

# HAWK

OCTOBER 1969





# HAWK MAGAZINE

salutes

## 307TH AVN BN (CBT)



A coiled Cobra seems ready to strike from the crest of the 307th Aviation Battalion (CBT).

The symbolism is not accidental. The "Phantom" battalion is ready to strike with its HueyCobras at the slightest notice. The three sides of the Delta figure in the crest represent reconnaissance, surveillance and attack, the three missions of the 307th, and the two lightning flashes represent its communications speed.

Although a relatively young unit, the 307th Aviation Battalion (CBT) is completely versatile and covers the entire Mekong Delta.

The battalion was officially formed December 20, 1967, although it had been in existence without a name since August 1 of that year. Its original companies were the 199th and 221st Reconnaissance Airplane Companies and the 244th Surveillance Airplane Company.

In November of that year the 235th Armed Helicopter Company, flying "C" model Huey gunships, joined the "Phantoms." This company of "Delta Devils," destined to be equipped with HueyCobras within two months, gave the battalion its attack capability.

Later the battalion achieved even greater diversity when the 271st Assault Support Helicopter Company, flying CH-47 Chinooks, replaced the 221st RAC. On September 1 of this year, the 147th Assault Support Helicopter Company at Vung Tau replaced the 199th RAC.

Current commander of the battalion, and fifth in its history, is LTC William Culton.



# HAWK



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1st AVN BDE

OCTOBER 1969

VOL III NO 2

### FRONT COVER:

"Tropic Lightning" soldiers of the 25th Infantry Division run for cover as a slick from the 116th Assault Helicopter Company prepares to pull pitch after inserting them in an LZ. 1st Aviation Brigade Photo by SP4 David R. Wood.

### BACK COVER:

The hot tropical sun rises over the vast expanse of the Mekong River Delta highlighting a 7/1 Air Cavalry Squadron doorgunner's M-60 and signaling the start of another day's operation. 1st Aviation Brigade Photo by SP4 Art Hannum.



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HAWK





*"Black Hawks" sink talons into Delta VC...*

## 7/1 Air Cavalry Squadron

It had been a long night for Son, but now the sun was up and he was allowed to rest. He stood knee deep in the muddy water and began to tie his hammock

onto one of the lower branches of a nearby tree.

Son's group of six Viet Cong infiltrators had been poling their way through the flooded regions

surrounding the Mekong River. They had begun their journey in Cambodia, just after dark, the evening before.

Poling those sampans, brimming with supplies for the VC in the Delta region, was strenuous. Exerting oneself to that extent, and being continuously on guard for the American's searchlight equipped helicopters, exhausted a person both mentally and physically.

But now they were safely hidden within one of the many clumps of trees that are scattered throughout the area just under the Cambodian Border, in IV Corps. The deep water that enabled them to come so far, so quickly, now prevented them from sleeping on the ground; necessitating the hammocks slung between the trees. They would awake later in the day, to divide the supplies into smaller amounts,



*A slick of the 7/1 Air Cav flares out as it approaches an LZ.*



**Story and Photos by  
SP4 Art Hannum**

which would then be dispersed to different VC elements throughout the Delta. But now for sleep.

Son layed his head back into the sling and closed his eyes, but immediately opened them again. There, right above his head, hovered a small helicopter. It looked barely big enough to carry the two helmeted men who were staring at him. Son reached for his AK-47; it was already too late. He never heard the minigun spit out the stream of lead that engulfed him and his comrades.

It was literally a matter of minutes before the whole encampment was surrounded by ARVN troops. The VC were dead. The ARVNs gathered up the entire stock of rockets, rocket launchers, grenades, ammunition, rifles, and machine guns that the infiltrators had solaboriously smuggled across the border.

A successful mission by any unit's standards, but the type of operation that has come to be expected of the 7th Armored Squadron of the 1st Air Cavalry.

From the 17th of April to the 30th of July, 1969, "The Black Hawks" have accounted for 4003



*A "Black Hawk" pilot follows other slicks of the 7/1 into LZ.*

confirmed dead VC hit from the air. Their Cavalry troop killed 768 more. The above figures are actually only a portion of the total that could be attributed to the Squadron.

The 7/1 is organized into four troops. The first three troops, Apache, Dutchmaster, and Commanchee, are the Air Cavalry units.

Each Air Cav troop consists of three platoons. The scout platoon finds the enemy, the aero-weapons platoon destroys him, and the

aero-rifle platoon provides additional reconnaissance.

The fourth troop, Powdervalley, is a ground reconnaissance unit. Powdervalley troop is divided into three mounted, ground reconnaissance platoons. Each platoon contains a scout section, an anti-tank section, a rifle squad, and a mortar squad.

Their mission is to perform ground and route reconnaissance, convoy escort, perimeter defense, route security, and search and destroy operations.

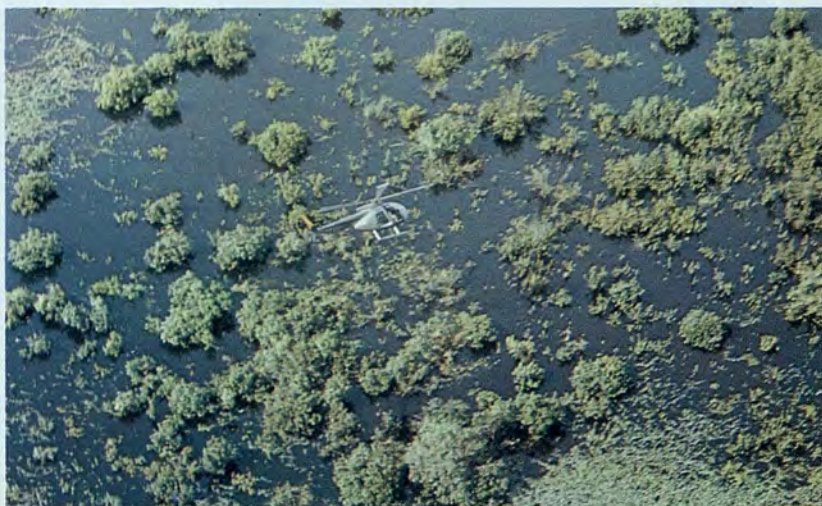


*Seated behind the symbol of the 7/1, crossed sabers, the pilots of a UH-1 slick prepare to crank up.*



*AH-1G HueyCobra prepares to land for rearmament after a gun run near the Cambodian border.*





*OH-6A Cayuse searches out the enemy deep in the Mekong Delta.*

Each of the troops may function independently, with another troop, or with the entire Squadron.

