

THE
GREEN
BERET

FEBRUARY 1970

COMMANDER'S CALL

Colonel Michael D. Healy

To live with dignity is the right of every human being on the face of the earth. The government of the people of the Republic of Vietnam nurtures that treasure of human dignity through the national pacification programs. Pacification can be defined as security, peace and prosperity. As such, it is the Viet Cong's worst enemy.

The US Army Special Forces record over the past eight years in this regard is one of which you can be justly proud. Beginning with the initial deployment of two energetic and imaginative Green Beret teams at Boun Enao and Plei Mrong, armed with a positive can do attitude, ingenuity and the will to accomplish any assigned mission, US Army Special Forces were in the vanguard of this noble cause of uplifting human dignity through pacification in Vietnam. Through these and other similar programs the Special Forces soldier has accomplished herculean tasks of improving the lot of literally hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese people, helping them to fight oppression as village defenders much the same as our nation did at the time of our beginning - with the Frontiersman, the "Green Mountain Boys", Rogers Rangers and Francis Marion the Swamp Fox.

The early Special Forces effort in Vietnam was also based on the experience and successes of the US Army in the Phillipines during the insurrection of 1898 when American soldiers assisted the people of that nation in their early efforts to achieve human

dignity for all; improving agriculture, housing, transportation and education. American men at arms put aside their rifles and taught children in country schools, worked in the fields and cemented a traditional alliance between the great Republic of the Phillipines and the U.S.A. that has lasted nearly a century.

Your working with the gallant Vietnamese Special Forces and with the Vietnamese people to improve agriculture, logging, fishing and even teaching modern skills to bring prosperity, insure stability and provide a sustaining base has been a major contribution to the pacification of Vietnam over the past 10 years. Your work with the refugees and the afflicted has been invaluable. It is long ago now, but some old Special Forces hands will surely remember the early Resettlement Program - the security screening missions performed by the Special Forces trained Mountain Scouts and Commandos, the Village Defenders of the Strategic Hamlets that were established to allow the people to continue to remain in their ancestral home areas throughout the countryside. The old Special Forces hands remember, they were there. They accomplished the assigned Special Forces' mission with a depth of human sensitivity that won the hearts of the people among whom they worked.

An indicator of your success in Vietnam is the close cooperation we have experienced throughout our work here. You have successfully lived among the people as no other military unit

has ever done. Unnumbered times, and many at the cost of their own lives, the people with whom we worked have provided the early warning of impending attack that allowed us to live. Together we carried the battle into jungle wilderness and the enemy sanctuaries, from the swamps to the mountains, together we have seen many of our brothers pay the supreme price striving to achieve the human dignity that is our goal.

We have come full cycle, from the early days to finally our present role in the Vietnamization of the war.

This is the time of testing our metal Green Beret Soldiers - when we must remain resolute in our quiet determination to obtain the much sought after security, peace and prosperity for Vietnam, through pacification. There ain't no glamor in it; in many ways it is a much more difficult task than those we have under-taken in the past.

Reminds me of something I read once in a book called the "Old Man and The Boy", written by the late Robert Ruark, it may have some merit about now - read it over once or twice and think: "There's always one way to separate the men from the boys", the old man said, "Watch and see if a feller'll do a thing the hard way, when all the other fellers are sitting around grumbling and quarrelling it can't be done."

Lets not be worrying about anything except getting on with our assigned Army mission. De Oppresso Liber.

THE GREEN BERET

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COVER: VNSF dedicates
memorial in seventh anniversary
ceremony. Photo by Stanfield

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VNSF Command Passes To BG Pham Van Phu

Story and Photo Courtesy VNSF-IO

Brigadier General Pham Van Phu, 42, has been named Commanding General of the Vietnamese Special Forces.

General Phu was born in 1928 in northern Vietnam. He is a graduate of the National Military Academy. After receiving his commission as a second lieutenant in 1953, he volunteered for airborne training. Later, he was wounded while serving with the 5th Airborne Battalion, the only Vietnamese unit at the historic battle of Dien Bien Phu. Cited for exceptional valor, he was promoted and given command of the first Vietnamese airborne unit.

Taking part in the operation to liberate Lai Chau, he was again wounded and promoted for outstanding battlefield performance. He later went on to command the 5th Airborne Battalion.

Wounded a second time near Dien Bien Phu, General Phu spent 18 months as a prisoner of war.

Upon his release, he was named Province Chief for Kien Phong Province. Later, he underwent training with the Special Military Operations Class and with the U.S. Army on Okinawa.

Brigadier General Phu has held such positions as Chief of Staff for the VNSF, executive officer for both the 1st and 2nd Infantry Divisions, and Commander of the 44th Special Tactical Zone. He has taken part in such recent battles as Gio Linh, Dong Ha, Khe Sanh, and was wounded again at Tay Ninh.

Cited repeatedly for heroism while under fire, General Phu holds over 40 medals, including the French Croix De Guerre and the U.S. Air Medal.

He was promoted to the rank of Brigadier General for exceptional combat performance by decree of the President of the Republic of Vietnam.



Brigadier General Pham Van Phu

Father, Son Team Up With Special Forces

Master Sergeant Donald De Vere, recon section leader at B-52, has mixed emotions about his son, David, being stationed with him in Vietnam. "I'm glad we're together, but I'm not so sure I'm glad that he's here," said the senior De Vere.

Twenty-one-year-old Warrant Officer David De Vere, though, is more than happy to be where he is. A recent graduate of flight school, young De Vere is doing what he set out to do; fly, work with Special Forces, and get together with his father as much as possible.

WO De Vere volunteered for duty in Vietnam; a requirement for all servicemen with immediate family members already serving in the war zone. His father has served twice on TDY in Vietnam, and is now serving his second full tour here.

As a gunship co-pilot, WO De Vere supports elements of B-52 on combat operations throughout Vietnam. This provides both men the opportunity to see each other often, both at work and play.

Tagged a "ski bum" by his father, WO De Vere is now proven to be an avid "sky bum". Aviation is De Vere's career field, and he intends to stay with it. As for the elder De Vere, of Kaysville, Utah, he lists several

positions in Special Forces outposts including CIDG Camp A Shau, Camp Bin Khe, and B-33, which have seasoned him well enough to pass on some valuable advice to his son. After all—that's what fathers are for.



