

HAWK

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1ST AVIATION BRIGADE

HAWK

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74th RACp. 14



44th STZp. 17

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COMMANDER 17th CAG
COMMANDER 164th CAG
COMMANDER 165th AVN GP
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Feature stories, photographs and art work of general interest to 1st Aviation Brigade personnel are invited. Write HAWK Magazine, Information Office, 1st Aviation Brigade, APO 96384.

EDITORIAL

A group of men from varied political and economic backgrounds sat down together in a small hot room in Philadelphia 193 years ago and took one monumental step that changed the course of world history.

They called themselves the Second Continental Congress.

These men, brought together out of necessity for united action in the face of the loss of their common liberties, overcame their petty differences to proclaim their belief in the undeniable rights of man and to declare their independence from the mother country—Great Britain.

Thus began the great tradition of freedom that has become the hallmark of the "American Way." These were the mere seeds of the future developments of liberty which were to become fundamental to all American thought. Seeds that germinated and grew and strengthened through the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, the Amendments and the evolving system of American government, tried and tested by crises and even civil war.

In these trying days of the mid-twentieth century it is more than ever necessary to remember and cherish our heritage and to defend it. We must stand up for what we believe and defend the principles that have made America the great nation that it is. We here in Vietnam know this and can be proud that we are doing our part to guarantee the continuation of those ideals put forth at Independence Hall in 1776.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Chaplain (CPT) Paul W. Hartick
268th Combat Aviation Battalion



There is a certain puzzle that consists of four blocks painted different colors on the sides. The problem is to mix these blocks up and then reassemble them in a stack so that on all four sides no color is repeated more than once. It can be very frustrating when the solution does not come quickly. Many times in our daily lives we run into frustrations.

The serviceman in Vietnam is faced with an almost endless variety of these frustrations. The problem is easily pointed out, but what is needed is a solution. The solution lies in understanding people. A well developed sense of feeling for others can do much to reduce the number of times we frustrate others and also cut down on our own frustrations.

Amid the separation from families, in close association with others and trying to accomplish a difficult task, it is understandable that there will be times when everything will not be smooth. At such times it may be easy to give way to frustration, but a far better way is to give the soft answer for one frustration eased for ourselves or someone else may make the tour a little better for everyone.

from the CAREER COUNSELOR

There are few things in life as satisfying and rewarding as doing the work you like, and doing it well. Perhaps you are fortunate enough to be in that position now. In the service, however, it has not always been possible to put a man in the job he wants or can do best. Often his secondary talents are more in demand. If that has happened to you, you can do something about it. New reenlistment options let you choose the career field you want.

All you have to do is meet the qualifications for an opening.

You can choose from over 200 different opportunities when you reenlist. The training you want, the job you want or the duty station you want. Any one of them can be yours, if you qualify for an opening.

If you have four years of service or less for pay, you may qualify for Airborne training.

Paratroopers are members of the swiftest, finest, striking force in the Free World. Twenty-one action packed days at Jump School earns a man the coveted silver paratrooper badge that is respected by all fighting men.

Airborne outfits operate as a complete, self-sustained unit so they require many of the MOS skills in the Army program. A man who prefers this rugged service will therefore have ample opportunity for valuable training and promotion.

Paratroopers earn an extra \$55 a month over and above the regular Army pay and allowances and continue collecting this extra pay as long as they remain assigned to an Airborne unit. Men who think they can make the grade can enlist with a guaranteed entry to Jump School.

See your Career Counselor today.



Black Lightning Strikes in II Corps...

268TH COMBAT AVIATION BATTALION

When Black Lightning strikes in the II Corps Tactical Zone it means death and destruction for Charlie. The Black Lightning refers, in this case, to the 268th Combat Aviation Battalion.

Headquartered at Phu Hiep, this mobile hard-hitting aviation element strikes without warning at the enemy in a manner not unlike its namesake.

Under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Garry Farmer, the diversified duty performance of more than 1,000 men are concentrated on providing ground commanders with sustained mobility, firepower, aerial reconnaissance,

tactical combat assaults, and logistic support.

The 268th Combat Aviation Battalion, with its three Assault Helicopter Companies, two Chinook Companies, Sky Crane Company and Aerial Weapons Company, is representative of 1st Aviation Brigade units whose high degree of aerial fire support responsiveness allows the ground commander to deploy, employ and redevelop his units with the resulting strategy of keeping pressure on the enemy, maintaining contact in fluid situations, cutting off withdrawal and completing the destruction or capture of his forces.

During a recent mission in support of the ROK Capitol Division, the 129th Assault Helicopter Company, the "Bulldogs" provided the troop commander with a mobile command post from where he controlled his ground units in the lightning moves of airmobile warfare.

The six-month period from November 1968 to April 1969 was a busy one for the 268th CAB. They flew 217,066 sorties, lifted 377,389 troops, hauled 62,659 tons of supplies and equipment and accounted for 231 enemy KIA.

The 61st Assault Helicopter Company, "Lucky Star," is based



A door gunner of the 268th CAB watches for enemy during a combat assault.

A Chinook of the 180th ASHC drops troops off in an LZ.



Gunship of the 268th CAB flying out to bring smoke on Charlie.

at An Son. Commanded by Major Maurice Hilliard, the slicks and gunships carry a pair of dice with 6-1 for good luck painted on the fuselage.