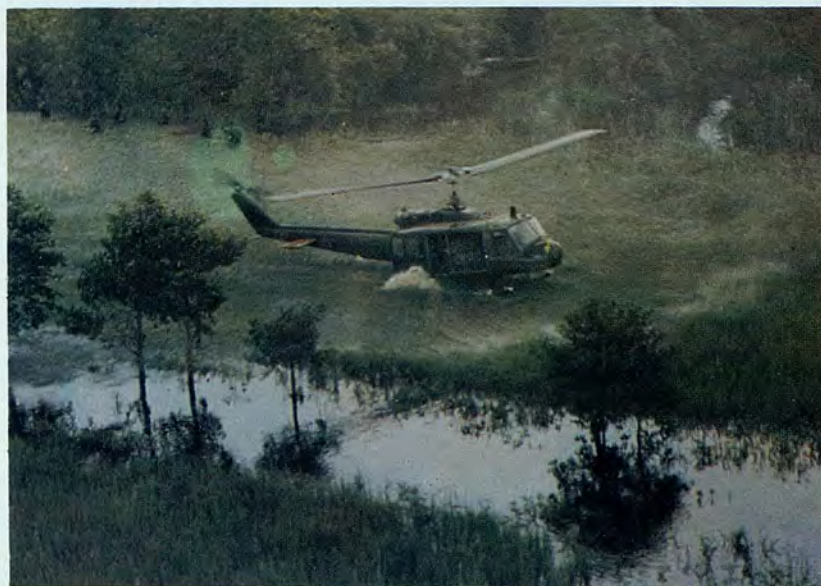
The primary function of the 7/1 is to provide armed reconnaissance and security anywhere in IV Corps. Most frequently they find themselves carrying out this mission in the 44th Special Tactical Zone. This area extends along 185 miles of the Cambodian Border, in the IV Corps Tactical Zone. It includes the provinces of Chan Doc, Kien Phong, Kien

Tuong, as well as the northern portion of Kien Giang province.

Stopping the flow of VC war material from leaking across the border is one of the Black Hawk's prime concerns.

The 7/1 has found that employing their Air Cav troops in the "Hunter-Killer Team" system is an effective way to curtail the VC infiltration. Light Observation Helicopters (LOH), a Command and Control (C & C) ship, HueyCobras, and usually four or more infantry carrying slicks,

*"Black Hawk" slick splashes down in an LZ in IV CTZ.*



make up the Hunter-Killer Team.

The LOHs are manned by a pilot and an observer. The observers are volunteers chosen out of the Squadron's Cavalry troop.

Once in the area in which they are to conduct their operations, the LOHs begin to fly at tree top level. It is not uncommon to find green vegetation stains on LOH rotor blades, due to hard banked turns.

The LOHs work in pairs. One ship follows the other so exactly, that seen from the C & C ship high above, they look like two Bumble Bees playing Follow the Leader. The "game" has a purpose. The second LOH is positioned so, that if the lead ship draws fire from the ground, the second ship can provide suppressive fire with its minigun, allowing the lead ship to escape.

Their job, as part of the Hunter-Killer Team, is to scout for enemy bunkers, caches, and personnel.

In the event the lead LOH draws fire, it clears the area. At the same time, the pilot informs the C & C ship that he has been fired upon. Seeing the lead ship draw fire, the second LOH sprays the area under the lead ship with its minigun. It marks the point of contact with a red smoke grenade and then clears the area.

Meanwhile, the officer in charge of the team, flying above the scouts, in the C & C ship, evaluates the situation and makes a decision.

If he feels that the LOHs can handle it, he orders them back in to finish the job with their miniguns.

If the enemy force is too well dug in, or too large for the LOHs, the team commander calls in the Cobras flying in the clouds above the C & C ship. When called, it is only a matter of seconds from the time that the LOH hears the first round to the time that the Cobras begin their runs at the enemy.

Like sharks attacking their



prey, the 36-inch wide Cobras dive, circle, and dive again. With their miniguns, M-79 Grenade Launcher and pods of 2.75 inch rockets, the Cobras can devastate almost any target.

If the team leader finds that the Cobras need ground support to cope with the problem, he will call in slicks carrying ARVNs, or an Aero-rifle team from his own troop. The slicks insert the ground orientated forces into a position from which they can make contact with and destroy the enemy.

Beside the Hunter-Killer operations, the 7/1 conducts ground insertions, raids on specific targets, surveillance of IV Corps, and night hunter operations.

Air Cav outfits in Vietnam have shown themselves a quite capable instrument with which to destroy the enemy. But for the United States Forces in Vietnam, destroying the enemy is only half the job. They must also win the favor of the people of Vietnam.

The Black Hawks have long been involved in a program to assist those Vietnamese in the Vinh Long area who need their help. "Operation Angel" is the name of the program under which the 7/1 conducts their charitable endeavors. They help to support the Vinh Long Orphanage, the Vinh Long Boy's School, the Children's Fund, the School For Children in Vinh Long, and, when needed, assist the Irish Nuns who operate the Good Shepherd Convent in Vinh Long.

Recently, LTC George E. Derriek, Commander of the 7/1, and volunteers from each of his troops, worked in conjunction with the 31st Artillery, ARVN, to lay all the cement flooring at the School For Children in Vinh Long.

Many Vietnamese in the Vinh Long area have come to know the men of the Black Hawk Squadron as friends who will help when help is needed.

From the formation of Com-



*PFC Gerald T. Holst pulls maintenance on an AH-1G HueyCobra.*

pany G, United States Regiment of Dragoons (Cavalry), in 1833, through the Mexican War, the Indian Wars, the battles of Antietam and Gettysburg, World War II, and now Vietnam, the 7/1 has been a prodigious outfit.

More than 70 Battle Streamers

don their Unit Flag; from fighting the Black Hawk Indians, for which the Unit was named, to fighting the Viet Cong. It is a long column of proud cavalymen who can look on their Unit, as it is today, with pride.

*Air Boat of the 9th Infantry Div. works with a 7/1 Hunter-Killer team searching out enemy sampans.*







## 17th Group ends 11 year exile of Montagnards

Flying time for a CH-47 "Chinook" from Phu Yen Province in the Central Highlands to the isolated hamlet of Tu Bi is just under 12 minutes.

Yet it has taken 11 years for the Montagnards to make that trip back to their homeland.