The De Vere's, Donald (left) and David (right) chat during a break on the flight line.



DECORATIONS

* Posthumous

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS

BUCHANAN, Michael D., SGT

SILVER STAR FOR HEROISM

ATWELL, Ronald G., SP4

BOZEMAN, John R., CPT

BURT, Robert G., 1LT

FARRAR, Joseph B., SGT

GEE, Archie G., SFC

*GOULET, Ronald M., CPT

GWINN, Charles R., 1LT

HICKOX, Ottis L., SFC

JONES, Gordon R., SP4

KOVOLENKO, Harold, SFC

MEEKS, Roy E., CPT

MICHNIAK, Joseph J., MSG

NOE, Howard W., SSG

STEPHENS, Carter D., SSG

STEWART, Kenneth S., SGT

STORTER, James G., CPT (OLC)

*WHELAN, Joseph, CPT

WINTERS, Vernon E., SGT

LEGION OF MERIT

REEDER, Claire J., LTC

TRABUE, Earl N., LTC

SOLDIER'S MEDAL

THOMPSON, Luke F., SFC

WAMBACH, Brad, SP5

AIR MEDAL

JONES, Charles B., SGT

PARTNEY, Richard L., MSG

STANIER, Richard E., LTC (OLC)

THOMPSON, Henry L. III, 1LT (OLC)

BRONZE STAR MEDAL FOR HEROISM

BAGBY, Jack A., SFC (OLC)

BARNETT, Thomas D., 1LT

BURT, Robert G., 1LT (OLC)

CHAFFINS, Stephen L., SSG (OLC)

GIFFORD, George F., SFC (OLC)

GRECO, Frank G., SGT

HORIHAN, Martin J., 1LT (OLC)

MCFARLAND, Duane A., SSG

MCLEOD, Willie Jr., SFC

MONTGOMERY, Larry R., SGT

NEWSOME, James D., MSG (OLC)

QUIROZ, Joe H., SP4

SUROWIC, Winzenz, SFC

VARGAS, Jose A., SFC

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL FOR HEROISM

KERNS, James R., SSG

NEWSOME, Lonnie F., MSG (OLC)

SIMPSON, Harold B., CPL

TURNEY, George A., 1LT

Part of The Problem Or Part of the Answer?

By Chaplain (LTC) William L. Jobson, Jr.

Everywhere today we are confronted with the word "problem". Through radio and television, newspaper and magazine, we are continually bombarded with all manner of things that complicate human life. So many and so great are the problems of modern life that we are content to sit and let the rest of the world go by.

But suppose we lived in a world where there were no problems — no difficulties to face, nothing new to discover, nothing puzzling and challenging to solve. What could possibly be more boring? Fortunately for us quite the contrary is true. For here we are in this wild, confusing, chaotic world and our most significant contribution will be to lend a hand in its completion. Whether we like it or not we are very much a part of the world's game, and as in all games we are helping to win or lose. So, I pose this question: "Am I myself part of the problem, or part of the answer?"

We have a traffic problem in Vietnam, where death and worse than death takes its dreadful toll every year. Are you part of the problem, or part of the answer?

We have a problem of drug and alcohol abuse here and at home as well. Disordered lives, blown minds, broken homes, physical and mental deterioration, to name but a few of the consequences. Are you part of the problem, or part of the answer?

We have a fantastic problem of human relations in Vietnam. Every man among us ought to sit quietly, and in honest self-examination ask the question: to what extent have I with my attitudes and the thrust of my life in relationship with the Vietnamese people, contributed to this pro-

blem? What portion of their dislike for us have I myself provoked? We came to help, and that we have nobly done. Lets don't blow it by giving any of these people reasons to lower their opinion of the American soldier and the country which we represent. Are you part of the problem, or part of the answer?

But once in a while we do see a person whose kind of life can be clearly seen as part of the answer. A person of respect and understanding and quality of character, weak just like all the rest of us, intelligent and consistent in his good will toward all people. It is this kind of thing that we so desperately need, not only here in Vietnam, but in our own country, beset as it is by racial tension and crime and poverty. If we have more of this, we can at least begin to face the problems and the challenges of this part of the century. And you might move your life over so that you are not so much part of the problem, but part of the answer?

SKS Authorized As War Trophy

At various times the SKS was not authorized to be taken home as a war souvenir, but it can be taken home if you register it properly. Here is the procedure. First bring the weapon with you to the Intelligence Screening Officer at Group Headquarters in Nha Trang. Ask for DD Form 603-1, which will authenticate the weapon and register it in your possession. Then take the completed form to the Provost Marshal Office and have him fill out an im-

portation certificate. The certificate is sent to the Saigon Headquarters Area Command Office by the Provost Marshal Office which also gives you a temporary certificate authorizing you to carry the weapon through customs. The weapon must be hand carried with you when you leave Vietnam. After a few weeks the Saigon HAC will mail you a permanent certificate of registration for the weapon which you must keep in your possession. Incidentally, the Provost Marshall doesn't decide what is or is not a war trophy; it's the job of the Intelligence Screening Officer.

New Policy Covers Postal Money Orders

Post Offices under USARV have recently started selling a new salmon-colored money order form. This money order is titled "US Postal Money Order (Military)" and bears a payment restriction 'not payable through banks outside the United States of America other than US Military bank facilities'. Post offices in CONUS, Vietnam or US Territories and Possessions are authorized to cash these money orders upon presentation of required identification.

Viet Girlfriend? Mail Delay Clarified

Some U.S. soldiers have complained of poor handling of their mail to Vietnamese nationals, in some cases even putting the blame on official Army discouragement of mail delivery to Viet nationals. This is not the case. Mail dropped in U.S. Army postal facilities and destined for Vietnamese nationals is first sent to Air Force postal facilities at Ton Son Nut. From there it is turned over to the International Exchange Office who in turn forwards it to the Vietnamese postal system. Delays can be avoided only by proper addressing.



Vietnamese and American Special Forces personnel salute fallen or missing comrades.