The unit was activated in May 1962 as an Otter Company and was switched to Caribou a year later. The 61st was deactivated in January 1967 when the Air Force took over the Caribou from the Army. It was reactivated a month later at Ft. Campbell, Ky. as a Helicopter Company and arrived in Vietnam in December.

The 129th Assault Helicopter Company, based at An Son, is commanded by Major Emmett Sonrow. The "Bulldogs" have conducted operations with the ROK Capitol, Tiger and Whitehorse Divisions. They support the Capitol Division more than any other and in April 24 ROK companies were lifted in an operation so large that other companies from the 17th Group were called on to help.

The newest member of the 268th CAB is the 238th Aerial Weapons Company based at An Khe. The "Gun Runners" were activated in July 1968 at Ft. Riley, Kansas, and arrived in Vietnam in March 1969. The commanding Officer is Major David Ross.

The 134th Assault Helicopter Company, commanded by Major Charles Teeter, is based at Phu Hiep. The "Demons" were acti-

Photos by
SP5 Joseph
F. Whinnery

vated at Ft. Bragg and arrived in Vietnam in November 1967. The gunships often provide firepower for LRP units, troop insertions and extractions.

The 355th Heavy Helicopter Company, "Work Horse in the Sky," is based at Phu Hiep. The Commanding Officer, Major David Baeb. The Cranes of the 355th carry mostly ammo for IFFV. They also carry bridges to rapidly move convoys across streams, recover downed aircraft and once carried railroad cars over twenty miles from the end of the railroad line to waiting barges on the coast.

The 355th was activated at Ft. Sill in April 1967 and arrived in Vietnam in January 1968. They were originally assigned to the 52d Combat Aviation Battalion in Pleiku, but were transferred to the 268th in September 1968.

The 196th Assault Support Helicopter Company, the "Vikings," are commanded by Major Ralph Stone and based at An Son.

They support the 173d Airborne Brigade, the ROK Capitol Division, the 4th Infantry Division, the 1st Air Cav and the ROK White-



A Crane of the 335th Aviation Company during a transfer of railroad cars.

horse Division. Their duties are to defoliate forests, recover downed aircraft and carry cargo and troops.

The 196th was activated at Ft. Sill in July 1966 and arrived in Vietnam in March 1967. They

were originally with the 10th Combat Aviation Battalion but were transferred to the 268th in June 1968.

The 180th Assault Helicopter Company, "Big Windy," is based at Phu Hiep and commanded by Major Philip Kaiser. The 180th was activated in March 1966 at Ft. Benning and arrived in Vietnam in December that same year. It took 7 C-130's, 2 Liberty ships and an Aircraft Carrier to bring the unit over.

The 180th was originally a part of the 10th Combat Aviation Battalion but was transferred to the 268th in November 1968.

The 268th Combat Aviation Battalion is bad news for Charlie in the II Corps tactical Zone. The enemy may not understand what makes a helicopter fly or hover but he certainly does understand the death and destruction that the weapons mounted on the helicopter bring when they strike. The 268th makes Black Lightning a much feared and respected unit to the enemy in II Corps.



A Chinook of the 268th CAB flies high over the II Corps Tactical Zone.



COL Herb D. Prather

Colonel Herb D. Prather recently relinquished command of the 12th Combat Aviation Group to Colonel Leo D. Turner.

Commanding Officer of the 12th Group since December 1, 1968, Col. Prather had previously functioned as Chief of Staff (Counterinsurgency) at 1st Aviation Brigade and Deputy Aviation Officer at Headquarters USARV.

A constant participant in Group assault missions, Col. Prather received the Distinguished Flying Cross for "voluntary action above and beyond the call of duty" during the TET '69 offensive when an enemy ground force supported by rockets and mortars attacked the Plantation-Long Binh military complex. He seized the initiative and established his ship as coordinator of air and ground force retaliation which repelled the enemy and inflicted heavy losses.



COL Jack V. Mackmull

Colonel Jack V. Mackmull recently relinquished command of the 164th Combat Aviation Group in a ceremony at Group Headquarters in Can Tho.

Commanding Officer of the 164th Group since December 1, 1968, Col. Mackmull was previously assigned to Ft. Belvoir, Va. This is his second Vietnam tour of duty.

A graduate of West Point, Col. Mackmull served in the Delta in 1964 when Army Aviation assets were limited to 114th and 121st Assault Helicopter Companies. Serving as commanding officer of the 13th Combat Aviation Battalion, he saw it double its size during his first Vietnam tour. HAWK would like to congratulate Col. Mackmull on a job well done and wish him the best of luck on his new assignment as Chief of Staff to the Commanding General, Delta Military Assistance Command.

12th, 164th Get New Co's

Colonel Leo D. Turner comes to the 12th Combat Aviation Group from the Pentagon where he worked as Chief of the Aviation Warrant Officer Branch.

This is Col. Turner's second tour in Vietnam. In 1966 he was commander of the 1st Cav Division's 229th Aviation Battalion.

HAWK would like to welcome COL Turner and wish him as much success in the Brigade as he has had in the past.

Colonel Leo D. Turner



Colonel J. M. Tomlinson comes to the 1st Aviation Brigade from Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics Department of the Army. He replaces Colonel Jack V. Mackmull as Commanding Officer of the 164th Combat Aviation Group. This is Col. Tomlinson's first Vietnam tour.

HAWK would like to welcome Col. Tomlinson to the 1st Aviation Brigade and wish him as much luck in the brigade as he has had in the past.

