

# 173rd Airborne Brigade Arrives

By SFC Tony Bermudez

**BIEN HOA (IO)** — The first U.S. Army combat troops to be committed to Vietnam — the 173rd Airborne Brigade — arrived here on Wednesday via C-130 Hercules and C-123 Providers from Okinawa.

The men of the brigade will be utilized to provide increased security for the airfields located at Bien Hoa and Vung Tau. Their presence here will free more Vietnamese troops for combat missions.

The brigade is composed of three battalions and support troops, to include an armor and an engineer company. It is commanded by Brig. Gen. Ellis W. Williamson.

The first elements of the brigade were greeted by Gen. W.C. Westmoreland, COMUS MACV, Maj. Gen. Richard G. Stilwell, Chief of Staff, MACV, and Brig. Gen. John Norton, CG, USASCV.

The 173d, formerly the 2d Airborne Battle Group (Reinforced), 503d Infantry Combat Team, was activated with its present designation, in June, 1963.

The 503d Infantry is a veteran of four WW II campaigns; New Guinea, Leyte, Luzon, and Southern Philippines. It has been awarded the following streamers; Distinguished Unit Citation (COREGIDOR), Philippine Unit Citation (with wreath), New Guinea (with wreath), Leyte (with wreath), Luzon (with wreath), Southern Philippines (with wreath), Combat Infantry Regiment, and STRAC award for being the superior unit of 1959.

Four-time winner of the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in World War II and the Korean War, General Williamson assumed command of the 173rd Airborne Brigade (Separate) in July 1963. Prior to his assignment in Okinawa he served three years with the Office of the

(Continued on Page 4)



**BY THE DAWN'S EARLY LIGHT** — Fully combat geared paratroopers of the 173rd Airborne Brigade lug duffle bags on their shoulders after disembarking from USAF C-123 Providers at Bien Hoa. A similar advance contingent also arrived at Vung Tau early Wednesday morning. (USASCV-IO Photo by Capt. Don Adams).

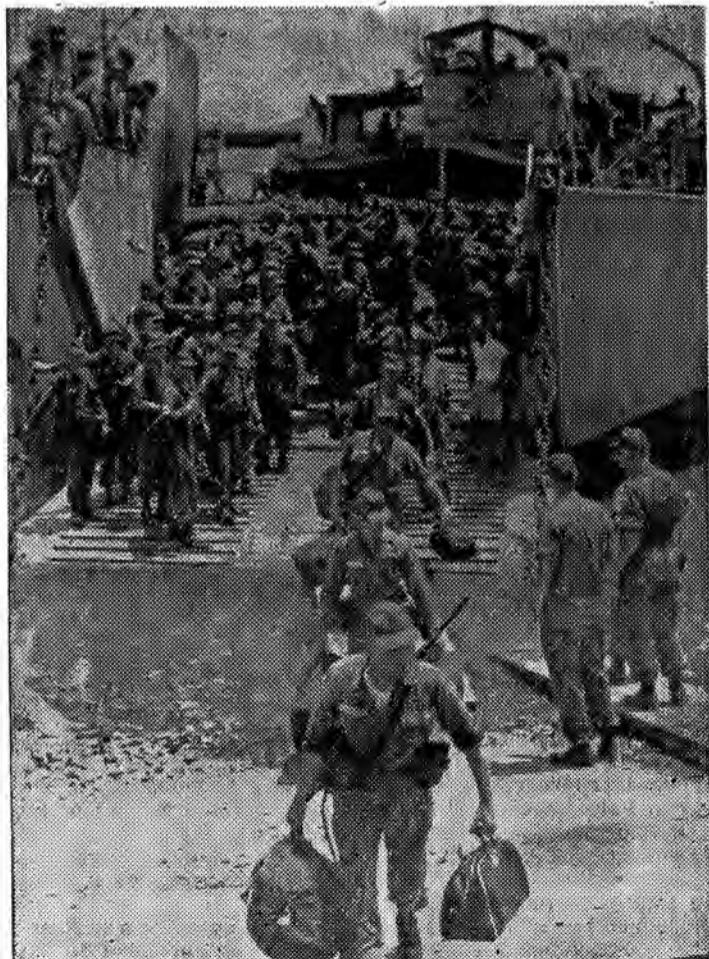


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## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Our Nation's rise to its unequalled position of prosperity and power was no accident of fate — nor was it achieved without costly struggle. Rather, the United States flourished because her people were so dedicated to free government that they were willing to sacrifice their lives and fortunes at home or abroad, to preserve our democratic institutions. The roll of our honored dead attests to the courage of our people."

