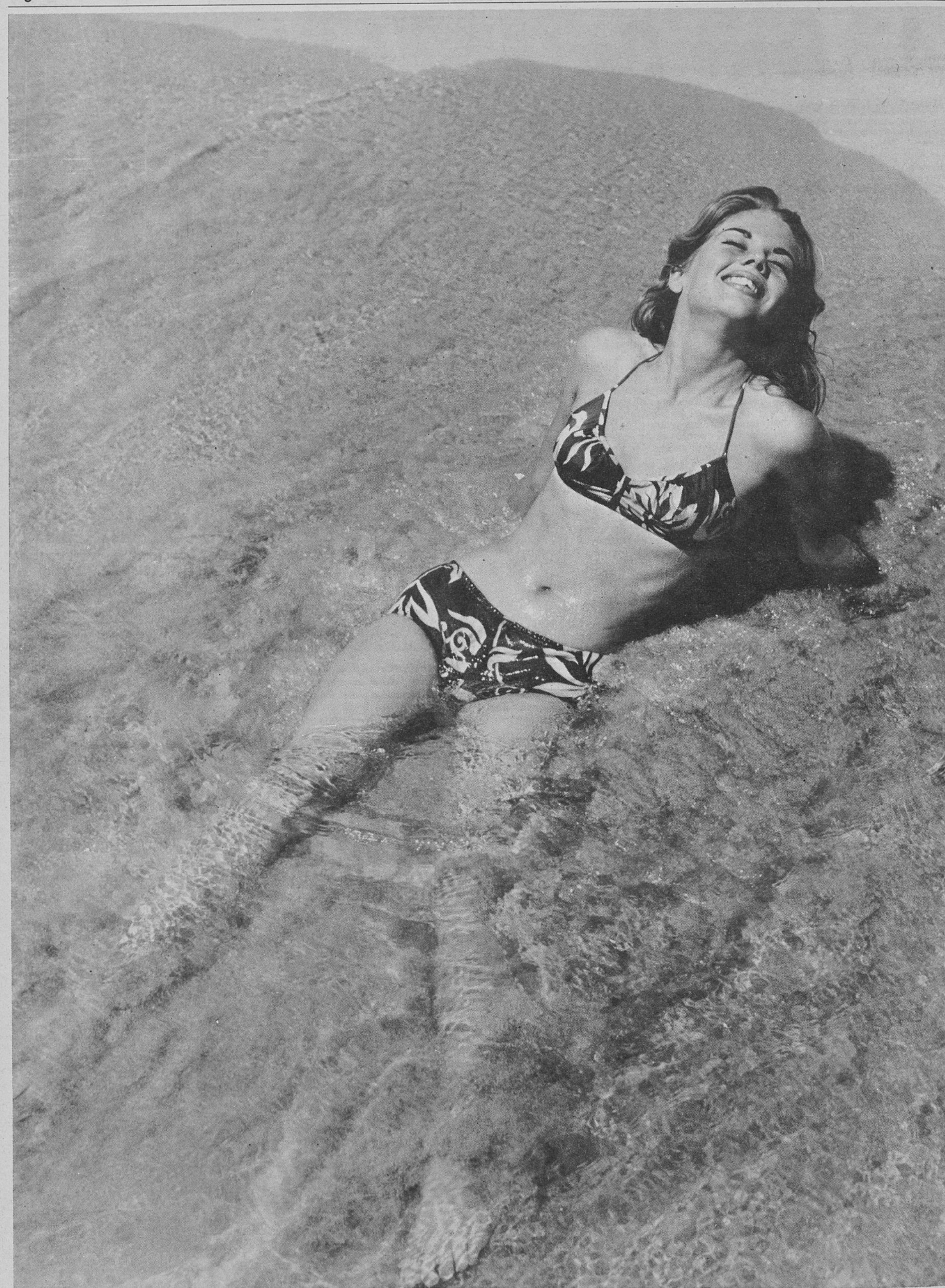
Four nights a week, Johnny teaches Vietnamese to U.S. airmen at Nha Trang Air Base.

When he joined the Army in 1966, languages continued to be Johnny's business as he was sent to the Infantry Career Course for Interpreter Translators at the Armed Forces Language School in Saigon. Since then, he has had successive assignments throughout Vietnam with both American and Vietnamese units. He has served with the 25th Infantry Division, 504th Military Police Battalion, 52nd Combat Support Battalion, and 52nd Security Detachment before his current assignment in Nha Trang.