Colonel J.M. Tomlinson



NEWSLETTER



CSM Glenn E. Owens

CSM Glenn E. Owens departs the brigade this month after serving for a year as brigade Command Sergeant Major.

"Upon the completion of my assignment with the first Aviation Brigade on 27 July 1969, I leave with mixed emotions. I am extremely proud to have been the Command Sergeant Major of the 1st Aviation Brigade (Golden Hawks). The outstanding leadership of the officers and enlisted men has contributed tremendously to the success of the brigade. The continuity of leadership of the non-commissioned officers has been outstanding through a succession of commanders; this has made my tour the most rewarding of my military career. I sincerely believe that the brigade has accomplished all of its assigned missions in an outstanding manner."

HAWK would like to extend best wishes to CSM Owens as he returns to a stateside assignment and express the hope that he has as much success there as he has had with the 1st Aviation Brigade.



COL George E. Handley, Jr.

Colonel George E. Handley, Jr. assumed the duties of chief of staff of the 1st Aviation Brigade replacing Colonel Jay B. Williams, now Deputy USARV Aviation Officer.

Colonel Handley was formerly commander of the Air Cavalry Group at Ft. Knox, Ky.

His first command was "B" Battery, 61st Field Force, 1st Cavalry Division shortly after World War II. During the Korean War, Colonel Handley served as commander of the 7th Division Aviation Company. He has also served on the Department of Army staff and was an instructor at the Command and General Staff College.

Colonel Handley is rated as Army Aviator. He received his first rating in 1944. He has earned the Bronze Star, Air Medal and Army Commendation Medal.

HAWK would like to welcome the new chief of staff and wish him as much success in the brigade as he has had in the past.

HIGH FLIERS

Awards of the Silver Star and higher for the period 12 April through 15 May 1969.

WO1 David R. Mazoff, 195th Aviation Company (Ambl)
WO1 William A. Hall, 195th Aviation Company (Ambl)

1LT William F. Aubuchon, 195th Aviation Company (Ambl)

*SP4 Alvin L. Gay, 57th Assault Helicopter Company

SP4 Dallas J. Castleman, 7/17 Air Cavalry Squadron

SSG Ronnie L. Harris, 7/17 Air Cavalry Squadron

*WO1 John W. Turner, 7/17 Air Cavalry Squadron

WO1 Russell C. Mowry, Jr., 170th Assault Helicopter Company

*WO1 David R. Crow, 48th Assault Helicopter Company
CPT Kenneth M. Waldrop, 18th Aviation Company

CPT Charles R. Presnell, 117th Assault Helicopter company
MAJ David E. Thompson, 7/1 Air Cavalry Squadron

MAJ John S. Jacob, 199th Reconnaissance Airplane Company
*Posthumous

HAWK HONEY



*RAQUEL
WELCH*

*Photo Courtesy
20th Century Fox*

ABOUT VIETNAM: *Story by* **Swim**

SP4 David R. Wood

The Republic of Vietnam may never produce a gold medal Olympic champion like Don Scholander or a world record holder in the butterfly like Mark Spitz, but its people will enjoy a swimming program that has recently been given the "go ahead" by government recreation officials.

Swimming is obviously an ideal sport for the southeast Asian country. Tropical rains fill its many waterways, and the eastern coast is lined with beautiful white beaches that reach into the warm waters of the South China Sea.

But, oddly enough, few Vietnamese people have mastered the techniques of swimming. "Why?" one might ask himself if such facilities exist. That question can be answered as simply as, "Why haven't the athletes in the United States become proficient in soccer even though vast facilities exist?" It is because U.S. athletes have never had the proper instruction or coaching. Thus, the answer to the Vietnamese problem to swimming becomes evident.

The few aquatic instructors that do exist in the country have never been trained in the basic teaching techniques. There are no swim-

ming activities in the physical education curriculum of the schools. After school hours is the only time they have and with few qualified instructors, few students get to swim.

But relief is in sight. Vietnam's Swimming Federation, through the office of the Director General of Youth and Sports (DGOYS), Colonel Le Ngu Hiep, will assist in the achievement of the new aquatic program.

The program, projected for the rest of this year and 1970, will consist primarily of repair of DGOYS's existing pools and the construction of 30 new pools.

An international swimming association, Kalos Kagathos, has offered the biggest boost to developing Vietnam's aquatic potential. According to Bruce S. Hopping, chairman of Kalos Kagathos, the assistance will consist of bringing to the country internationally recognized coaches, educators and professionals as advisors. These immigrated instructors have as a primary mission the teaching of the basic techniques of swimming.

The basic stroke taught will be the Australian crawl. To master the crawl, the students will learn



Lt. Snyder and Mr. Thuong demonstrate the correct arm position for the floating. The students were taught these to give them the techniques to teach others.

Lt. Snyder, with the help of his interpreter Mr. Thuong, begins the instruction on swimming. Emphasis was placed on methods of teaching beginning, intermediate, and advanced steps of instruction.



SPORTS: PART IV



The students are fast learners as they float across the pool. Lt. Snyder and Mr. Phouc give on the spot corrections.



to float, the flutter kick, the arm stroke, and to coordinate their breathing with the arm stroke.

As classes progress and students become proficient in their newly acquired skill, they will be taught the art of diving, both surface diving and platform or spring-board diving. They will also be taught the different competitive strokes, primarily the breast stroke and the back stroke.

These initial students will then be sent to other pools built by DGOYS throughout the country as instructors to teach swimming as a recreational and educational activity.