PRESIDENT LYNDON B. JOHNSON



**AFTER 21 DAYS AT SEA** — The men of the three new UH-1D Air Mobile Companies arrive at Vung Tau via LCU's after a 21 day voyage aboard the aircraft carrier USS Iwo Jima. (Photo by USASCV-IO Maj. Ralph E. Ropp.)

## New UH-1D Helicopters Go Operational in Vietnam

By Sp5 Bob Bolia

**VUNG TAU, (IO)** — A total of 77 UH-1D's flew off the USS Iwo Jima on May 1st to this airfield. The UH-1D «Iroquois» arrived here after a 21-day sea voyage and will comprise three Air Mobile Helicopter Companies. The new arrivals were welcomed by Brig. Gen. John Norton, CG, USASCV.

The UH-1D «Iroquois» is the first of its kind in Viet Nam. It has set 21 world records; it has reached an altitude of 35,150 feet... about four miles higher than Pikes Peak. Its capability for surprise assault tactics provides a faster mission response and a more adequate evasive action. Its range is 345 statute miles. In addition it seats nine plus a crew of four.

The first aircraft to land in Vung Tau was piloted by CWO William E. Crothers and co-piloted by 1st Lt. Edward T. Pledger. The crew chief was SSgt. Richard L. Lusby. All are assigned to «A» Company, 1st Aviation Battalion.

The new units are «A» Companies of the 1st Avn. Bn., the 82nd Avn. Bn. and the 101st Avn. Bn.

The «A» Co., 1st Avn. Bn.,

(Continued on Page 4)



**IROQUOIS, IN VIETNAM** — CWO William E. Crothers (Left) and 1st Lt. Edward T. Pledger (Center) piloted the first UH-1D to set down in Vung Tau. The crew chief is SSgt. Richard L. Lusby. All are members of «A» Co., 1st Avn. Bn. (Photo by USASCV-IO Maj. Ralph E. Ropp.)



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Maj. Ralph E. Ropp ..... Information Officer

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SFC Tony S. Bermudez ..... Editor  
Sp5 Bob Bolia ..... Assistant Editor

Editorial

## ARE YOU ALERT?

« There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death » (Proverbs 14:12).

This passage of Scripture contrasts up right living with foolish living and tells of the opposite results they bring. We talk a lot about the results of bad living but we need also to emphasize the good results that comes from right living.

For instance, our Army medical officers evaluate the physical fitness of each individual soldier on the basis of six factors called « PULHES. »

« P » stands for physique and stamina and is the single factor in his physical profile that the American fighting man as an individual has personal control of and responsibility.

In combat, as in peacetime, the soldier must be in top physical condition. He must be physically strong, mentally alert and morally straight. A soldier who is not in top physical condition can not perform his job to the best of his abilities.

Like the fat bulges that gird his belly, the same 'fat' also affects his brain. He becomes sluggish and his reflexes become slow. As excess fat is to the body so is excess alcohol to the brain.

Because of the impracticability of organized sports in a combat zone like Vietnam — keeping in shape physically becomes the responsibility of the individual. Exercise must be regulated by the circumstances of one's assignment and working hours. But most important of all is that the individual must keep himself in trim. Regular exercise, sleep and eating habits must be maintained.

The consumption of alcoholic beverages is a matter of personal choice. However, excessive and intemperate use of liquor could diminish the combat effectiveness of the soldier. A mind dulled by the effects of alcohol will not react quickly enough in a crucial moment. It might result in death — for oneself and others.