Now, thanks to the 17th Aviation Group (Cbt), they are home again, living their uncomplicated lives amid fertile valleys and cool streams, shadowed by some of the most awesome mountains in Vietnam.

Those same mountains once provided cover for nightly forays by communist terrorists.

Long before American uniforms dominated the battlefields, bands of Viet Cong guerrillas slipped down the hills and raided the camps, often leaving behind scenes of horror not unlike those that darkened the Third Reich of Germany.

One assault backed another, until one such encounter with the VC finally convinced these peaceful mountain folk they could no

longer resist communist pressure. So the tribes gathered for a meeting and elected to do what the Montagnard has had to face in time of war: abandon home in search of calmer, if not greener pastures.

Owing to their nomadic nature, for the Montagnard to pull up stakes and follow the sun im-

posed no real hardships. So they moved on.

Eventually, the bulk of the exiled settled in a refugee camp at Phu Yen Province in the Dong Xuan District. For over a decade they lived as displaced persons, making the best of the situation yet nursing strong affections for home.



*Two Montagnard women await the arrival of a Chinook which will take them home.*



## Story and Photos by 17th Avn Gp (Cbt) IO

Some of the men hired out as woodcutters to supply building materials for the military. Others fashioned homemade crossbows and sold them to souvenir-conscious Americans.

Life was safer in fact at the refugee center, but as the age-old adage holds, nothing quite compares with home. That was back in 1958. The times have changed, just as the face of the war has taken on a different look.

American advisors for some time have sensed the Montagnards' sentiments on returning home, but were at a loss to help them. Until this summer, the time was simply not ripe for transfer. Enemy contact was still a reality until a few months ago.

W.H. (Bill) Bailey, a retired military man and now a senior district advisor, observed, "These people have expressed the desire for some time now to go back, but it just hasn't been possible up until now. The pacification program has proceeded along to the point where it is now feasible for them to go home."

Originally, he noted, the move was scheduled for late summer, but the men were eager to plant crops before the heavy monsoon rains set in.

Moving day generated excitement to a crescendo, but long before the Montagnards began stuffing their scant belongings into sacks and handwoven baskets, the men of the 17th Group were working to assure a fast and orderly job.

Bailey wasn't exaggerating when he billed the move a "mammoth operation." There were 171 families affected—roughly 800 people. Many of them were children, either born in exile or too young to recall any memories of the homeland.

Planning began at least two months in advance, according to LTC Dudley Coleman of Shamrock, Tex., a MACV senior operations advisor, also of the Phu Yen Province.

Lieutenant Donald Falls of Philadelphia, commanding officer of the Pathfinder Detachment of the 268th Aviation Battalion (CBT), which provided manpower and aircraft, explained his unit's role.

First of all, LT Falls himself went directly to the families, personally instructing them on moving procedures and just how many pounds each could carry. The allotment was generous; few even approached the limit.

Moving day at last dawned and found the families huddled under a stifling sun just off an airstrip, waiting for the giant green birds to fly them home.

Then, out in the distance, came the muffled wump-wump of rotor blades and all eyes focused on the pride and joy of the 355th Aviation Company (Heavy Helicopter)—the CH-54 Sky Crane. Later it was joined by another transport aircraft, the CH-47 Chinook, furnished by the 180th Aviation Company (Assault Support Helicopter).

As the helicopter gently alighted on the strip, the Montagnards needed little coaxing to climb aboard.

Clinging to loose effects for dear life, a small group rushed forward, slightly bent, into powerful waves of air currents echoing from the rotor blades.

The task was completed in a couple of hours with only one slight miscue.

Several young men detailed to help load and unload the baggage at the landing zone, apparently overcome with the thrill of flying in the Crane and the Chinook, neglected their chores for extra rides.

As far as security was concerned, LTC Coleman pointed out, this job will be handled by a Rural Forces unit once it is divorced from the Special Forces.

An elderly tribesman capsuled feeling as he scanned the skyline and valleys around him and remarked, "We are happy now—REALLY happy!"



*Skycrane arrives to take Montagnards home.*



*Montagnard couple set up a temporary shelter.*



*After 11 years, Montagnards arrive home.*



*Montagnards prepare to set up a perimeter defense around their new home.*



## EDITORIAL

Some call it "funny money" or "play money" and it does look strange with the photos of submarines and soldiers, astronauts and Green Berets. The real name is Military Payment Certificates and they are issued to servicemen in Vietnam in lieu of American greenbacks.

They are issued for a purpose. The purpose is to prevent the flow of gold out of the United States and to keep American dollars from falling into the hands of our enemies.

It is illegal to purchase goods on the Vietnamese open market with MPC for two reasons. MPC acts as an inflationary influence on the Vietnamese economy. MPC can also be used to purchase American greenbacks through blackmarket channels, defeating the purpose of Military Payment Certificates and hurting our country..

So think before you pay off your "mama-san" with MPC or purchase piasters from a sharp-looking Vietnamese on the street. Buy piasters only at authorized places of exchange and use only piasters when buying on the open market. Remember, if you don't, it's YOUR country you're hurting.

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

**Chaplain (LTC) R.E. Rockwell**  
**Brigade Chaplain**



What has been your happiest moment? What was your most devastating experience? Both your greatest happiness and your deepest sorrow have been in relation to other people. Barbra Streisand sings: "People who need people are the luckiest people in the world." Whether you are a winner in life or a born loser will depend upon how you need people.

Some people see others as beings to be used—used and destroyed if necessary to gain their own ends. We desire what others have. If that want goes unchecked we take what the other person has, even resorting to violence to get it. That kind of need for other people expresses only greed and evil and yet it is displayed too frequently on a person-to-person basis.

The other side of the coin is that people need people for self-realization and fulfillment. "You're nobody till somebody loves you" but if you wait for someone to come by to love you before you extend your love the cycle may never be broken.

I tell you who you are by the way I treat you; by the way you treat me you tell me who I am. If I treat you with hostility I tell you that I am angry. If I ignore you, I tell you that you are not worth knowing. If I relate to you in love and affection, you understand that you are a person of worth. When we have the courage to extend ourselves to one another and to accept each other we begin to come close to what Jesus Christ meant when He taught that if we would have the good life we must love God and we must love our neighbor as we love ourselves.

"People who need people are the luckiest people in the world." That includes all of us; we all need other people; other people need us.