Thus the philosophy of Kalos Kagathos is unveiled. That philosophy represents a collaboration of the educator, athlete and water in confronting the potential of youth with the truth of sports and the beauty of nature which enhances self-discovery through the disciplines of training and the psychology of athletics.

It has been suggested that swimming is an activity in which the individual, if he is to be successful, must relate his own abilities to the limitations that are imposed on him by the factors of nature.

In swimming the importance of

the water, the need to cooperate with it rather than fight it, is always evident to the swimmer. His victory is over himself in cooperation with nature.

The Kalos Kagathos Foundation is a council of scholars and educators dedicated to the correlations between intellectual creativity and the unique contribution of aquatic athletics to the psychological, social, physiological and moral maturity of young people as self-identified individuals.

At present, First Lieutenant David L. Snyder and Nguyen Tan Phouc from Civil Operations and Revolutionary Development Support (CORDS) Project Office, Leadership and Youth are conducting an inservice training program. Their goal is to try and accomplish the first aims of Kalas Kagathos, that of preparing the future aquatic instructors.

With Kalos Kagathos as a realization in Vietnam, swimming programs and ultimately the development of the individual will be enhanced tremendously.

Olympic champions or no Olympic champions, the Republic of Vietnam has a bright future in developing their natural swimming environment.

Lt. Snyder is giving some individual instruction on the flutter kick. Mr. Thuong, with his hand raised, explains the importance of individual instruction.



Sanford Army Airfield in Honor of Major Jack Sanford

A dedication ceremony was held this month renaming the Long Binh Heliport after one of the first heroes of Army Aviation in the Vietnam war. It is now known as Sanford Army Airfield in memory of Major Jack W. Sanford who lost his life on a mission in June 1965.

Major Sanford was among the most highly decorated Army Aviators in Vietnam. He began his military career at age 14 spending four years in the Marine Corps before enlisting in the Army in 1949.

He served as a platoon sergeant in the Korean war and rose to Sergeant First Class in the enlisted ranks before he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in 1955.

He volunteered for duty in Vietnam and volunteered to fly gunships as well. He died leading a heavy fire team of his Armed Helicopter Platoon on a mission out of Vinh Long in the Delta.

While serving in Vietnam he earned a Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross with Oak Leaf Cluster, Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster with "V" Device, Air Medal with 20 Oak Leaf Clusters, the 15th and the 20th with "V" Device, Army Commendation Medal, Purple Heart with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters, Vietnam Service Medal with 2 Campaign Stars (Vietnam-Vietnam Defense), Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for service in Vietnam, Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with 3 Palms and one Silver Star Cluster, and Republic of Vietnam National Order, 5th Class.

In addition he earned the Commendation Ribbon with Metal Pendant, Army Occupation Medal with clasp for Japan, National Defense Service Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster, Korean Service Medal with one Bronze Service

Star, Combat Infantry Badge, United Nations Service Medal, Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation, Parachutist Badge, Senior Army Aviator Badge, Good Conduct Medal, Navy Commendation Medal and Navy Good Conduct Medal.

He was a self-made and self-educated man. He took night courses for eleven years to earn a degree from the University of Maryland.

Four years after his death men gathered to dedicate a monument to a man who risked his life repeatedly and finally gave it to help keep a people free.

BG Allen M. Burdett, Jr., brigade commanding general was in charge of the dedication as Army Aviation paid tribute to one of its own. LTG Frank G. Mildren, USARV deputy commander, was the reviewing officer.

MAJOR JACK SANFORD



Major Sanford receiving the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry.



The Memorial plaque at Sanford Army Airfield.



A SOLDIER'S STORY

by Eugene Patterson Managing Editor

The Washington Post

The war is this way in Viet Nam: I wrote about Capt. Jack Sanford when I was out there last December. He was the volunteer who led the helicopter gunship platoon on the night strafing mission I described, when the machine guns sent their tracers softly down like a garden hose in the night sky spraying red.

"In the Army at 14," I wrote of him then, "he has completed 18 years and still looks like a college man. He is. He earned his degree from the University of Maryland by taking do-it-yourself night extension courses for 11 years. He got shot twice as a platoon sergeant in Korea, earned his black belt in judo in Japan, won a Regular Army commission on pure merit, and volunteered for Viet Nam. He wanted the (all volunteer) gunships and got them... His helicopter has been hit four times in two months by ground fire, and for one assault landing in the lap of the Viet Cong he won the Viet Nam Army's Cross of Gallantry."

A month ago he took a bullet through the neck.

A very gentle, as well as a very firm man, Jack Sanford showed an unequivocal respect for the South Vietnamese and felt the risking of his life in their defense was a most honorable duty.

He lived by the professional code of military honor, and treasured it. ("It's expected that you will tell the absolute truth," he told me proudly. "If you don't, you don't get ahead in the military.")

But he was also motivated by something more personal. He felt he was helping a people who needed his help, and that in honor he owed it.

He survived last month's neck wound. A week ago he went back into the air at the head of his platoon. A thousand Viet Cong had ambushed 70 Vietnamese who were investigating a roadblock. To the rude blasts of an old auto horn on the operations shack, Capt. Sanford once more led his U.S. gunships up and away from that little dirt airstrip at Vinh Long where I lived with him, and talked with him late into the nights about arms and idealism, and home.

(Here in my billfold now, in his handwriting, is his wife's address in Columbus; he scribbled it one night and asked me to call her when I got back, and tell her he was all right.)