In Vietnam we must constantly be aware of the importance of alertness — physical, mental and moral. The pressure of maintaining a combat-ready posture; the responsibility of performing assigned duties to the optimum; and the individual's share of being an effective team member — demands that each and everyone of us periodically and honestly conduct a self-evaluation.

For in the final analysis, our collective strength and combat effectiveness, depends individually on a strong body, alert mind and a high sense of morality. ARE YOU ALERT?



**FIRST LOG COMMAND** — The colors of the First Logistical Command were officially presented to Col. Robert W. Duke, (right) by Brig. Gen. John Norton in ceremonies at Tan Son Nhut last week. The unit was formerly stationed at Fort Hood, Texas and was activated April 1 in Vietnam. (Photo by USASCV-IO).



## A Letter To God

Chaplain (Capt.) Mark C. Gasquet

Dear God :

This is just a simple request and I hope that you will grant it. Please stay out of my affairs. Everytime that I have the chance to make a fast buck, you butt in. Every time I get mad, you butt in.

When I sleep in on Sundays instead of making it down to Church, you annoy me. (I'm getting better about the Sunday routine especially over here in Viet Nam: all the guys read the comics and drink coffee together and that way we all feel better). There's another area that I wish that you would stay out of: my private life: you know my night life and all that. O.K. so you know the truth and perhaps I'm bragging a little bit, but still there are times that you do intrude into my mind and that's just not right. Just stay out of my life!

I don't mean to be disrespectful but you do pop up at the worst times and its ruins my fun.

Fen E. Gehi

P.S. Please protect us and don't let me get hurt or anything. And please take care of my wife and kids back home.

I have often talked with people who expressed themselves like this. How often have you written the same letter to God?

**PASS "THE REPORTER"  
ON TO YOUR BUDDY**



**CHANGE OF COMMAND** — Maj. William C. Chamberlain officially took command of the 120th Avn. Co. in ceremonies held April 26. Former commander was Maj. Earl O. MacConaha. (USASCV-IO Photo by Sp4 Joe Wallace).

## AWARDS & DECORATIONS

### ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

Cpl. Charles W. Carlton  
Cpl. Kenneth J. Childress  
Cpl. John R. Doig  
Sp4 Lewis Cunningham Jr.  
Sgt. Donald G. Ferguson  
Sgt. Joe S. Fernald  
Sp4 Donn H. Fredlund  
Sp4 John R. Gaither  
Sp4 David L. Gettys  
Cpl. Donald W. Grenne  
Sgt. Ted Harris  
Cpl. Ralph S. Holderman  
PFC Ronald L. Kaupang  
Sp4 Charles R. Kilgore  
Sgt. Robert R. Meyers  
Cpl. Robert E. Moorehead  
Sgt. Robert E. Moss  
PFC John H. Oltman  
Sp4 Victor Pantoya  
Cpl. Willie J. Saunders  
Sp5 Benjamin F. Serapion  
SSgt. Reuben P. Sundell  
Sp4 Lowell Adkins  
Sp4 William G. Allen  
Sgt. Clifford N. Harris  
CWO Delbert E. Hite  
Sgt. Jack Long Jr.  
Sp4 George W. Mahan  
Sp4 William C. Milton  
SFC Joseph Moore  
Sp4 Ulysses W. Norris  
PFC Thomas E. Player Jr.  
Sp4 Craig M. Sowers  
Sp4 Marshall E. Turner Jr.  
PFC Joseph R. Walker  
Sp4 Ray Watley  
Sp4 John P. Wunder  
Second Award  
SSgt. James E. Dozier Jr.  
SFC Stanley M. Siwek

## CODE OF CONDUCT

### ARTICLE VI (Last of Series)

I will never forget that I am an American fighting man, responsible for my action, and dedicated to the principles which made my country free. I will trust in my God and in the United States of America.



The provisions of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, whenever appropriate, continue to apply to members of the Armed Forces while prisoners of war. Upon repatriation, the conduct of prisoners will be examined as to the circumstances of capture and through the period of detention with due regard for the rights of the individual and consideration for the conditions of captivity.