## from the CAREER COUNSELOR

One thing the Army offers men is diversified opportunities for employment. There are so many different jobs to be done that virtually anyone in the service who is not happy in his present position can probably find something else more to his liking or capability. It is also possible for someone who is happy in his present job and location to reenlist for that position and place.

In-service MOS-producing Army service school reenlistment option, as its name implies, promises attendance at the specific MOS-producing Army service school of your choice. It is available to men, E-5 and below, who have four or less years of service and who are reenlisting for four, five or six years.

Men E-4 and below, with more than four years but less than seven years of active service, are also eligible for this option, providing they have a primary MOS that is listed as overage in AR 611-4 and that they are reenlisting for a course which will train them for an MOS listed as shortage in AR 611-4.

Though every effort is made to give you your first choice of schooling, this isn't always possible. However, you are not obligated to sign the reenlistment papers until you are satisfied with the schooling available to you.

The present duty option promises that your initial assignment, after reenlistment, will be to your present duty assignment or to any vacancy for which you are qualified, providing that a change of station is not involved.

For more details see your Army Career Counselor.





## VC KILLERS COLLEGE...

### Cobra Transition School

*Story by SP4 Harry W. Lloyd*



*IP explains the start procedure of the AH-1G HueyCobra.*

LEARN TO FLY the exciting HueyCobra in three short weeks. Previous helicopter experience required. Must have 6 months left in RVN. Inquire at Training and Standardizations Branch, USARV.

\* \* \*

Wishful thinking in a want ad? Not at all. The above notice is fictional only because the Army's Cobra Transition School doesn't need to advertise. Its classes are always filled with pilots eager to qualify in the sleek, sharp nosed AH-1G, HueyCobra.

In the last year, the school has graduated some 400 fully qualified Cobra pilots and more than 50 instructor pilots. Approximately 40 per cent of those were members of 1st Aviation Brigade units.

The school at Vung Tau limits its enrollment to 24 per class. Students must be qualified in at least one Army helicopter, but not necessarily a gunship.

"The course is designed for key personnel in gunship companies," said LTC Donald P. Bennett of the USARV Aviation Section. "But it's up to the various commands to decide how they will





*An AH-1G HueyCobra comes in for a landing after a training flight.*

use their allocations. If they want to send a slick pilot down to transition in the Cobra, he can do it. But in the last year we have had about a dozen company and battalion commanders graduate from the course."

It's a rigorous course with high standards for both students and instructors. The schedule includes 25 hours of flying time and 45 hours of classroom instruction, covering all phases of operating the craft.

The flying part includes 13 hours of transition flight training, 8 hours of gunnery, 2 hours of night flying and 2 hours of instrument flight.

Classroom work follows the order of introduction to the Cobra airframe, cockpit and tandem light controls; emergency procedures; power plant and related systems; transmission and drive; hydraulic system; SCAS and electrical system; auxiliary equipment; maintenance; machinegun

fire, rocket fire and employment considerations. There are two written examinations, and all flights are graded.

Graduates have given the course high ratings, saying it "is

very thorough" and "improved my confidence."

The school was created from the equipment and personnel of the AH-1G New Equipment Training Team in August 1968. It moved to Vung Tau from Bien Hoa in March 1969. The team chief is MAJ Raymond C. Colson, whose staff includes 15 instructor pilots and approximately 58 enlisted men. Administration and logistical support comes from the 147th Assault Support Helicopter Company.

All training is done within 20 miles of Vung Tau. The students do not work in close support of friendly units because of their inexperience, but they do expend plenty of firepower in their training. Allocations for each student include 1000 40 mm grenades and 28,500 rounds of 7.62 ammunition.

"Some commanders have said they preferred products of our school to those of any other," said LTC Bennett. "That speaks well for the professionalism of the staff and cooperation of the units involved."

Demands of the school are increasing, and a plan is under way to accelerate the course and make it only two weeks long.

*Two armament specialists remove 40mm grenades from a Cobra gunship.*





# NEWSLETTER

## **SAFETY RECORD**

"Golden Hawk" pilots of the 1st Aviation Brigade, flying everything from combat assaults to mercy missions, have completed an unprecedented year with the lowest cumulative accident rate in the three year history of the brigade. With nearly 2000 aircraft, the brigade experienced 21.2 accidents per 100,000 hours flown during fiscal year 1969. This is even lower than the goal of 21.5 established one year ago.

Not only is the yearly accident rate the lowest in brigade history, but the rate for July 1969 was the lowest for any month since the brigade was organized.

"Golden Hawks" flew 145,168 hours and experienced 22 accidents bringing the rate to an all-time low of 15.2 in July. Generally, brigade pilots fly about 150,000 hours in any month and last year totaled more than 1,819,000 hours.

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## **DEPARTING DBC**

Colonel William C. Boehm departs the Brigade this month after serving as deputy brigade commander. Upon his return stateside, Colonel Boehm will be assigned to the Combat Developments Command, Ft. Belvoir, Va., as the Chief of the Air Mobility Division of the Materiel Directorate.

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

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## **NEW CSM FOR BRIGADE**

Command Sergeant Major Frank J. Tasson, a veteran of three wars in the Pacific, recently assumed the duties of brigade Command Sergeant Major replacing CSM Glenn E. Owens.

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## **190TH AHC ESCORTS PRESIDENT NIXON**

The 190th Assault Helicopter Company, "Spartans," from the 145th Combat Aviation Battalion, "First in Vietnam," was chosen to support President Richard M. Nixon and his official party on their recent visit to the Republic of Vietnam.

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## **HIGH FLIERS SILVER STARS 4May-5Aug**

Specialist Five William T. Dobie, 366th ASD (Div).  
Major Donald H. Shahan, 366th ASD (Div).  
Specialist Four Michael L. Lowry, 366th ASD (Div).  
Specialist Four Michael D. Harunga, 366th ASD (Div).  
Major Calvin J. Griggs, 191st Aviation Company (AS HEL).  
First Lieutenant George W. McKenna, 344th Avn Co (AL WPNS).  
Chief Warrant Officer Barry A. Tronstead, 3/17 Air Cav Squad.  
\*Specialist Four Phillip C. Petsos, 7/17 Air Cav Squadron.  
Warrant Officer David L. Whitman, 195th Avn Co (AS HEL).  
First Lieutenant Robert Kandler, 7/1 Air Cav Squadron.  
Specialist Four John D. Lee, 61st Aviation Company (AS HEL).  
Chief Warrant Officer James A. Blevins, 240th Avn Co (AS HEL).  
First Lieutenant Richard E. Bell, 240th Avn Co (AS HEL).  
Captain John R. Vlazny, 240th Avn Co (AS HEL).  
\* Posthumous





## ABOUT VIETNAM-CAN THO

The largest city in the Delta region of Vietnam, Can Tho is a bustling agricultural and trading center that still retains much of the flavor of a tiny hamlet.