He flew northeast over the green paddies of the Mekong delta that looked so deceptively still and safe when he flew me over them. He located the enemy of his South Vietnamese friends and he struck into the mouths of their guns. It was only last Wednesday.

He banked in just 150 feet above the ground on his second firing run. His machine guns were flaming, and his rockets booming in, when he took a bullet in the leg and another in the groin.

His helicopter pitched straight up, spun 180 degrees and lost RPM before copilot Tim Bisch, another friend who used to tell me about his children, could grab control. The jet turbine Huey pancaked hard into the ground and exploded. The Viet Cong put mortar fire on a rescue aircraft. But comrades get each other out. Capt. Bisch may live. The crew chief was killed.

Capt. Jack Sanford died of his wounds aloft, en route to a hospital.

Capt. Bryce Kramer of Pine Mountain, Ga., another very brave friend from the gunships of Vinh Long, brought the captain's body home yesterday, and called to let me know.

There'll be a service for the Sanford family at East Rainelle, W. Va., today. Next Monday he'll be buried at Arlington.

He was such a vital, self-sufficient man, so upright and unafraid, that I had somehow expected he would make it through. He spent 11 of his 32 years studying for that college degree, took three wounds for his country before the final ones. He cashed all of it in on one fearless firing run for some friends whose language he couldn't even speak.

I talked to his wife, Jeanette, yesterday and told her Jack would have wanted to go that way.

"I know that," she said.

The National Guard...

And the Brigade

"What did you say your service number was?"

"I said NG28288536."

The S-2 clerk was going about his daily tasks of briefing new arrivals to the 1st Aviation Brigade.

"NG, huh? What unit, what state, have you heard any good rumors on deactivation of the reserves?"

The new trooper was probably wondering why this strange RA-looking type was so interested in the world of rumors that the latest wave of reservists have had to live with since their influx into Vietnam.

"I'm an NG too," the S-2 clerk replies.

"You sure don't look like one," answers the new man in the bright green jungle fatigues.

None of the new reservists who come to Vietnam "look like one" after the newness of the uniform wears off. These National Guardsmen and Army reservists entering Vietnam today have become just another part of the Army in the Vietnam conflict.

On 13 May 1968, the Department of Defense called to active duty 24,000 Army National Guardsmen and Army reservists. Since then 10,000 of these "week-end warriors" have suddenly found themselves in the middle of a seven-day-a-week war.

After being called to active duty in the spring of last year, they went with their units to various Army posts throughout the U.S. There they had to brush up on and polish what they had been practicing at their weekend meetings.

Most of the units called up last May had been on an accelerated drill schedule for a year or more. They were known as Selected Reserve Forces. They had weekend training assemblies as often as every other weekend. Their schedule of normally 48 drills per year was upped to as many as 92 drills annually.

This program to beef up our re

serve forces was established by former Defense Secretary Robert McNamara. It was done to insure a highly trained and well equipped force for rapid activation and deployment to any trouble spots in the world.

Every type of unit imaginable was called to active duty. The National Guard and reserve units range in diversity from a 34-man



SP4 Jerry R. Thompson Kansas Army National Guard



SP4 Rodger R. Stelter Kansas Army National Guard



SP5 Gary V. Trippe Florida Army National Guard

medical-dental team from Alabama to a long range patrol unit from Indiana.

There are NG's and Army reserve members in almost every unit in Vietnam. The 1st Avn. Bde. is not without its representatives of the reserve forces. From the 164th CAG in Can Tho to the 212th CSAB at Marble Mountain near Da Nang, there are reservists filling vital slots in the brigade organization.

These reservists became spread out due to the process of infusion. This is a program to insure that the unit does not disintegrate all at

*SP5 Victor B. Lackey
Californian Army
National Guard*

*Story by
SP5 Victor
B. Lackey*

once. Having arrived in country together, they would all DEROS on the same day. They are traded and transferred to other units and replaced by US's and RA's to effect a varied DEROS of all the men in the unit.

The men in the new jungle fatigues with the funny service numbers don't stand out too long. They have quickly picked up the tempo and are doing their share just like the rest of the soldiers in Vietnam. That "NG" prefix means the same now as it means to all of us. He is just another "New Guy."

National Guardsmen play an important part in the brigade and perform a variety of jobs displaying a great deal of experience. The photos on this page illustrate only a few of these duties and skills. Editor's Note.





Flying the Skies of III Corps...

74th Reconnaissance Airplane Company

"Aloft five-zero, Aloft five-zero," the whisper of a Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol leader is barely heard through the steady hum of the O-1 Bird Dog's headset.

"This is Aloft five-zero," the Bird Dog pilot answers.

"Team three-one, report single shot at 300 mikes, 125° from present position."

"Roger three-one."

Aerial observation of LRP teams is just one of the many missions performed by the pilots of the 74th Reconnaissance Airplane Company, better known by their nickname "Aloft," headquartered at Phu Loi.

This extremely versatile Bird Dog company under the command of Major Wade W. LaDue pro-

vides combat aviation support to III Corps and its elements by furnishing direct support to several infantry divisions and general support to Corps headquarters and the 210th Combat Aviation Battalion.

At present, Aloft pilots fly in direct support of the 5th and 18th ARVN Divisions and the U.S. 54th Artillery Group. General support is provided to other American and Free World Forces in III Corps.