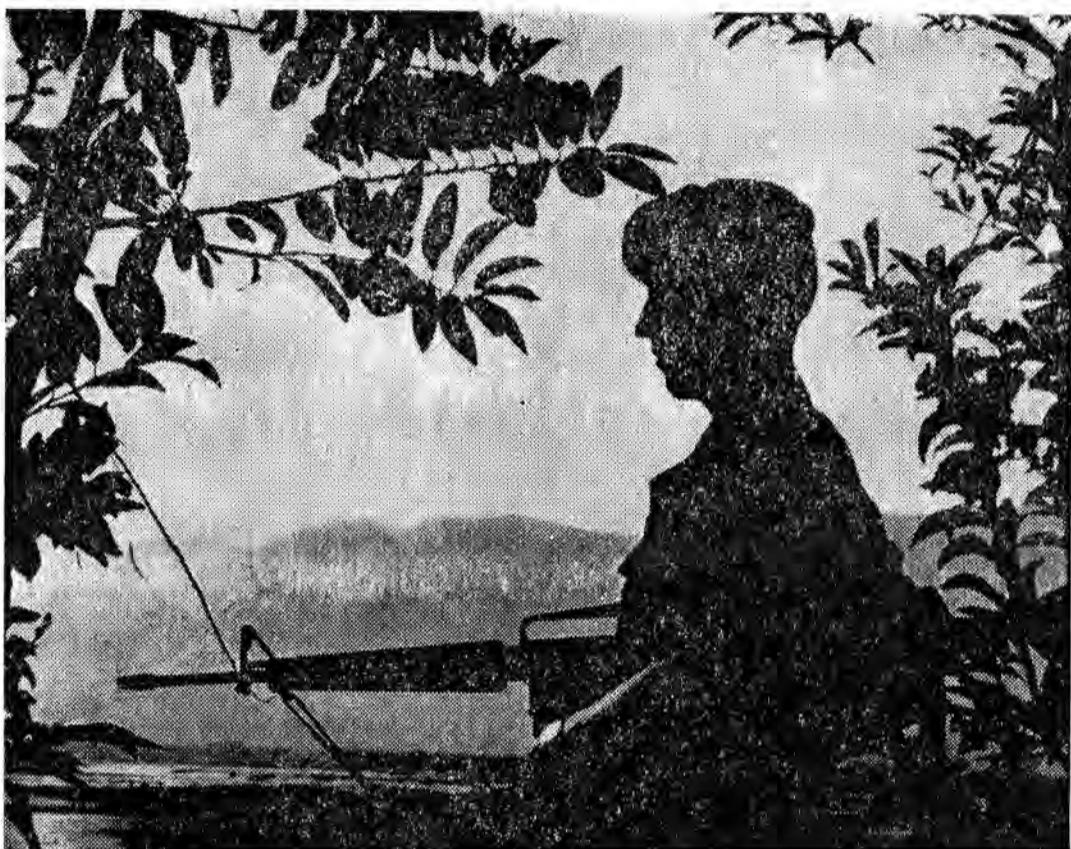
A member of the Armed Forces who becomes a prisoner of war has a continuing obligation to remain loyal to his country, his service and his unit.

The life of a prisoner of war is hard. He must never give up hope. He must resist enemy indoctrination. Prisoners of war who stand firm and united against the enemy will aid one another in surviving this ordeal.



CHILDREN CATEGORY — «The Very Young» by Sp5 Raleigh L. Sapp was selected as the best entry in the Children Category. It was taken on TRI-X 120 at 125 seconds F/16. Sapp uses a Minolta Camera.

## Vigilance Is The Price of Freedom



MILITARY LIFE CATEGORY — «Vigilance Is The Price of Freedom» photographed by Sp5 Boyd F. Sprague Jr., was taken with his Leica 35 mm. It was chosen as the best Military Photo.

Sp5 Boyd F. Sprague Jr. — Top Military Picture:

# SSO Names Winners of Photo Contest

By Sp5 Bob Bolia

## The Street Welder



EXPERIMENTAL — Sp5 Raleigh Sapp's photo, «The Street Welder», won him the top award in the Experimental Group. It was taken with his Minolta at 60 seconds F/8.