In many of these assignments, Johnny's facility in several languages allowed him to gather intelligence unavailable to anyone else. Serving his units not only as a translator, he doubled as soldier and detainee interrogator.

"I want to become a teacher once more," he said. "But I will go where my country needs me."

MARCH IS
RED CROSS
MONTH
help us help



BUNKER BUNNY OF THE WEEK—says, "You might not believe this, but just a minute ago I was driving my jeep down the street when a reckless driver forced me off the road. I was thrown out of my vehicle, but, luckily, I landed here on the beach and I wasn't injured. I don't like drivers tail-gating. It makes me uncomfortable and could be bad for my figure. Be a safe driver. Start your trip in time to drive at a safe speed, observing the laws and rules of the road. An impatient man in the driver's seat sometimes makes for a short ride." (PHOTO COURTESY OF PETER GOWLAND)

ON TOUR BY SP5 MACCLAIN

IT'S NOT THAT AK47'S ARE ALL BAD... IT'S JUST THAT SO MANY AREN'T VERY GOOD!



American Forces Vietnam Network - Channel 11

(Programs Subject To Change Without Notice)
(Guide For Week Of February 28—March 6, 1969)

FRIDAY, Feb. 28

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 Monkees
1800 Perry Mason
1900 Bewitched
1930 Evening News
2000 Weather
2026 Hollywood Palace
2100 Combat
2200 Late News
2210 Rowan and Martin
2300 Feature Movie

SATURDAY, March 1

1230 Turn On
1313 What's Happening
1315 Sign On News
1330 CBS Golf Classic
1430 History Of U.S. Navy
1500 Melody Ranch
1600 Rowan and Martin
1700 Greatest Show On Earth
1800 Nashville Vietnam
1830 Wrestling From Buffalo
1925 Weather
1930 Evening News
2000 Jackie Gleason
2030 Let's Speak Vietnamese (Advanced)
2100 Hula Bowl
Halftime News

SUNDAY, March 2

1130 Turn On
1213 What's Happening
1215 Religious Hour
1315 Early News
1330 RB Kraft Music Hall
1430 Perry Mason
1530 Walt Disney
1630 Information Feature
1730 21st Century
1800 Window On Vietnam
Davis Cup
1830 Jerry Lewis Show
1930 Evening News
2000 Bob Hope Special
2030 Let's Speak Vietnamese (Advanced)
2100 NFL Pro-Bowl
Halftime News

MONDAY, March 3

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

TUESDAY, March 4

1630 Combat (Re-Run)
1730 Survival
1800 Jonathan Winters
1900 Andy Griffith
1930 Evening News
2000 Weather
2026 Bonanza
2100 Mission Impossible
2200 Late News
2210 Joey Bishop

WEDNESDAY, March 5

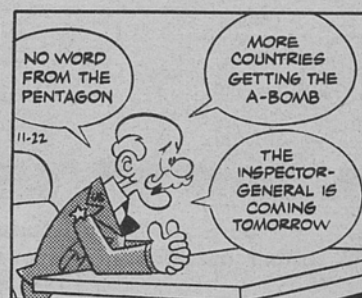
1330 Turn On
1413 What's Happening
1415 Sign On News
1430 Bonanza (Re-Run)
1530 Mission Impossible (Re-Run)
1730 Big Picture
1800 Big Valley
1830 Let's Speak Vietnamese #5 (Re-Run)
1900 Beverly Hillsbillies
1930 Evening News
2000 Weather
2026 Dean Martin
2100 Star Trek
2200 Late News
2210 Feature Movie