Providing aerial support of III Corps is a big job requiring long hours and dedication on the part of the company's 37 pilots and their crew chiefs. An example of the job these men do is exhibited in the 4,327 hours they flew during this past March. Since the first of the

year, Aloft pilots have flown 9,945 sorties which account for 14,383 hours in the air. In accumulating all these hours, the aircraft mechanics have kept aircraft availability at better than 80% which is the maximum demanded by the battalion.

"The pilots know why they are here and want to perform those missions," says Major LaDue.

Aloft has supported such major operations in III Corps as EL PASO II, and BIRMINGHAM of the 1st Infantry Division. At one time or another the 74th RAC has supported every unit, whether U.S., ARVN, Thai, or Australian, in III Corps except the 1st Cavalry Division.

The 74th RAC, the first O-1 Bird Dog company to arrive in Vietnam, was created March 26, 1965, from the 73rd Aviation Company. Upon its establishment it was headquartered at Tan Son Nhut with one platoon at Bien Hoa. Later in 1965, the flight platoons moved to Phu Loi and Xuan Loc. At the present time, Aloft has its first platoon at Lam Son, second platoon at Xuan Loc, and the general support platoon at Phu Loi.

The area of operation for the 74th RAC encompasses the entire III Corps Tactical Area. For the most part the terrain is flat land composed primarily of rice paddies as far as the eye can see. In the upper northern and far eastern regions of the operational area there are scattered hills and high mountains.

This "bastard battalion" of officers, warrant officers, and enlisted men that keep O-1 Bird Dogs and U-6 Beavers in the air perform diverse missions.

The first platoon, consisting of two sections, is under the leadership of Captain Michael D. LaCross. Making up the first section are O-1 Bird Dogs and pilots operating out of the compound of Lam Son. One man, his aircraft, and crew chief who fly out of Hon Quan compose the second section.

The first platoon's primary mission is that of visual reconnaissance of the local area and are in direct support of the 5th ARVN Division. During contact missions the aircraft carry ARVN observers who direct all ARVN assets. Other operations of the platoon range from artillery adjustment to convoy escort and priority movements of VIPs.

The pilots of the first section fly in the 32nd Division Tactical Area which covers the area from the Cambodian border and II Corps

north and south to Saigon. The 25th ARVN Division borders on the west while the 18th ARVN Division is on the east. Their main mission of visual reconnaissance is coordinated with G-2 and G-3. The entire operation is a joint effort with the Air Force who also operates in the 32nd DTA.

Being a direct support platoon, the men are on 24-hours standby. Once in the air, the aircraft can be directed to any area and are in constant contact with the TOC duty officer.

The mission of the second section, that of watching the Cambodian border, was added to the jobs of the first platoon in 1966. The mission is flown by a single pilot, Captain Robert O. Clifford.

Captain Clifford supports all

ARVN missions in the Binh Long Province which includes activity of the U.S. 1st Division. According to Captain Clifford, "My largest and most important operation is the daily watch of the border." If contact is made on the ground, Captain Clifford can radio for artillery support from the 23rd Artillery Group at Quan Loi and the Thunder Bases of the 1st Division.

The second platoon located at Xuan Loc is lead by Captain Horace C. McComber. This platoon comprised of pilots and their aircraft is also divided into two sections.

The first section flies direct support of the U.S. 54th Artillery Group and the American and Free World Forces in the eastern half of III Corps.

Maintenance is important on the O-1 Bird Dog and here a member of the 74th RAC pulls PM on one of the spotter planes.



Story and Photos by

SP4 David R. Wood

The second section flies a MACV mission in direct support of the 18th ARVN Division. Captain McComber says of his platoon, "The missions these men fly are as fire support coordinators which is exactly what the Bird Dog was designed for and the pilots were trained for."

The pilots are their own ob-

second platoon flies in mutual agreement with the Air Force air controllers.

The second platoon's mission not only encompasses the ARVN artillery adjustment and visual reconnaissance but at one period of time during 1967 the mission was widened to include hunting elephants used by the enemy for

Company of the 151st Infantry Long Range Reconnaissance Patrols.

All flights of the general support platoon carry an observer who is supplied by either the 199th Light Infantry Brigade or the 82nd Artillery Group. Even though the pilots of the 74th RAC are trained in observation, artillery adjustment, and troop movements from the air, these observers make the load easier on the pilot.

The most important operation of the general support platoon is that of the Rung Sat Special Zone. This operation entails a daily visual reconnaissance mission of the Nha Be shipping channel which flows southeast from Saigon to Vung Tau and the South China Sea. The pilots and, oddly enough, a Marine Corps observer fly the channel in watch for rocket attacks on ships in the channel. The pilot also destroys bunkers and enemy positions with Naval gun fire from destroyers in the South China Sea. If a ship were sunk in the channel, the channel would be blocked until the wreckage could be cleared thus closing down Saigon's important link to the sea.

The continuing success of these missions and operations of the 74th RAC has earned the Meritorious Unit Citation and the Presidential Unit Citation.

Aloft has established a precedent for other Bird Dog companies to follow. Says Major LaDue of his pilots, "The fine reputation established by the Aloft pilots is well known throughout the III Corps area."

Aloft has supported American troops as well as ARVN, Australian, and Thai. They will go on doing their job as long as the need arises.

Aloft is known throughout III Corps and is used by ground commanders in time of need due to the reputation and professional ability of the Aloft aviators to get the job done.



A Bird Dog of the 74th RAC on a mission high over III Corps Tactical Zone.

server. This differs from the other platoons in the 74th RAC where an observer always accompanies the pilot. When the pilots of the second platoon are on a contact mission they direct troop movements, direct fields of fire, adjust artillery, and direct air strikes for the advisor on the ground. This is the intended job for all Aloft pilots but few ever get the opportunity to do so.