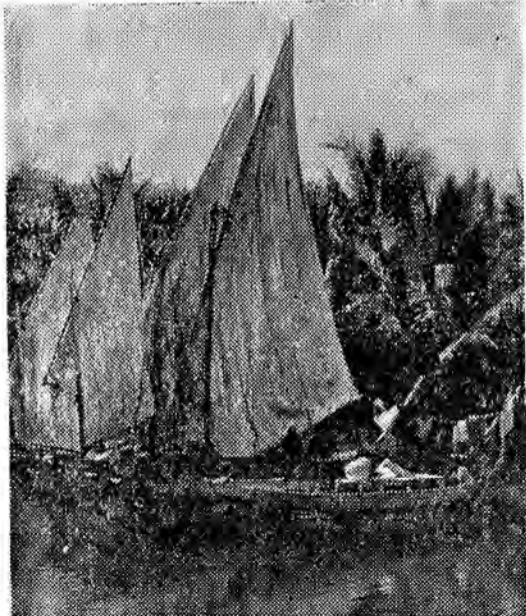
## EXPERIMENTAL

First prize in the experimental category was awarded to Specialist Sapp for his photo titled «Street Welder».

The contest was sponsored jointly by the USASCV Special Services Office and the Information Office. 2nd Lt. James L. Walker, SSO, was assisted by SFC Tony Bermudez and Sp4 Joe Wallace in judging the contest. Bermudez and Wallace are both assigned to the Information Office, USASCV.

The contest ran for the month of April. Lieutenant Walker will present the Savings Bonds to the winners early next week.

## ANOTHER DAY



SCENIC CATEGORY — «Another Day» was selected as the first place photo in the Scenic (Landscape) Group. It was taken by Sp5 Boyd Sprague, Jr. with his Leica.

Robert J. Street, also of the 5th SFG, for his entry «Motion In Stillness», Capt. Don Adams copped third place for his pic entitled «Face of Vietnam». Capt. Adams is assigned to Hq., USASCV.

## SCENIC (LANDSCAPES)

Specialist Sprague swept the field in the «Scenic» group, taking first, second and third places. His winning photograph was titled, «Another Day».

## CHILDREN

Specialist Sapp's «The Very Young» was judged the best children photo. Specialist Sapp is assigned to HHD, USASCV.

## PEOPLE

«Alms and the Antiquated» by Specialist Hanley, 5th SFG, was the first selection in the «People» category. Second and third places were awarded to Sapp for his «Siesta In Saigon» and «Corn on the Cob».

## Alms And The Antiquated



PEOPLE — Sp4 Thomas Edward Hanley with his Mamiya 120 snapped his «Alms and the Antiquated», which was selected as the best People photo.

**Vietnam Vignettes**

- People
- Events
- Places



By SFC Tony Bermudez



**BRITISHER GOES REGULAR** — Sp4 David A. Williamson, (left) a British subject, listens attentively to SFC Richard Hanson, USASCV career counselor, who points out to the home of Williamson's parents in London. The 19-year-old HHD company clerk recently reenlisted for a three-year enlistment in the Regular Army and extended his tour in Vietnam. (USASCV-IO Photo by Sp5 Bob Bolia).

**NEW STRIPES** — Congratulations to newly promoted SSgt. James M. Brown, HHD; Sp5s Aaron L. Depew and Ramon A. Santiago, STRATCOM Facility; Sp4s David S. Demmon, Clayton C. Majava, Joe Samuel and Curtis M. Wood, 73rd Aviation Company; and Sp4 David B. Parker, 20th PVNIMED Unit.

**ONE HUNDRED ELEVEN YEARS** — SFC Richard Hanson, command career counselor, reported that 28 enlisted personnel in the USASCV reenlisted last month for a total of 111 years service. SMAJ. Jack H. Wilson, STRATCOM Facility, led the list of reenlistees for the month of April by signing up for another three-year hitch. Reenlistees include SSgt. Earl J. Coleman, SSgt. George R. Moore and Sgt. James H. Nagel, HHD; Sgt. Richard I. Brown Jr. STRATCOM; MSgt. Howard F. Wilson and SFC Leonard A. Averitt, 5th SFG; MSgt. Franklin H. Bryan, ACTIV; and Sp5s Samuel Wittemann and Rudolph Brentley and Sp4 Joe Boutwell, HHD, 39th Sig. Bn.