VNSF Marks Seventh Anniversary

In a ceremony marking the seventh anniversary of the Vietnamese Special Forces (VNSF), Vietnamese and American Green Beret soldiers honored their fallen or missing comrades with the dedication of a memorial which bears an inscription of the names of nearly six thousands CIDG soldiers and Vietnamese and American Special Forces men who have been killed or captured.

Brigadier General Lam Son of the Vietnamese Special Forces officially unveiled the parachute-draped memorial as civilian and military dignitaries joined with the widows and fatherless children in a colorfully impressive dedication ceremony at the headquarters of the VNSF in Nha Trang. The memorial, a project of the VNSF High Command, is designed in the style of "two dragons facing the moon." The soldiers' names are inscribed on mounted brass plates.

In dedicating the memorial, General Lam Son, the highly decorated former chief of Vietnamese Green Berets, spoke of "the brave and brilliant soldiers who

knew their duty and served their country regardless of their personal lives. . .we, the remainders, have the responsibility to continue our fighting in response to their successful achievements."

After unveiling the memorial General Lam Son lit the ceremonial urn as religious and civic leaders followed suit by offering tribute to the 6000 dead or missing soldiers. Hundreds of spectators gathered around the memorial to read the names inscribed on the brass nameplates. Later, religious ceremonies were conducted in both Catholic and Protestant churches and Buddhist pagodas.

In his commemorative address General Lam Son recalled the highlights of the seven years during which his highly skilled unit of tough fighters have developed into a formidable force in the struggle to preserve freedom for the Republic of Vietnam.

Actually, the VNSF dates to 1957 when the 1st Observation Group was organized. This unit grew quickly, organizing and conducting counterinsurgency opera-

tions and even conducted its first combat parachute assault in 1960. In 1963 the VNSF was officially designated a full branch of the Vietnamese Army and began its present mission, the management and control of the Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) program. This program, involving over 37,000 soldiers, receives advisory and logistical assistance from the 5th Special Forces Group.

"In this regard," concluded General Lam Son, "we should like to speak of the special assistance of the 5th SFGA which has always stood side by side with us in missions under all circumstances since the activation of this unit. The USASF personnel have bravely fought along with us in the most critical situations as well as demonstrated their enthusiasm and devotion in the Civic Action program to win the hearts and minds of the people and the wide publicity of the just cause of the Republic of Vietnam Government."

Giving: One Man's Style

SFC Gene Thomas is a remarkable example of how one man can exert a profound influence on the world around him.



Broad smiles are shared by SFC Thomas and a young Vietnamese recipient of a bag of Christmas gifts.

By SP5 Jim Hudson

Philanthropy "involves more than money; it includes the contribution of one's self, of one's time, thought, energy."

John D. Rockefeller III, politically, economically, and socially one of the most powerful and influential men in the world wrote these words recently, explaining that although philanthropy has come to be associated with massive government programs, foundations, and private funds, it cannot move a mole-hill without the initiative of one individual multiplied by thousands — millions.

Since their beginning, long before rapid escalation of the war began, United States and Republic of Vietnam development programs have reached millions of the uneducated, undernourished people of this country. Despite the great

improvement brought about through these programs, Vietnamese and Americans alike have found that the individual confrontation is as necessary and perhaps even more effective and rewarding than the large scale programs.

Unfortunately, only a small percentage of the great number of people who can effect a positive impact at the grass roots level know how they can help, where to help, or even why they should help.

Some of those who have found ways of "helping others help themselves" not often, but sometimes find themselves thought of as the naive "do-gooder."

The American people have contributed billions to fight the chronic symptoms of an overpopulated, underfed world. Stack these billions atop the billions contributed by nations throughout the world and an impressive, and in fact awesome, figure is realized. And yet, the problems still persist, even grow. The poverty, ignorance, and corruption fed by poverty and ignorance spread at an accelerating pace.

The solution? Cut foreign aid? Let the other guy take care of himself? We're doing our best? Unfortunately, none of these proposals are rational, none are solutions. Rather, they are tempting "cop outs".

Has anyone found a practical solution? Yes a few have. Doctor Thomas Dooley, beginning with a few hundred dollars, and a few men and women, who like him saw a chance to help, brought health and a new medicine to primitive tribes in an isolated region of Southeast Asia.

Albert Schweitzer, dedicating his life to helping ritualistic African tribes, like Dooley, operated on a small scale — a face to face confrontation with a



SFC Thomas's efforts do not always bring smiles, but he has no doubt that he helped reduce the suffering and loneliness felt by some of the residents at this home for the aged run by Father Peter.

After Thomas has spent hours distributing gifts and speaking with lepers, orphans and invalids, an overjoyed Father Peter displays his emotions with a kiss to his 'Brother'.



Although SFC Thomas does not speak Vietnamese, he still has a way with the people---especially kids.

monumental task: to bring hope, education, and health to a forgotten people.

These men didn't seek an answer to the world dilemma through political or economic resources, although both knew the potential of this approach. The fact is, they couldn't wait for proposed programs, miracle organizations, or subsidizations. The help was needed now, not in the "near future".

So what can the man in uniform do? Obligations rushing in from all directions, debts to pay, letters to write to the wife, parents, friends, guard duty, CQ, weapons to maintain, not to mention a workload that requires eight to fourteen hours a day.

What can he do? Where is he going to find the time?

Perhaps the answer can be found by looking around us, finding "that guy who's always visiting orphanages, schools, churches, and welfare agencies." What is he up to? Where does he find the time.

Sergeant First Class Gene O. Thomas, Miami, Fla., presently in charge of supply and distribution of building materials for all Special Forces construction projects has served in the Army for 29 years. Sergeant Thomas is what you might call a philanthropist. Working with teenagers in the states, Germany, France, Korea, and Vietnam, Thomas has given his time, effort, and occasionally what little hard cash he can dig up, to help orphans, lepers, invalids, and just plain poor folks stay on their feet. His help is usually on a very small scale; patched but clean clothing, personal hygiene products, books,



used appliances, instant beverage mixes, and anything else that is needed to brighten the lives of "his friends."

By writing letters to sororities, churches, youth groups, and friends, he has found that there are many people in the world who want to help, but just don't know where to look to find those people who really need that help. Much of the help comes from young adults throughout the world that Sergeant Thomas has worked with before.