As does the first platoon, the

movement of supplies.

The largest platoon is the general support platoon located at Phu Loi. This platoon, also divided in two sections, is under the leadership of Captain Michael G. Ball.

The mission of the first section is a mission of visual reconnaissance in support of the U.S. 25th Division. They also fly mortar watch missions over Saigon.

The second section of the general support platoon flies for "D"



164th CAG and 7/1 Air Cav put the clamps on Charlie...

44TH Special Tactical Zone

A company of ARVN soldiers move out in search of VC trying to pass through the 44th STZ.



Night. A company of Viet Cong soldiers fresh after a week-long rest in hidden sanctuaries prepares to cross the border into South Vietnam. Silently they set out to return to their area of operations in the delta.

Miles away, two Huey slicks and two HueyCobra gunships pull pitch and fly off on a night recon mission. A Hunter-Killer team of the 7/1 Air Cavalry Squadron.

Roaming high over the border province of Kien Phong, the command and control ship, using night sighting devices, spots movement on the ground. Alerting the Huey-Cobra gunships, the C&C ship instructs the flare ship to provide illumination.



A cloud of smoke marks the spot where moments before rockets were sent screaming toward the enemy.

Moments later the sound of rockets and miniguns shatter the night as the gunships make run after run on the hapless VC soldiers.

This is the way of the war in the 44th Special Tactical Zone. This special zone, established almost two years ago, covers the 185 miles of Cambodian border along the IV Corps Tactical Zone, including the immediate interior provinces of Chan Doc, Kien Phong, Kien Tuong as well as the northern portion of Kien Giang province.

The moving of troops and supplies by VC through this region to and from hidden sanctuaries across the border is of major importance to the enemy. Thus the problem the 44th STZ was designed to solve is clear, the result has already been hinted at; it is the tactics involved that draw one's interest, especially from the perspective of Army Aviation.

"Our primary mission is to block and interdict enemy troop movements, supplies and equipment," explained Colonel Mitchell J. Hazam, senior advisor to the 44th Special Tactical Zone. "Once the

VC could cross the border and proceed to their central staging areas in the Delta, more or less unhampered, but no longer!"

Typical of the terrain found in the Mekong Delta, the 44th STZ is predominantly flat and open, interlaced with a vast system of natural and man-made canals which afford the major means of transportation. Small strips of tree-line patch the area in random fashion, and together with a few forest areas, provide the enemy with some degree of aid in evading

surveillance activities. In the western portion of the zone, the Seven Mountains area provides the exception, with a cluster of high, scantily vegetated, rocky peaks several miles inside the border. All along the border itself a buffer zone of approximately 800 meters in width is maintained by defoliation operations.

Unlike the rest of the Delta area, the zone is in a low state of cultivation and features a rather sparse population base. For this reason the area is important to the VC mainly as a highway from the populous, more politically important, Delta region to and from rest areas across the border.

Blocking the enemy is one of the two main missions of the zone. By utilizing a flexible system of outposts, augmented by constant patrolling and recon of the area by Regional Forces and Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) elements, the VC have been deprived of free, unhampered passage, and is immediately placed in a compromised, defensive position. Obviously, however, this tactic can only be partially successful given the large area to be covered and limitations of available troops. But for those units that manage to slip past the blocking forces, there remains a great distance to be covered and their problems have just begun.

Nui Coto one of the Seven Mountains where VC have long stopped to rest on the way through the 44th STZ.

**Photos by
164th CAG IO**



Inside the zone, the VC's options and freedom of movement are greatly restricted. Through photographic reconnaissance of the area, enemy movement in large groups is thwarted; B-52 bombing missions and tactical airstrikes provide a KO punch here. The Seven Mountains area with its natural cave complexes, has long provided the VC with a handy way-station. Recent operations involving paratroop drops of Special Forces-led CIDG forces, tactical air-strikes, air mobile assaults and artillery firing at point-blank range, have been conducted to contest the VC's use of these mountain fortresses. Nui Coto, one of the seven major peaks, has already been wrested from the enemy after four months of heavy fighting; operations against other enemy sites are presently under way.

Providing the quickest and easiest means of transportation, the river and canal system throughout the area is patrolled by allied naval gunboats. These vehicles have tremendous firepower potential and allow for on-the-spot search of any suspected craft. They also have a capability for inserting troops and setting up ambushes.

It must be realized, however, that these procedures only account for some of the VC's possible tactics. To deny him the right to travel in groups, to wrest his way-stations and staging areas from him, and restrict his use of the waterways is only a part of the total interdiction effort.

The elusive and resourceful nature of the VC is well known. If another way or method exists he can usually be counted on to discover and use it. Reacting to the previous allied checks on his movement, the VC, aided by guides familiar with the infiltration routes and provided with an armed escort, have turned to movement by small convoy. Moving through the swamps or treelines which cannot feasibly be patrolled by foot and



CIDG troops on a sweep through one of the provinces of the 44th STZ.

over the numerous small canals which are unnavigatable to all but small sampans, the enemy offers his last challenge to the interdiction effort. The importance of stopping this type of movement, when one realizes that a couple of individuals can carry enough explosives to destroy a whole flight line or enough medical supplies to support a company-sized element opera-

tion for an extended period, is not hard to see.