Seated along the western bank of the Hau Giang River, a twin estuary of the Mekong, Can Tho has a history dating back more than 300 years.

The Delta region was originally a forested area inhabited by primitive aborigines called Khmers until the early 17th century. At that time the Cochinchinese, or Cambodians, began to establish their civilization further south and moved into the area.

The city of Can Tho was founded by Mac-thien-Tich, a

dissident Chinese. Its name means "sprouts of bamboo" in the Cambodian language.

Can Tho was claimed by Nguyen Phuc Chu, founder of the Nguyen dynasty, and annexed to the Southward empire in 1739.

Today, Can Tho, a part of the large Phong Dinh province, has a population of 92,000 persons. It has grown rapidly in recent years as many entire villages, left homeless by the war, resettled within its boundaries.

The growth and manufacture of rice is a staple of the economy of the area. Can Tho has more than 50 rice mills, and ships more than 80,000 tons of rice to Saigon each year.

Other foodstuffs are also produced in quantity in and around Can Tho, which numbers more than 15 bakeries, four sugar mills, 15 fish sauce factories and three beverage plants. Saw-mills, brick kilns and textile plants are also numerous.

The primary highway serving Can Tho is the vital National Route 4, which connects the city to Vinh Long and Saigon to the



*Old woman shops in the bustling Can Tho open market.*



*Story and Photos by*  
*SP4 Harry W. Lloyd*

north and Soc Trang to the south. But water transportation remains much more practical. Ocean going freighters can navigate up-stream to the city, and giant barges are a common sight on the muddy river.

The marketplace of the city is set up daily on the streets and sidewalks along the waterfront, where hundreds of wooden sampans dock informally. Individual merchants hawk their wares, which may be fresh fish or crabs, fruits, meat, bread or handicrafts. A potential buyer can haggle under an umbrella in the street or force his way through the crowd to the Westernlike shops and stores with glass display windows and real price tags.

Can Tho is the home of IV Corps Headquarters, and its narrow streets carry heavy military traffic along with the ever-present motorcycles, microbuses and taxicarts. At nearby Can Tho Army Airfield the 164th Aviation



*Attractive Vietnamese girl amidst frantic traffic of downtown Can Tho.*

Group (Cbt) and many of its subordinate units are located. A large Vietnamese operated prisoner of war compound stands near the airfield. Many of its prisoners were captured long ago by the French.

The historic city has many picturesque homes, and is remarkably free of the scars of war.

American servicemen walk its streets unarmed during daylight hours, and the large USO center near the traffic circle is a popular place to visit.

Can Tho is a small provincial hamlet growing up in spite of a war which rages around it.



*Fresh fruit on the open market.*



*Buddhist shrine in Can Tho.*





# VIETNAM VETERANS- Helicopter style

The art of helicopter warfare and the airmobile concept has come such a long way since the beginning of the Vietnam War

that only a comparative few remember how it all got started.

The UH-1 Huey, the CH-47 Chinook, the AH-1G Huey Cob-

ra and the OH-6A Cayuse have become so familiar to us that we often forget their forerunners.

Many of the early utility and transport helicopters seem slow, clumsy and altogether ludicrous by comparison. Early attempts to give some of these helicopters firepower seem primitive. But these early choppers carried the load in the dawn of the Vietnam War and provided technical information which led to the development of the helicopters we take so much for granted today.

On this and the following pages are photos of early helicopters flown in the Vietnam War and some of the attempts to arm them. Armament of a crude sort was experimented with on helicopters during the Korean War, but it was the conflict in South Vietnam which spurred the development of systems totally designed for use on rotary-wing aircraft.





The OH-13 (left) is a two-place light observation helicopter used as a trainer and as a scout ship in the early years of the Vietnam War.

The CH-34 Choctaw (below left) was once considered the world's most heavily armed helicopter. This 1957 photograph shows part of the armament including 40-2.75 inch rockets, two five-inch rockets, nine machine guns, and two 20 mm cannons. This marked the first time a rotor aircraft had been armed with 20 mm cannons.

The Choctaw was used early in the Vietnam War as a troop transport, but not an armed helicopter.

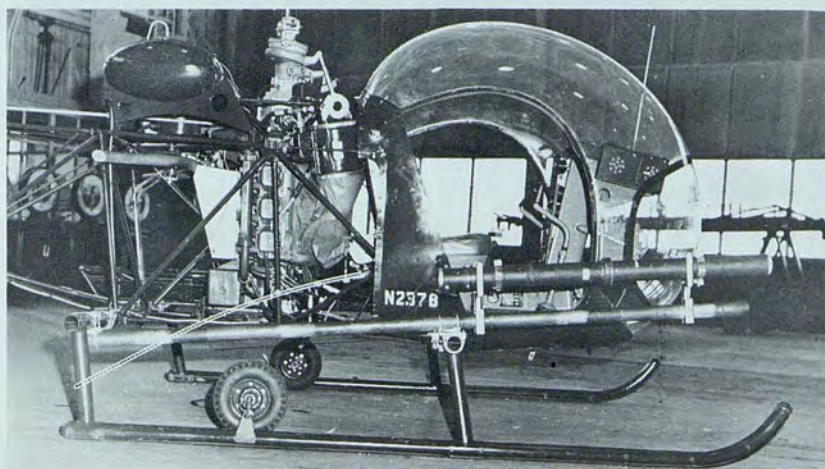


*Photos courtesy  
U.S. Army Aviation Digest*

CH-21 Shawnee (above) was the workhorse of Vietnam before replacement by the Huey.

Early attempt (left) to arm the OH-13 Sioux with a Bazooka. There is no evidence that this weapons system was ever used in actual combat.

The CH-34 (below), still in limited use in Vietnam, was the first helicopter used by the Executive Flight Detachment.