Not all of the contributions made by Sergeant Thomas have been material. People who face the lifelong disfiguration that leprosy inflicts need more than subsistencies, they need to know that someone cares, that someone will share their long days of boredom and suffering.

Sergeant Thomas tries to be that someone. He is a friend. Someone to shake hands with, exchange smiles with. And for the little ones, he is a Santa Claus to hug, and sometimes even slap a smootch on the cheek.

Sergeant Thomas is not trying to be a one man peace corps — just a friend. And there are a lot of men in Vietnam, Korea, Africa, and any other nation where military men are stationed, that are making friends. Talk to one of them. Talk to his friends. And then, perhaps you'll want to find a friend too. An orphan, a paraplegic or amputee, a leper, an invalid, a teenager who walks the streets until someday he'll get tired of just walking. It's a good racket—this philanthropy business. And there's plenty of room for expansion—a world of room.



Harbor patrols, one part of Nha Trang defenses, check fisherman's identification papers.

IDC: Web Of Protection

By 1LT John Graves



LTC Robert E. Brown, DCO of the Installation Defense Command, discusses a problem with Major Tran Kim Dai, Vietnamese Special Forces IDC-DCC Commander.

The Allied defense of the Nha Trang area is a model of multi-nation cooperation, control and resource utilization. Under the name of Installation Defense Command—Defense Coordination Center (IDC-DCC), commanders of Nha Trang area military forces have established an effective defensive network.

The Commanding Officer of the 5th Special Forces Group (Abn), and the Commanding General of the Vietnamese Special Forces (VNSF) are the respective United States and Vietnamese Installation Defense Command coordinators for the Nha Trang area.

Army, Air Force, and Navy personnel of United States, Vietnamese and Korean forces all join in a closely coordinated effort of defensive strategy. American and Vietnamese Navies conduct important missions of coastal surveillance and harbor-defense which overlook operations that secure smaller watercraft in coastal areas and inland waterways. Two large areas of re-

sponsibility may be seen in the A-502 sector which cover much of the Nha Trang area and coordinates with larger elements that fall under the operational control of the IDC-DCC, and the B-55 sector of responsibility in other portions of the immediate Nha Trang area. Large numbers of Free World Military Forces are involved in the operational efforts of the IDC-DCC, and the control and coordination of the entire project require close, around-the-clock supervision.

Tactical Areas of Responsibility, for example, have Vietnamese, Korean (ROK), and United States forces working in conjunction with each other. The Vietnamese side of IDC-DCC alone, has National Police, VNSF, Army, Navy and Air Force units working with the other forces to provide security. Of course, individual units develop their own internal defenses such as reaction forces, fire-fighting crews, and medical evacuation parties, since they all must be able to take care of themselves. However, all of

these separate units combine into one large defensive operation which, in total, forms the IDC-DCC. Likewise, large units organize and train reaction forces for their own use as well as that of the Installation Defense Commander.

In external areas of operation the IDC-DCC regularly conducts ambushes, patrols, harassing and interdicting fires and visual and tactical air support. Reconnaissance in force operations are conducted continuously, and pre-planned fires on possible rocket and mortar sites provide an insured security.

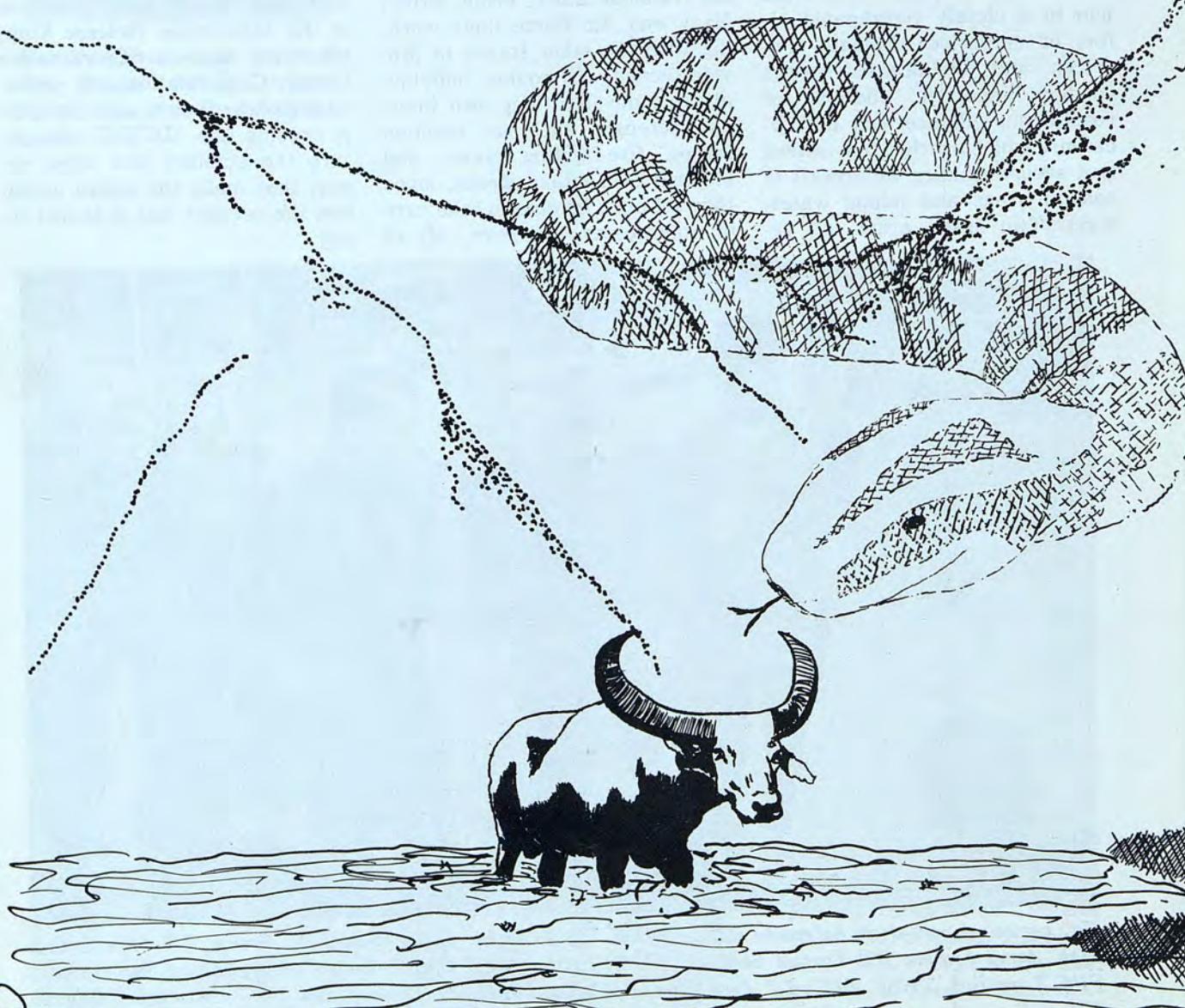
It may be seen, then, that all elements in the defense of the Nha Trang and surrounding areas contribute to the total objective of the Installation Defense Command — Defense Coordination Center. Good relations are stressed between all units and elements comprising the IDC-DCC to insure the stability and effectiveness that make the entire operation the success that it shares today.