It is this area of small group movement through areas not readily accessible to ground and naval forces that new and imaginative tactics have arisen, specifically those of the Army's Air Cavalry.

"I like to think of them as the eyes and wheels of the zone," reflected COL Hazam, speaking of

A slick from the 164th CAG drops troops in an LZ to search for Charlie.



the 7/1 Air Cavalry Squadron. "The flexibility, massive firepower and highly mobile capabilities of the Cav is indispensable to the success of our mission here."

Supplementing their own slicks with those of other attached units, the squadron is capable of initiating major operations, inserting several battalions on short notice, throughout the zone. It is, however, in the spirit of the cavalry of yesteryear that the virtue and uniqueness of the Air Cav comes to the fore.

To stop VC movements through the area the Cav conducts constant visual surveillance of the entire zone. Each day patrols of LOH scouts, HueyCobra gunships and a Command and Control ship provide the "Eyes" of the 44th STZ. Backed up by miniguns and rockets of the Cobras, the scouts fly at tree-top level, trying to catch the hidden enemy, locate newly built fortifications or caches of supplies and equipment and spot other telltale signs of enemy activity. Aiding their recon effort, the Cav has troops at its disposal to insert for probing purposes and even utilizes a sophisticated personnel



VC's view of a Huey Cobra gunship circling overhead.

detector which will register human scent in the immediate area, known as the "people sniffer."

In addition, the Night-Hunter-Killer teams are active nightly in conjunction with infra-red photography operations by Mohawks of the 164th Combat Aviation Group. This tactic not only further

harasses the enemy, but also yields much useful intelligence data.

According to Captain James A. Ray, Jr., of Blackhawk TOC, "The fact that we are patrolling 24 hours a day has quite a psychological effect on 'Charlie.' Obviously we can't be everywhere at once, but Charles still never knows when he might look up and find out that we are where he is."

For the enemy one fact remains; the necessity of resupplying and re-equipping his forces in the Delta. His tactic of constantly varying the methods he uses has already been checked by the aggressive recon methods of the Cav. Attempts to hide his caches from the LOH scouts have been foiled; recently a 100-ton cache was uncovered in Kien Giang province, 40 tons in another area. Intelligence reports recently revealed Charles' concern over the degree of success he has had of late in moving through the zone.

The VC will come up with new methods of evasion. He is never at a loss for new ideas. And the Cav will still be there. Devising new ways to stop him.

HueyCobra gunship flying cover for infantry troops on a search and destroy mission.



-THE JUDGE SAYS- WILLS AND PROBATE

By Captain Douglas C. Arthur

The right to make a will is conferred upon the individual by the State. It is a privilege that, like the right to vote, is often permitted to go unused. Naturally there are restrictions on this right to make a will, and it must be determined if the individual making the will has an intent that can be carried out under the laws that apply.

The will itself is simply a writing in which an individual known as a *testator* indicates the disposition he desires to be made of his property at the time of his death. The term "property" includes all the things one might own; for example, real estate, cash, automobiles, stocks and bonds. In making a will, the testator states in clear language what he wants done with his property at the time of his death. Therefore, the main *function* of a will is to dispose of property, but this is not necessarily the main *purpose* of a will. Very often the local descent and distribution laws will give a decedent's property to just about the same people he would give it to by will. For example, suppose the applicable law gives the widow of one who dies without a will (intestate) an interest in all his property for the remainder of her life and then instructs that upon her death the property shall pass to his children or grandchildren if his children have died. Further suppose this is just what the decedent wanted for his family—he wanted the widow to have the use of the property for her life, and then he wanted the children or grandchildren to get it. Why should he make a will?

If he does not make a will an administrator will have to be appointed by the court. An administrator is a person appointed to manage the business of the decedent until it can be concluded. The administrator will have to furnish bond to insure that he will faithfully perform all the duties of his office. Also, when he manages the estate, he will have to stay strictly within his very limited statutory powers. Every event the least bit off the beaten track will necessitate his going into court for special authority.

Expense vastly reduced. The testator can appoint an executor to manage the business of the estate and thereby avoid the necessity for a court-appointed administrator. He can usually relieve the executor of the necessity to post bond, and the executor can be given powers broad enough to cover any situation. And each time he stays out of court, the estate saves money. So a will is to distribute the property as the testator desires, but it is also to do it as economically as possible.

When the maker of the will dies, then the procedures of *probate* begin. Someone, normally the executor of the estate, must present the will to the probate court, along with a petition asking the court to recognize the will as the true will of the testator. Notice of this petition must be given to the public, usually in the newspaper, so that if anyone has reason to suspect that the will may be a forgery, or executed under duress, he may come forward with such facts.

Once the will has been accepted for probate, notice of this must be given, again usually in the newspaper, so that any creditor of the deceased may file a claim against the estate. It is the duty of the executor to determine which claims are legitimate and pay those which represent valid obligations. The executor must also pay funeral expenses and satisfy tax obligations that might exist against the estate. After these matters are concluded the executor distributes the property of the estate to the beneficiaries according to the terms of the will.

The foregoing description of wills and probate procedure is by no means a comprehensive study of the subject. Many areas have been left unexplored. Any soldier who does not now have a will, or has questions about his will, should present these questions to a Legal Assistance Officer. It is helpful that the individual have a fairly exact idea of his assets and liabilities—what he owns and what he owes. The advice you receive will be based on the facts you present, so a full-disclosure of your personal affairs is necessary for the assisting attorney to provide maximum service.