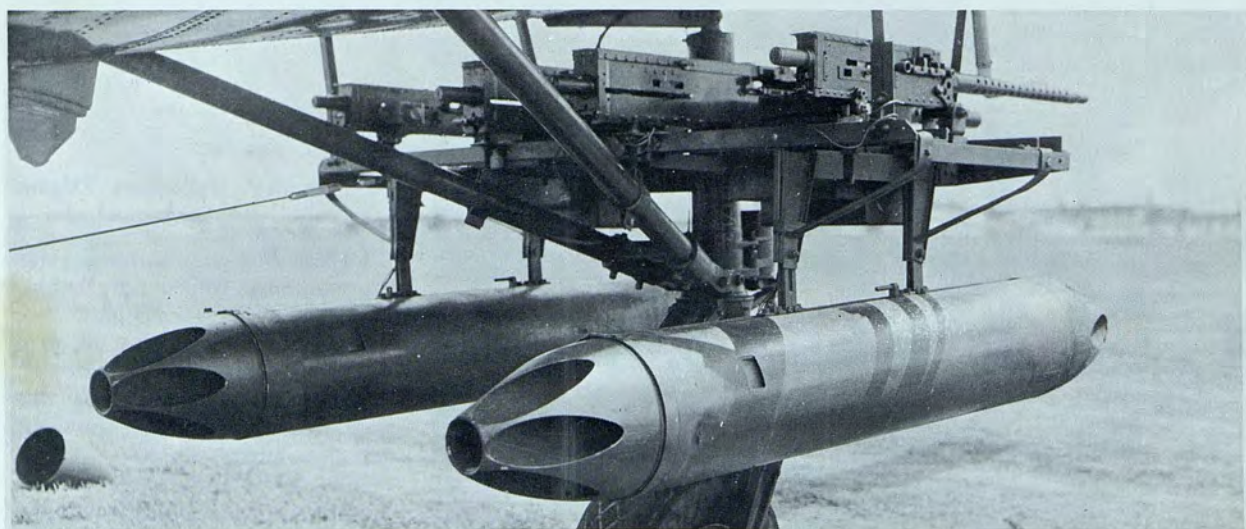




The OH-23 Raven (left) was another version of the light observation helicopter used in RVN.

Armament on this H-21 Shawnee (below) includes 14-2.75 inch rockets, two .30 caliber machine guns and two .50 caliber machine guns.

Early photograph (below left) shows OH-13's lined up on an airstrip in Vietnam mounted with M-60 door guns.





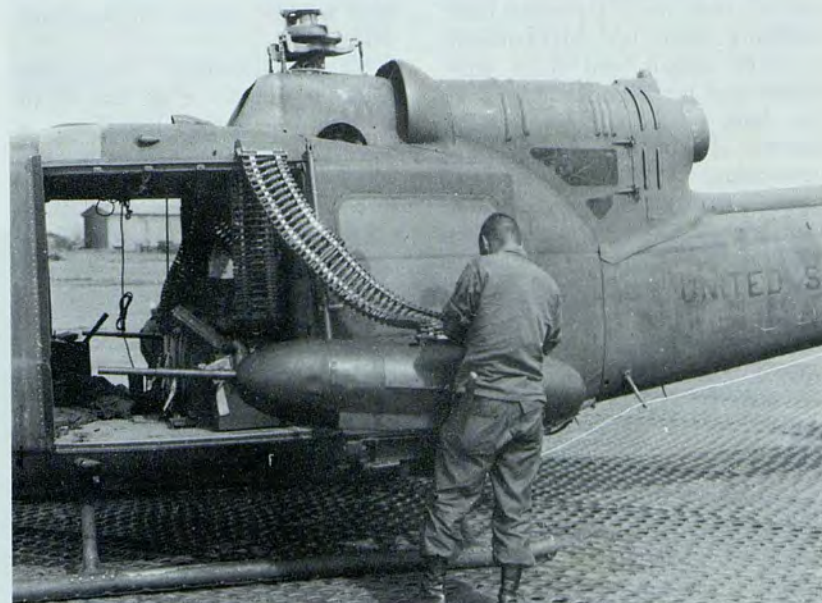
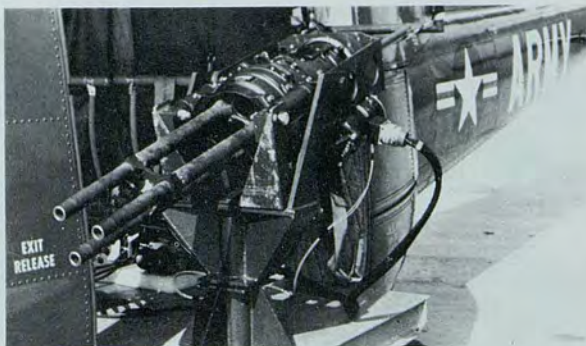
The UH-19 (below left) was the world's first transport helicopter. It has been used as a utility helicopter on a limited basis in Vietnam.

This UH-1B (below right) was mounted with a 20 mm machine gun. Photo was taken at Bien Hoa Air Base.

Guns A-Go-Go (center right) was the nickname for this CH-47A Chinook equipped with 40 mm grenade launcher, rocket pods and .50 caliber machine guns.

UH-1B Huey (center left) was fitted with two SS-11 missiles and 36-2.75 inch rockets.

The 20 mm jury-rig (right) was mounted on a UH-1 Huey. There is no record of it ever being used in combat.







*“Phantoms” Haunt Sir Charlie’s Delta Castle...*

## 307TH AVIATION BATTALION

Rice paddies in various stages of cultivation stretch as far as the eye can see, until a distant haze swallows them up. Meticulously designed canals and dikes subdivide the landscape and give it the look of a patchwork quilt handed down from some past generation. A single laborer, whose masters are the sun, wind, rain and a hungry belly, lifts his fingers from the mud, unbends his weary back and watches a formation of white birds float effortlessly through the stifling air.

This is the Delta, which owes its agricultural riches to a mighty river that cuts it in half. It is the brightest gem in the jewel case of Southeast Asia, the plump raisin in a vast bowl of rice pudding. But more than a river divides this ancient and yet undeveloped region. Its peaceful

people have been splintered by years of war with strangers who look greedily upon its abundant fields.

The sprawling, mysterious Delta is the home of the 307th Combat Aviation Battalion, a unit that gives support in a wide range of forms to Free World forces. “We have a three-sided mission,” said LTC William Culton, battalion commander. “Our aircraft provide reconnaissance and surveillance, air transport and attack capability. It is a complicated job but my men are qualified and fully dedicated. No matter what you ask them to do, they’ll break their backs to get it done.”

Despite its brief history, the “Phantom” battalion has become a keystone of allied efforts all across the Delta. From the time

of its unusual birth in late 1967, the 307th has helped to unravel some of the mystery of Mekong country and make it more secure for the side of freedom.