IDC personnel confer on defensive stance. From left to right: Major Dai; LTC Brown; LT Shin Young, ROK Army Liason; SM Forrest Stewart, IFFV Artillery; LT CMDR Doug Crabbe, Coastal Surveillance; CPT Tran Dat, VNSF FAC; LT Paul Farenchik, Naval Gunfire Liason; and CPT Herschel Caldwell, IDC S-3.

Snake Of The Mountain

A Living Legend



The chief of a rural Montagnard village recently explained why enemy forces were able to attack Camp Bu Prang. Tron, chief of Bu Krak, told Special Forces advisor Captain William L. Palmer that the guardian "Snake of the Mountain" was dead.

Tron went on to explain that in August of 1969 a Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) company, comprised mostly of ethnic Cambodians, killed and ate "The Snake".

In this rural area, the common animistic belief is that the snake is the guardian spirit of the mountain on which the camp is situated. If the snake had not been killed, the chief told the captain, the guardian would not have allowed mortar and artillery rounds to fall into the camp.

To make amends to the spirits, Tron indicated that the sacrifice of a white water buffalo was in order. If a white buffalo could not be found, a black or brown one might suffice.

Animism, also called the "people's religion", is the religion of the Montagnards. Its influence can be found to some degree in the beliefs and practices of the majority of Vietnamese, although more so in the rural areas.

Animism is a belief in spirits, both of dead persons, animals, such as stones, rivers, mountains and trees. This belief holds that each living being has a spirit,

which continues to exist even after death has claimed its possessor.

Because the spirit continues an independent existence, it must be cared for properly and provided with its needs and desires in its spirit state. Unattended spirits may become angry, bitter or revengeful and seek to re-enter the earthly life, which would create havoc in numerous ways.

As spirits are associated with people, Animists believe them to be greedy, deceptive, unpredictable, and possessing every trait known to man. Normally, the spirits of departed good people do not create too much concern if the proper rites are performed at the appropriate times, especially those rites which will send them happily on their way to the spirit world.

Those who die violently as in accidents or war, are killed by tigers, women who die in childbirth or who die childless, or those whose bodies are not recovered and properly buried or cremated; all cause great fear, because their spirits are embittered by such a fate and are hostile to individuals, families or communities.

Throughout his life the Animist is fearful of offending the spirits that can cause him harm. He tries to worship and live his everyday life in such a manner as not to offend them, and to placate them

*By SP5 Jim Hudson
Illustration By SSG V. L. Stanfield*

in case he has unwittingly offended.

Because the Animist believes that the spirits are somewhat humanized, he believes that they can be influenced as humans are, and that they have the same capacity for doing good and evil. Basically, the Animist seeks to influence his gods and spirits by elaborate ceremonies, flattery, cajolery and sometimes by angry words and actions in almost exactly the same manner that men are influenced.

The Animist spends much of his thought, effort, energy and wealth in observances and rites which will cause the spirits to do the will of the worshiper and which will placate those spirits that can do him harm.

To do this, elaborate rituals and ceremonies are conducted, and offerings, sometimes blood sacrifices, are made. These are accompanied by incantations and prayers.

Special Forces personnel at Bu Prang understood the seriousness of the village chief's need to make amends to the spirits. Although somewhat rare and expensive, a white water-buffalo was found the sacrificial ceremony was held and the "Snake of the Mountain" is perhaps appeased. But important also to Tron and the villagers of Bu Krak is that the Special Forces soldiers showed a serious regard for their belief.



Mobile Strike Force:

The "Palace Guard"

Some people have called them "The Palace Guard", and maybe that's not a bad name for them — not because of their proximity to Group Headquarters, but because when the time came to guard the "Palace" during the TET offensive of '68, they did so, and did it well. And what about those far-flung "Palaces" with names like A Shau, Tong Le Chon, Ha Thanh, Duc Lap, and Katum. The 5th Mobile Strike Force (MSF) has guarded those palaces too — always at heavy cost to the enemy, sometimes at heavy cost to themselves. "Palace Guard" — a name the 5th MSF has fulfilled with honor, many times, in many places.

But this is only a part of the proud history of the Nha Trang Mike Force. Combat parachute assaults on Bunard, Nui Gai, and Nui Coto brought the enemy to his knees. Joint operations with other outfits have turned enemy strongholds into enemy death-traps. At Phu Pai, B-55 successes earned the Mobile Strike Force the Valorous Unit Award. Reinforcing sister "Mike" Forces

from Da Nang, Pleiku, Long Hai, and Can Tho is another responsibility of the "Palace Guard."

The 5th MSF at times has still other tasks; like helping build day schools, or cleaning up after an airplane crash.

But whatever the mission, whatever the cost, they are ready, and they go.

A monument was recently dedicated at the headquarters of the 5th Mobile Strike Force Command. It bears a plaque which reads, "Dedicated in Honor of the men killed in action with Detachment B-55, 5th Mobile Strike Force . . . Dedication, loyalty, perseverance . . ."

This monument bears the names of scores of men; men like Billy Hall, Vy Quan Bao, Raymond Allen, Blum Nie, Ho Van Hung, Y Ro Nie, Joe Zamiara, Mang Nai, K'Drang, Y Son Nie, Mang Chinh, Benedict Davan — men to whom the words "Have Mike Forces, will travel", was not just a catchy phrase, but a solemn promise, a call to duty, any place, at any time.