Also SFC Thomas F. Quinn and Sp5 Morris L. East, 3rd RRU; Sp4 Melvin S. McEvoy Jr., 8th RRU; SFC John J. Cassell, 121st Avn. Co., SSgt. Calvin H. Ross, 117th Avn. Co., Sp5 E. L. Autrey, HHD, 52nd Avn. Co., MSgt. William E. Koger, 7th Finance; Sgt. Edward Brink, 560th MP Co., SFC Robert J. Hyde, Sp6 Laverne E. Fry, SSgt. Robert E. D. Rauh, Sp5 Oliver C. Brown, Sgt. Lorenzo Fernandez, and Sp5 Delbert D. Correll, 362nd Sign. Co., Sp6 Robert J. Curtis, 56th Trans. Co., Sp4 Crawford N. Hearn, 62nd QM Det., and Sp5 Neal E. Soles, GO... GO... ARMY!

**MOTHER'S DAY** — Just in case some of you have forgotten — May 9 is Mother's Day. The second Sunday of May is a Special Day for all — especially to military personnel serving in Vietnam. If you forgot to send Mom a card or gift... Do it now! Better late than never! If you are sending her flowers... remember to send carnations!



**EVERYBODY READS THE REPORTER** — USASCV Chaplain (Maj.) Warren H. Withrow, (second from left) shares a copy of the command's newspaper with (left to right) SFC David J. Hallman, Jr., SFC Herbert E. Wheeler and Maj. Charles L. Martin, MACV Advisory Team 41 at Song Mao. (USASCV-IO Photo by World — Vision).

**★ AIRBORNE**

(Continued from Page 1)

Deputy Chief Staff for Personnel, Department of the Army.

General Williamson was born in Raeford, N.C., on June 2, 1918. He graduated from Atlantic College, N.C., in 1940, with a Bachelor of Arts degree. He began his career with the North Carolina National Guard in Sept. 1940 and was commissioned a second lieutenant of Infantry in March 1941.

Rising from private to regimental Commander in World War II, General Williamson was integrated into the Regular Army in 1944. During the Korean War he participated in the amphibious landing at Inchon and served 20 months as Assistant G-3 of X Corps.

General Williamson is a graduate of the Command and General Staff College, Ft. Leavenworth, Kans., Armed Forces Staff College and the National War College. He also earned a Master of Science degree in International Affairs at George Washington University.

Among his numerous awards, General Williamson has been awarded the Bronze Star with 3 OLC; Purple Heart with 2 OLC; Legion of Merit with 1 OLC; Air Medal; Combat Infantryman's Badge, British Distinguished Service Order and the French Croix de Guerre.

General Williamson is married to the former Margaret McNeill of Charlotte, N.C., and has two children, Dan, 23, and Mary, 10.

**RVN Forces Honor 13th Avn. (Delta) Bn.**

Four posthumous awards of the Cross of Gallantry with Palm and the National Order 5th Class were presented to Lt. Col. Jack V. Mackmull, CO, 13th Aviation (Delta) Battalion April 17 in Bac Lieu in the names of 1st Lt. Charles Tucker, 1st Lt. Raymond Rupcic, Sgt. Rafael Forres, and Sp5 Clarence Jones.

In the same ceremony 16 officers and six warrant officers were decorated with the Cross of Gallantry with Palm (Army Level) while six officers, 10 warrant officers and 14 enlisted men were awarded the Cross of Gallantry with Gold Star (Corps Level). The Vietnamese decorations and awards were presented by the Vietnamese government in recognition of the American participation in Operation DAN CHI 129 conducted at Kien Long, Chung Tien province last month.