The 307th was organized at Soc Trang on Aug. 1, 1967, with a “ghost” staff from the 13th Battalion. Later that month it encompassed three fully operational companies, but it remained a nameless, “Phantom” unit until Dec. 20 of that year when it was given permanent designation and its own equipment and men, and became a full-fledged member of the 164th Group.

The motto of the 307th is “Search and Destroy,” but its operations take in much more than that. Regular missions include surveillance with Mohawks, transport with Chinooks, assaults with Cobras and Hueys, and some in-



teresting combinations of these and other aircraft.

The three Can Tho-based companies are the 244th Aviation Co. (Surveillance Airplane), the 271st Assault Support Helicopter Co. and the 235th Armed Helicopter Co. A charter member of the battalion, the 199th Reconnaissance Airplane Co. at Vinh Long, departed the battalion on Sept. 1. It was replaced by the 147th ASHC, located at Vung Tau.

Although U.S. ground forces have been leaving the Delta in recent months, the Phantoms still carry a busy workload in support of Vietnam Armed Forces and occasionally U.S. Air Force and Navy commanders.

The largest company in the battalion is the 244th, which utilizes 18 Mohawk aircraft, some 350 men and millions of dollars worth of surveillance equipment to keep close check on enemy movements.

The OV-1 Mohawk is a twin-engined airplane that was originally designed as a gunship to operate from carrier decks. This craft, however, with its blunt nose and oversized cabin, has adapted well to Army uses. It can carry flares, radar equipment or sophisticated cameras, and a new "D" model is expected soon that will incorporate all three.

Most Mohawk missions are flown at night, when the intricate photographic and electronic gear can be best utilized. With the course and direction of the plane carefully guided, the pilot can use sensor devices to locate positions and spot movements.

Within minutes or hours after enemy movement is located, troops or gunships can be on the attack. That is the idea behind a new "Night Hawk" mission in the free-fire zones near the Cambodian border.

"In essence, this is a hunter-killer team," said LTC Culton. "We are still at the stage of learning ourselves what we can



*307th HueyCobra sinks a sampan on a IV CTZ waterway.*

do with it. The Mohawks are the hunters, capable of locating a target at night and vectoring the killers to it."

The 244th is not the only "Phantom" company involved in ingenious new missions. The 235th Armed Helicopter Co., the first full-Cobra unit in Vietnam, has been very successful with its "Phantom III."

The Phantom III is a daylight patrol utilizing a Huey slick, which serves as a command-control ship, and one light fire team of two Cobras. The Huey trans-

ports a Vietnamese officer and an American advisor who select targets for the gunships to destroy.

There are 10 different Delta provinces, or sectors, where "Devil" teams operate, and they are selected far enough in advance to give Vietnamese commanders time to select targets. "Charlie may have an idea we're going into a particular province on a particular day, but he doesn't know what we'll be shooting at," said LTC Culton. "Sometimes we hit him pretty hard."

The Cobras also fly a number

*AH-1G HueyCobra of the 307th battalion rolls in with rockets on an enemy bunker complex deep in the IV CTZ.*



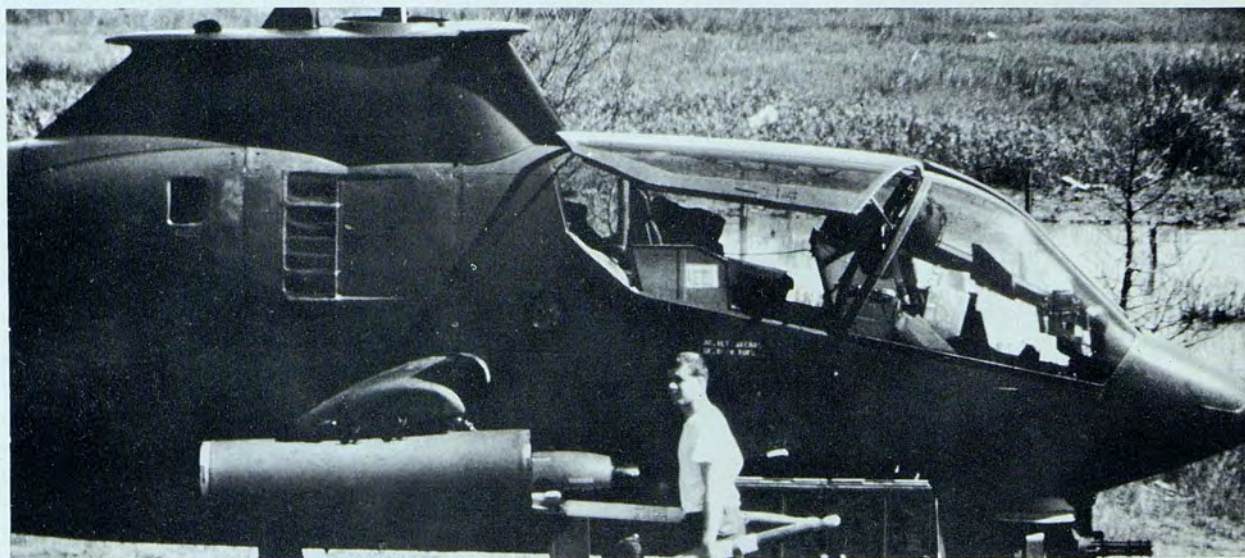




*Purple smoke dropped by scout ship marks target for Cobra gunship.*



*Armament specialist loads rockets into pod of AH-1G HueyCobra.*



## *Story and Photos by SP4 Harry W. Lloyd*

of other daily missions, including night security at Can Tho Airfield, medevac protection, cover for insertions and extractions and support of ground missions.

The third leg of Phantom operations comes from the Chinook support of the 271st. This company makes recoveries of downed aircraft and lifts passengers, cargo and supplies all over the Delta. They average more than 50 aircraft recoveries per month.

The "Inn Keepers" work numerous missions in support of U.S. Special Forces and ARVN units. They participate in occasional insertions, and can carry 60 combat equipped ARVN troops in one craft.

The company also has four OH-6A observation helicopters which support a variety of allied units.

*AH-1G HueyCobra peels (left) off in gun run against enemy in Delta.*



## Hornets Paralyze Charlie with Lethel Sting...

# 116th Aviation Company (AsHel)



Numerous fresh bomb and artillery craters abound in a river area northwest of Cu Chi in the III Corps Tactical Zone. The region of craters is found where the river bends resembling a horseshoe to aviators flying overhead. To crews who fly "Delta" and "Hotel" model Hueys into this area inserting infantry troops, it is considered the "hottest area in III Corps." This is "The Mushroom."