By SP5 Jim Hudson



Monument (right) honors Mike Force soldiers killed in action. On a sweep (below), Strikers assault enemy position.



"Intruders" Bring



A "Slick" from 281st performs difficult extraction in support of Mobile Strike Force.

By 1LT John Graves

Anything from delivering cold lobster at distant naval installations on Christmas Day, to making a combat assault on a "hot LZ" is just a normal day in the lives of the men of the 281st Assault Helicopter Company, commanded by Major Darryl M. Stevens of Lovell, Wyoming.

Each separate "slick" and gunship platoon in the 281st is commanded by a captain. The first platoon, known as the "Ratpack" and the second platoon, called the "Bandits" have over 28 "slicks" at their command. Each is equipped with two 7.62 caliber machine guns which are operated by trained gunners. Aside from the gunners, the pilot and co-pilot, all other space on each "slick" is used for carrying troops and supplies on various missions such as resupply, combat assaults, reconnaissance, and training missions.

The third platoon provides protective gunships, and always accompanies the first two platoons in the accomplishment of their missions. Each gunship is heavily armed with fourteen 2.75" rockets, two 7.62 caliber miniguns each capable of firing well over 2000 rounds per minute, and two door gunners armed with 7.62 caliber machine guns. Known as the "Wolfpack" the platoon slogan "Death on Call" describes the

Smoke

tremendous force available when needed.

On a recent mission at Mai Loc, located near the DMZ, the 281st inserted a reconnaissance team in an area where Viet Cong forces had reportedly established a base camp in some mountain caves. Heavy contact was made, and further support from an entire U.S. Ranger Company was needed. The 281st was there to make the insertion of the U.S. troops, and provide supporting fire. As a result of this action alone, 6 aircraft commanders were recommended for the Distinguished Flying Cross and 24 other crew members for the Air Medal. Serving in Vietnam since 1965, the 281st has received such decorations as the Meritorious Unit Commendation Medal, the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross with Palm, the Navy Unit Commendation Medal, and the Valorous Unit Award.

Members of the 281st are able to react to calls for help within three minutes when on alert. Maintenance crews work around the clock with day and night crews in order to keep all aircraft in top shape and ready for action.

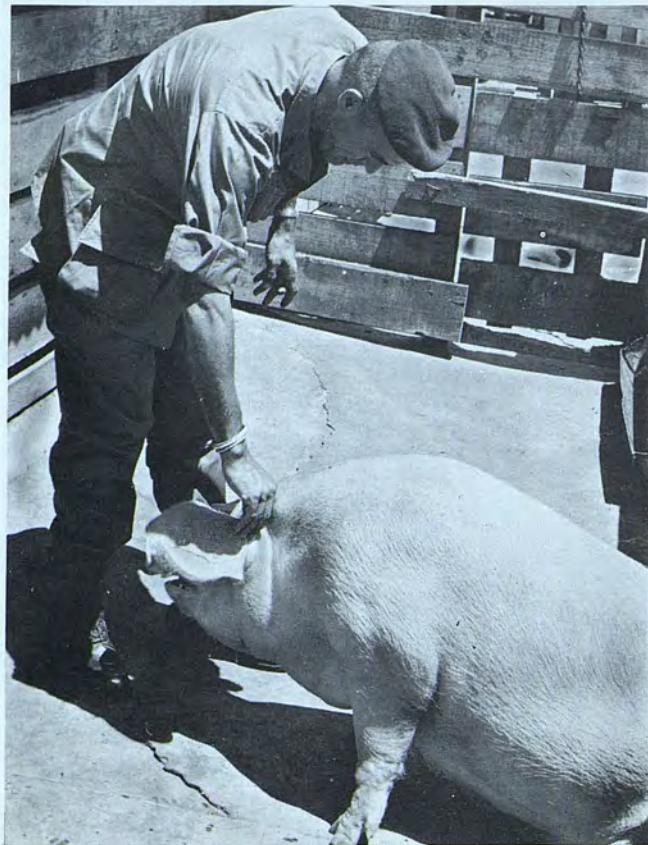
Primarily supporting the 5th Special Forces Group, the 281st is always ready to help when called.



A "Wolfpack" gunship begins an assault on a heavily infested enemy area of operation in the jungle near Ban Me Thuot.

The gunship ordnance: 7:62 Caliber mini-gun at left fires over 2,000 rounds per minute; the 2.75" rockets can be fired singly, in groups, or all at once; door gunner position sports machinegun.





MSG Paul Johnson inspects one of the hogs used for breeding stock at the agriculture training school near Pleiku; one of the latest projects of Special Forces Civil Affairs personnel.



Self-help is the essence of effective aid programs. Here, a Green Beret works with Vietnamese military and civilian agencies to bring building materials to a refugee village.