THURSDAY, March 6

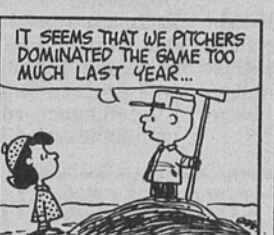
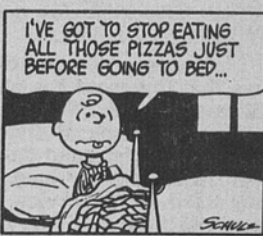
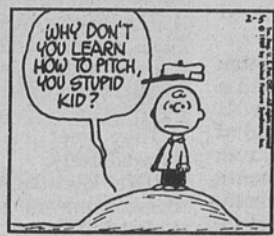
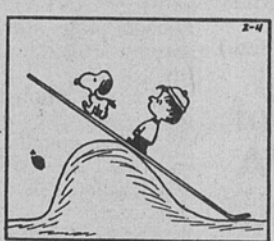
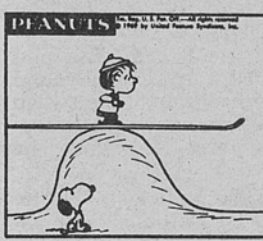
1330 Turn On
1413 What's Happening
1415 Sign On News
1430 Football
1700 Red Skelton Hour
1800 Auto Racing
1830 Wide Wide World
1900 Wide Wide World
1930 Evening News
2000 Weather
2026 Operation: Entertainment
2100 Gunsmoke
2200 Late News
2210 Feature Movie

1330 Turn On
1413 What's Happening
1415 Sign On News
1430 Football
1730 My Favorite Martian
1800 Carol Burnett Show
1830 Let's Speak Vietnamese #5 (Re-Run)
1900 General Ben
1930 Evening News
2000 Weather
2026 Kraft Music Hall
2100 Wild Wild West
2200 Late News
2210 Feature Movie

Beetle Bailey



Peanuts



Questions On Taxes Answered

(Editor's Note: This is the fourth article of an Army News Feature series in which the Internal Revenue service answers some of the most frequently asked questions on federal income tax matters.)

WASHINGTON (ANF) — Question: Are life insurance benefits taxable?

Answer from the Internal Revenue Service: Death benefits from life, accident and health policies are not considered taxable income. However, if the benefits are paid in regular installments instead of in one lump sum, then a portion of the payments may be taxable as interest.

Q: I mailed a check to a charity in December, but it was not cashed until this January. Does this mean I can't deduct it on my 1968 return?

A: You may take the deduction in the year you wrote and mailed the check. This means that a check dated by you in December 1968 can be deducted on your 1968 return.

Editor's Note: In the third article of this series, the question was raised regarding a profit made on the sale of a personal residence. The tax on any gain from such a sale is postponed providing you purchase and occupy another home within a year at a price equal to or greater than the "adjusted" sales price of your old home. In addition, this one-year period can be extended up to four years from the date of the sale of the house for members of the Armed Forces on extended active duty. Further information can be obtained from your Internal Revenue Service director or military legal assistance officer.

(Next: How to get a tax refund.)

Someone's Goof Trouble For VA

SAIGON (MACV) — Erroneous notices, recently published by some units, have caused false hope for many GI life insurance holders.

The erroneous information says that Congress has passed a bill entitling all World War II veterans to a special dividend of 50 cents per thousand dollars on their insurance for each month they were in the service, whether or not they still carry the insurance.

A check with the Veterans Administration coordinator for Southeast Asia has shown this information to be false. All those thinking of applying have been asked not to do so.



PRESSURE—A track of Company A, 1st Battalion, 50th Infantry (Mechanized), fires through the smoke of their M-60 and .50 caliber machine guns at suspected enemy positions along Highway 19, 15 miles west of An Khe. (USA PHOTO By: 1LT John Emmert)

5-Day Sweep Scores Big

ARVN Troops In 'Binh Tay 49'

HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS (USA) — In the wake of one of their most successful Highland sweeps ever, ARVN soldiers pushed deeper into Communist-infested mountains southwest of here, recently, killing 120 enemy and destroying base camps and logistical routes.

It was early January when ARVN Rangers and infantrymen from the 24th Special Tactical Zone (STZ), with 4th Division artillery and helicopter support, first stormed the enemy sanctuaries west of Plei Mrong, a Civilian Irregular Defense Group camp.

In 17 days of engagements with the Communists, the ARVN killed 231 North Vietnamese Army (NVA) regulars and seized huge stores of weapons, ammunition, food and medical supplies.

The operation was called Binh Tay 48-Sledgehammer.

At its conclusion the ARVN moved back, brought in fresh troops and re-entered the enemy domain.

The 22nd and 23rd Ranger battalions joined the 2nd Battalion, 42nd Infantry, in a westward push across the heavily overgrown mountains and valleys about 15 miles southwest of Kontum.

They met resistance almost immediately.