The 25th Infantry Division, "Tropic Lightning," is the predominate infantry unit in this area. The responsibility of airlifting most of the "Tropic Lightning" troops is left to an extremely versatile and well-known assault helicopter company of the 1st Aviation Brigade.

The 116th Assault Helicopter Company, better known by their nickname "Hornets," have established for themselves an excellent combat reputation in conjunction with the 25th. The mission performed by the "Hornets," to provide tactical air movement of combat troops, combat supplies and equipment in an airmobile operation, has been primarily devoted to the 2d Brigade, 25th Infantry Division since the first of the year. Their performance in support of the 2/25 has been commended by BG Allen M. Burdett, Jr., commanding general of the 1st Aviation Brigade, and MG Ellis W. Williamson, former commanding general of the 25th Infantry Division.

*Story and Photos by  
SP4 David R. Wood*





*C-model gunship preps LZ with minigun.*



*116th slicks approach III CTZ LZ.*

*Slicks of the 116th AHC lay down suppressive fire on insertion in the "Mushroom."*



BG Burdett says of the "Hornets," "The contribution of the 116th Assault Helicopter Company to the combat effectiveness of the 2d Brigade, 25th Infantry Division should be a source of great pride to you (MAJ Alvin T. Jones, commanding officer of the 116th) and all the men within your company. Performances such as these build ever higher the reputation enjoyed by Army Aviation and the 1st Aviation Brigade. The dedication to duty of the individuals mark them as truly professional members of the Army Aviation team."

MG Williamson adds, "The 116th Assault Helicopter Company has been the epitome of a professional combat support helicopter unit in all its operations with the 25th Infantry Division, 'Tropic Lightning.'"

Since their arrival in country





*C-model gunship fires rockets on suspected enemy positions.*



*"Tropic Lightning" troops run for cover.*

on October 20, 1965, the 116th AHC, headquartered at Cu Chi, has flown 320,424 sorties which account for 103,725 hours flown. The "Yellow Jackets," first flight of the airlift platoon, and the "Wasps," second flight, airlifted 528,395 troops in support of such units as the 25th, 1st and 9th Infantry Divisions; 173d and 82d Airborne Brigades; 5th Special Forces Group; 6th ARVN Rangers; Australian Task Force and the Royal Thai Army. The armed platoon, composed of UH-1C Huey gunships, known as the "Stingers," have prepped LZ's in support of their airlift platoon and accounted for more than 1214 enemy killed.

According to MAJ Jones, "Nothing more can be said about our working relationship with the 25th. They can easily adjust to our procedures and vice versa. They know exactly how to use us, from troop alignment in PZ's and dismounting in LZ's to maximum use of our gun teams."

The "King Hornet" had this to say about his men, "They don't have a lot of experience, but they are willing to learn. That's why they're the best. The young WO can stand an aircraft on it's tail; that's how good he is."

According to MAJ Jones, the 116th is going more and more to the support of the Capitol



*"Tropic Lightning" soldiers scramble aboard 116th slicks.*

Military Assistance Command (CMAC). "Our missions with the 25th are coming less and less often. The AAE (Army Aviation Element) is deciding to use our aircraft more in support of CMAC in the Saigon area."

The regard for the 116th is high. So high that Secretary of the Army, Stanley Resor, has commended them saying, "In the days ahead, you will continue to be confronted with many challenges and demanding tasks. I am confident that as you meet and overcome them, you will do so in the same spirit of high re-

solve and determination which has characterized your performance in the past."

Continuing to support their motto, "Happiness Is A Hornet Victory," the 116th Assault Helicopter Company has gained much valuable experience by supporting units in the II, III and IV Corps Tactical Zones. By their actions, the "Hornets" have gained a reputation as one of the most flexible and dependable units in the Republic of Vietnam. Without a doubt, they will continue to add to that reputation for whomever they work.



# -THE JUDGE SAYS-

Major Martin J. Linsky

This is the first segment of a three-part article written by Major Martin J. Linsky who is assigned to the office of the Staff Judge Advocate, USARV. The article was written for the specific purpose of providing a basic understanding of the problems which are confronted in the area of Search and Seizure.

The newly enacted Military Justice Act of 1968 has been making all the legal headlines recently—and justifiably so for it has made substantial changes in the administration of military justice. While these changes benefit the commander, they will certainly not solve all his disciplinary problems.

One such problem that has plagued commanders in the past and will continue in the future concerns the legally complex subject of search and seizure. This article notes a few of the practical situations regarding search and seizure from the viewpoint of a troop commander. It is designed not to set forth all the legal principles involved in this difficult area but to assist the commander to walk safely in the difficult terrain.

The concept of search and seizure does not strike one initially as being particularly complex. The average layman would, I suppose, suspect that the practical application of this concept should cause no articular difficulties. He would assume that, if the police have reason to believe that a man has evidence of a crime on his person or his home, a policeman may simply search the man or his home, and if he finds no evidence of a crime, then *C'est la vie*. He would assume further that if he does find evidence of a crime, then he simply turns it over to a prosecutor who takes the man before a judge and jury, introduces the evidence that was seized and the man, thereafter convicted, based at least in part on the seized evidence, goes to jail. However, it is not quite so simple.

In the United States the whole subject of search and seizure is complicated because of the very nature of Americans and because of the nature of the society we Americans have created. We do not like to see the little guy being intimidated by the police or anyone else. We believe in every American's right to security against unreasonable searches and seizures. We presume that all men who are accused or suspected of crimes are innocent until proven guilty. We believe that this presumption of innocence can be overcome or rebutted only in a court of law where the prosecution has proven beyond a reasonable doubt that the man accused of a crime is in fact guilty.

On the other hand, of course, is the fact that the American society as a whole has a right to be protected against the criminal element within it and, furthermore, that the criminal himself has no right to escape punishment. Needless to say, a criminal will escape punishment if there is no evidence of a crime to use against him.

Accordingly, a balance must be struck between the rights of individual citizens and the rights of citizens as a whole. The balance, in this context, must be found between the rights of an individual not to be unreasonably searched and the right of society as a whole, by way of its representatives, e.g., the police, to evidence of crime and to seize such evidence when discovered.

The Fourth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which is part of the Bill of Rights, provides:

**The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.**



**HAWK  
HONEY**