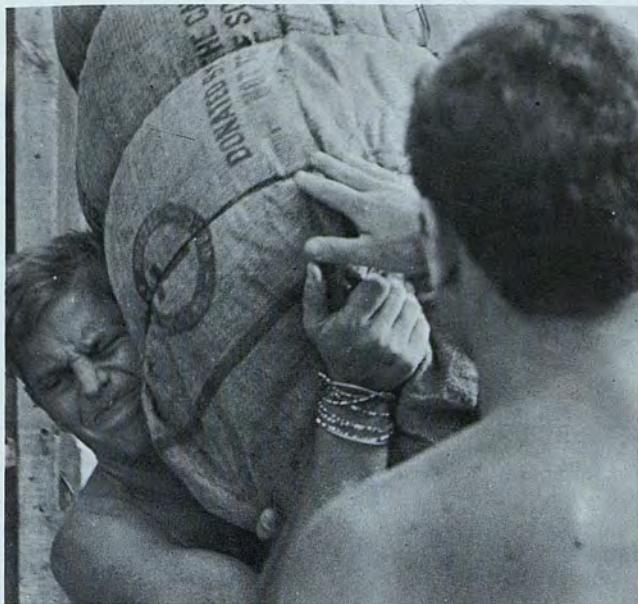
Wrap-Up '69

Civil

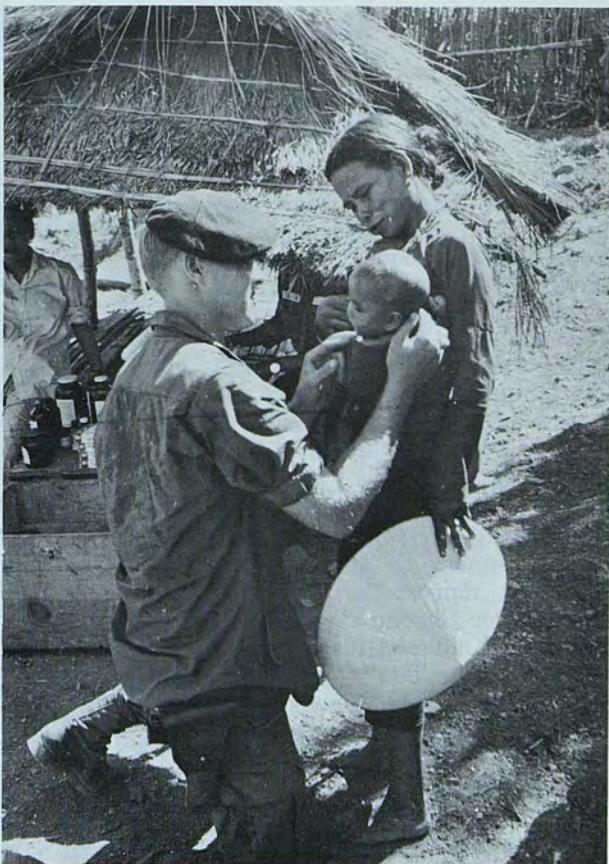
The Civil Affairs personnel of the 5th Special Forces Group have made 1969 a record-breaking year through supervising and participating in the construction of housing projects, churches, hospitals, dispensaries, market places, schools, roads and bridges. Distributing tons of cement, tin, lumber, paint and other building materials, Civil Affairs personnel have realized rapid progress toward the goal of self-sufficiency of the South Vietnamese. Those in need of food, clothing, medicine and other important items have been supported. Much of the aid took the form of refugee support.

Educational assistance has also been an important aspect in the workings of many Civil Affairs sections. In addition to direct instruction in English language courses and vocational training, civil aid teams also assisted in the dissemination of Vietnamese government information through local civic meetings, movies, pamphlets and assistance to cultural drama teams.

Although the total number of man-hours contributed by Special Forces personnel is immeasurable, the result of this effort is readily visible. For example, in the first eleven months of 1969 a total of 219,179 self-help kits were



Civil Affairs aid during the last year took many forms, including (above) the delivery of heavy bundles of clothing to needy refugees.



Special Forces medical personnel treated more than one quarter million patients in Medical Civic Action Patrols during the last year.

Affairs

distributed to Vietnamese civilians. These kits included tools for blacksmiths, barbers and bricklayers, school supplies and teaching aids, and other essential materials such as midwife's packets, kitchen kits, and resettler's implements. In addition, civic action personnel handled an amazing total of 850,597 pounds of food and 84,473 pounds of clothing during the year.

In a new program, started in late 1969, Special Forces S-5 teams began promoting animal husbandry by distributing livestock, fowl and fish, and assisting the formation and operation of training

farms. Over 2000 ducks, 60 goats and 20 hogs were distributed through this program in the month of November alone.

Further civic action progress may be seen by the large number of people treated in medical aid programs. For example, over 313,000 patients were treated in 6,968 Medical Civic Action Patrols, and 605 dental patients received a total of 812 treatments.

Increasing Vietnamese participation in these programs reflects the success of Civic Affairs efforts, and has been a significant factor in the rapid progress that these programs have achieved.

From Rubbish To Residence

By SSG Vinton Stanfield

Arriving in Chu Lai, Sergeant First Class Richard Tyler and nine Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) troopers inspected the site of their new home. It was located on top of the American Division's trash dump. After looking the spot over carefully, SFC Tyler simply said, "Well, let's get to work." This was the beginning of a new "B" detachment.

Two months earlier, Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Stallings was given the responsibility for building the new detachment to provide command and support for five "A" camps under Charlie Company in I Corps. Enthusiastically, LTC Stallings immediately requested the command when construction was completed. His next request was that SFC Tyler be named engineer in charge.

Chu Lai was chosen over Quang Ngai, the centrally located province capital, as the site of the camp, named B-11, for the ease with which logistical and air support could be provided by the American Division. After conferring with the American Commanding General, however, it was discovered that the only available site still within the perimeter was the trash dump, bordered on three sides by swamp. Though LTC Stallings knew the possible difficulties, he accepted the trash dump.

On July 1 the advance party arrived and began work. In classic Special Forces style, they began with little more than one tent and SFC Tyler's fifteen years of experience.

The first real source of equipment and personnel came when the Qui Nhon 'A' camp was converted to Vietnamese Regional Forces control. The American personnel and equipment were moved by barge to Chu Lai, forming the nucleus of the new 'B' detachment.

There were many problems for the first few inhabitants. To begin with, there was no access road, and the sandy trash dump was virtually surrounded by swamp. Borrowing some trucks and scouting the area, the men soon

scrounged enough rock and gravel to complete an access road, allowing construction to begin in earnest.

Next, water presented a problem. To take a shower the men had to travel several miles to the division shower point. However, a CONEX container and an old water trailer were soon converted into an excellent shower.

There was food, but no cooking facilities, inducing the men to travel to a nearby hospital for chow. Then the mechanics were constantly plagued by drifting sand which clogged their equipment. Yet, with the completion of two temporary buildings, the tent camp began to take form.

Within two months B-11 had taken command of five 'A' detachments, although the official opening would not come for three months. Thanksgiving Day marked a special occasion: the men had just installed hot water and opened the combined mess hall and club.

"The men were being pushed from two sides," says Lieutenant Colonel Stallings. "Working hard to keep the 'A' detachments supported and," he continued, "they were also getting the 'B' detach-

ment built so operations could run efficiently. If it were not for the high spirits and teamwork, we would not have been this far so quickly."