Awarded the Cross of Gallantry with Palm were Lt. Col. Jack V. Mackmull, Maj. Daniel P. Steinke, Francis A. Copland and George E. Derrick, Captains David D. Dryden, Gerald L. West, Robert F. Molinelli, Alfred J. Iller, Thomas L. Hester, Frederic R. Bisch, Jack W. Sanford, Robert F. Wetherbie, Charles A. Teague and Heyward W. Riley.

Also 1st Lt. Ronald O. J. Carlson and 1st Lt. Gerause MacNamara, and Warrant Officers Harold Sampson, Richard L. Eskey, Anthony Cosimano, Jerome R. Daly, Norris L. Davidson and Thomas Illowicki.

Col. Nguyen Van Minh, CO, 21st ARVN Infantry Division, presented the Cross of Gal-

lantry with Gold Star to Captains Thurman M. Pitman, John L. Brown, Jerry G. Patton and Edward Tolfa Jr., 1st Lts. Paul B. Maykuth and Michael M. Romer, CWO C. V. Mills, Warrant Officers Elmer V. Stima, William P. Lowie, Charles R. Stone, William Patterson, Jimmy D. Bright, Ronald L. White, Harvey R. Corr, Paul L. Messa and Paul H. Queen.

Also SFC Cyril G. Manning, Sergeants James Monroe and David V. Ruffin, Cpl. David T. Bailey, Sp5s Michael D. Casey, Bonnie L. Ogletree, Richard L. Varner, Albert Volk, Robert F. Lannerd and Joseph R. Leone; and Sp4s Raymond J. Tyllich, Richard Schamel III, Michael D. Gotchy and Jack W. Blundell.

**★ UH-1D**

(Continued from Page 1)

commanded by Maj. William W. Deloach, comes from Ft. Riley, Kans., and will be assigned to the 52nd Avn. Bn., stationed at Ban Me Thuot.

«A» Co., 101st, commanded by Maj. Wayne E. Dutton, is assigned to the 13th Avn. Bn., stationed at Soc Trang. The Unit came from Ft. Campbell, Kentucky.

**Sp5 Danny Kohl****Cunner Lifts Morale With Music**

By Sgt. Mike Canada

The hot winds drifting over the Mekong River carry with them the scents and sounds of life on the Delta. A new completely foreign sound in being carried by the wind... The drone of Scottish bagpipes.

Responsible for the «new sound» is Sp5 Danny Kohl, a gunner with «A» Company, 502nd Aviation Battalion located at Vinh Long. Specialist Kohl, a native of Riesel Tex., became interested in the bagpipes during his middle teens.

«I always liked the way they sounded, so I decided to build myself one» he recalls. I got an old inner-tube, cut down some cane poles and went to work. A French harp furnished the valves for the different notes. I was really surprised how close I came to building the real thing, stated Kohl.

The homemade bagpipes worked and Kohl started to learn a few numbers to play — trial and error method of course.

«My family was very understanding about the bagpipe, just like they were about the bugle», said Kohl. My father used to be a bugler in the horse-drawn cavalry and he used to play all of the bugle calls.

I decided that I would have a bugle and proudly bought one. We used to sit around and my father would whistle a call and I would duplicate it on my bugle».

But the interest in the bagpipes was strongest in Specialist Kohl. In 1961 while stationed at Fort Campbell with the 101st Airborne division, Kohl decided to get a real set of bagpipe. He wrote to a music store in Des Moines and ordered a set. You can imagine the joy in the barracks when the bagpipes finally arrived.

«Actually the guys were pretty good about it», remarked Kohl. «In fact, it seemed to build up the morale of the men. Once when we

went on a 15-mile march, the Colonel had me play the bagpipes all the way and I think the men really liked it».

Specialist Kohl does not get a lot of time to practice now that he is in Vietnam, but once in a while he takes his pipes out to the flight line.

One of the tunes he likes to play is Flowers of the Forrest, more commonly known as the death march — a fitting message to the Viet Cong from Sp5 Danny Kohl and the men of the A/502.



**MODERN BAGPIPER** — Sp5 Danny, Kohl, A/502 helicopter gunner, plays a marching tune for the benefit of his 'Maverick' buddies on the flight line at Vinh Long. (A/502nd-IO Photo by 1st Lt. Robert E. Bergquist.)