"We knew the enemy had a base camp in the area," said Colonel Nguyen Ba Lien, who commands the 24th STZ. "The Reds have been using the corridor west of Plei Mrong to infiltrate the Highlands. Our move was to close that corridor."

Intelligence reports led Allied commanders to believe the NVA

were using the area as a main base, having built and stocked it with supplies flowing down the Plei Trap Valley leading out of Cambodia.

The Plei Trap was sealed more than three months ago, however, by a concerted effort of 4th Division units and air power, practically isolating the NVA west of Plei Mrong.

"But they were still operational and capable of inflicting

4th ...

(Continued From Page 1)

The sweep began from the summit to the north and west through the triple canopy teak and mahogany forest covering the steep slopes of Chu Pa.

Sporadic small arms fire and scattered NVA equipment found during the first day of the sweep provided evidence of a battalion-size NVA force defending the area.

Also on the first day, Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry, found 24 shallow graves containing 24 NVA killed by Division forces approximately one week before.

Sporadic action continued during the second and third days of the sweep. Gouging their way through the forest, the elements of the two battalions found numerous bunkers and foxholes with evidence of recent use.

Bitter fighting marked the fourth day of the sweep as Company B, 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry, encountered an NVA ambush late in the afternoon.

During the darkness after the ambush, the 105mm howitzers of Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 9th Artillery, poured 534 rounds into the side of the mountain in support of the embattled Company B. Air strikes and an AC-47 "Spooky" also were used. When the smoke cleared, 43 NVA had been added to the Bravo Company tally.

The fifth day, the speculation about an arms cache proved correct. Companies A and B of the 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry, uncovered two separate finds.

Included in the caches were two 122mm rockets, 23,500 AK-47 rounds, 11,100 rounds of SKS ammo, 23 75mm recoilless rifle rounds, 1,535 rounds of 12.7 ammo, seven B-40 rockets, 40 rifle grenades, 20 mines, 60 pounds of explosives and a box of blasting caps.

Throughout the fifth and sixth days of the sweep, Company B continued to call in artillery and mortar strikes on the NVA.

serious damage to cities and allied installations in the Highlands," said Colonel Lien. "So we laid plans to eliminate the threat.

"When we initially moved into the area it became evident that the enemy was in there in force and that he was protecting something," the colonel continued. "The terrain is rugged and the undergrowth very thick. He did not have to stick and fight. He could have avoided us. So we destroyed him and his supplies.

"From the amount and type of equipment we seized in Binh Tay 48 and from the information we received from a Hoi Chanh (rallier to the government) we knew that there was much more of the same in the area, Colonel Lien added.

And that's why Binh Tay 49 was launched.

The five-day second sweep in the Binh Tay series ended with 120 NVA killed, confirmed by American advisors, plus more than 200 estimated enemy dead.

101st Spring Ambush, Net 9 VC

CAMP EAGLE (USA)

— Nine moonlighting Viet Cong were killed and two sampans filled with supplies were destroyed recently when paratroopers from the 101st Airborne Division sprang a night ambush along the Bo River near Hue.

The recon platoon from Company E, 1st Battalion, 502nd Airborne Infantry, had moved into its prearranged night ambush site atop a small hill overlooking the river.

Twenty-five minutes later, Specialist 4 David Delucia, a squad leader, radioed Platoon Sergeant Jorge Otero. He reported loud voices coming from the opposite side of the bank, 50 meters up the river.

"I was using a starlight scope to locate the VC, but there was a bend in the river," Specialist Delucia recalled. "They must have been around it. I watched the bend for about 10 minutes and then I saw the first sampan come around and pull up on the opposite bank, just outside our kill zone.

"I would have sent a squad after the sampan, but I had a hunch there were more," said Lieutenant John Carlson, recon platoon leader. Several minutes later, another sampan docked next to the first.

"As soon as the second sampan docked, the place was covered with VC loading bags and boxes into them," said Specialist Delucia.

"We waited until they were in our kill zone. Then we opened up with a machine gun," Sergeant Otero said.

The next morning, the shattered boats lay on the opposite bank.

"We found nine bodies, but I think we got a few more, judging from the blood trails," said Lieutenant Carlson.



MOVING OUT — L. Cpl. T. J. Gledhill dashes from position to position, passing out ammunition during an enemy attack at Fire Support Base Rullell. He is a squad leader in the 1st Battalion 4th Marines.

(USMC PHOTO By: Cpl. J. G. McCullough)

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

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