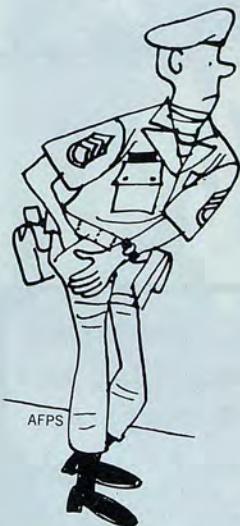
A typical example of teamwork was shown with the construction of a heli-pad to keep sand from being blown by the helicopters. One evening after dinner, the men turned out and completed the heli-pad within two hours.

Water, at first scarce, now offered a problem of excess. Because the water table was only four feet underground, drainage ditches were needed to keep the buildings dry. However, when the monsoon season came, the underground Tactical Operations Center (TOC) became flooded. "No problem," says SFC Tyler, "we just rigged some pumps to keep it dry and sealed it." Now, during the high tide of the monsoons, the 20-ton concrete TOC literally floats under the sand.

At present, the trash dump problems have been overcome and the new detachment is busily engaged in fulfilling its support and command mission. Who but Special Forces has the men and determination to turn a trash dump into a first-class base camp?



Chu Lai team strikes the last of the tents as B-11 nears completion.



Credit Can Be Useful

New Safeguards Help You

Would you pay \$420 for a \$123.88 television set? Not if you knew you were being so grossly overcharged. But, it happens every day to people who buy on credit without investigating first.

Until the new Truth in Lending Act became law it was possible for a merchant to get away with such a deal without the customer knowing about it until it was too late.

From now on merchants have to tell their credit customers just how much extra they are paying for the privilege of "charging" their purchases — they have to "tell it like it is".

The same is true of money lenders. They, in most circumstances, have to tell how much it costs to borrow money.

Then it's up to the customer or borrower to get the best deal for himself, by more shopping around for the place where the charges for credit are the smallest.

When you buy on credit anything that costs a lot of money (or before you borrow money) the businessman with whom you are dealing will ask you to sign a contract.

Before you sign it, the smartest thing you can do is take the contract to the legal assistance officer on your post. His job is to give you advice about legal matters and his service is free.

The Truth in Lending law covers a lot of different kinds of deals. Its main part is simple. It

says you must be told, in writing, how much more it cost you to buy on "time" compared to the cash price. This must be told you before you make the deal. The same is true for many cash loans.

The Finance Charge is the most important thing you will be told. It can help you pick the right one from the following possibilities:

(1) Wait until you have enough dollars put aside and can buy for cash, saving the cost of the financing.

(2) Borrow the money from a credit union or bank to pay cash. The interest on the loan might be less than the store's Finance Charge.

(3) Buy at another store where the Finance Charge is lower.

The law also makes the merchants and lenders tell you the annual percentage rate they are charging you in most transactions.

The law also says that the lender or merchant must tell you the number of payments you must make, the amounts of each payment and the date each payment is due.

A second major source of protection is the DoD Standards of Fairness, but they cannot protect you unless the businessman with whom you are dealing signs a certificate saying he will abide by them. Most honest businessmen will be glad to sign.

Here's what the Standards of Fairness are all about:

They require the lender to

agree to charge no more than the rate of interest that is legal in his State.

The Standards also make sure that if you cannot meet the payments when they come due (on a car, for example) the lender cannot take the car back without first notifying you in writing. The Standards also limit the attorney fees and "late charges" the lender can make you pay in such a case.

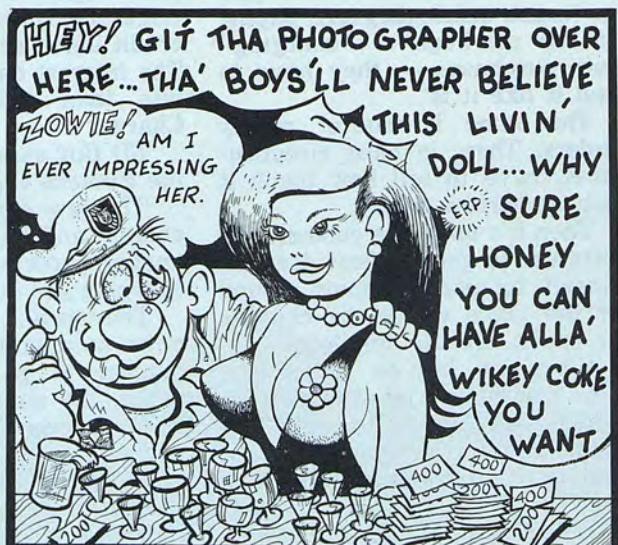
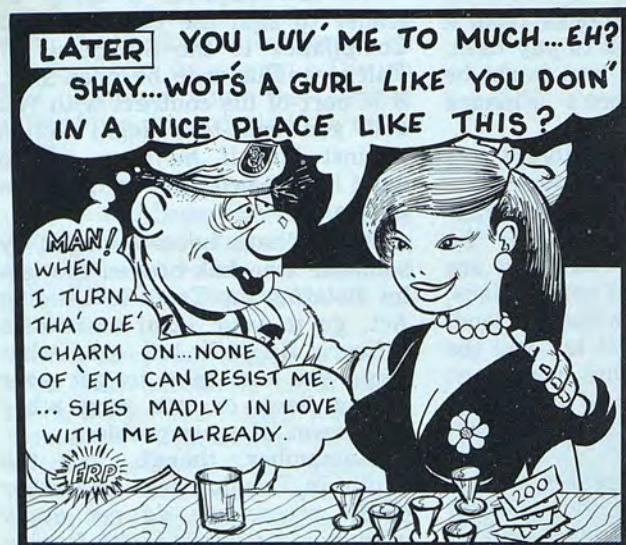
No law requires a seller or lender to sign the Certificate of Compliance to the Standards of Fairness. But once he does sign, it is part of his contract with you and you can take legal action against him if he does not do what he has promised to do in the contract.

If you have been damaged by someone who has broken the law by violating the Truth in Lending Act, go to your legal assistance officer. He will tell you what steps you can take to get your money back or get some other settlement of your problem.

Remember, though, that the Truth In Lending law and other credit protections do not apply when you are dealing with foreign merchants in overseas areas. Be particularly wary of money lenders and installment purchases, especially those that involve jewelry, appliances and automobiles. Get all the facts before you sign. Know what you are being charged.

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KAHL GIBRAN

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