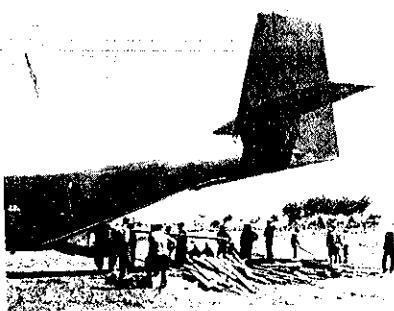


Joint Effort



Teamwork



Soldier looks for airdrop of supplies



A UNIQUE resupply program in the Republic of Vietnam has matched the Army and Air Force in a joint operation which accounted for over a million pounds of cargo moved during the first full month of operation.

Located 220 miles northeast of Saigon on the South China Sea is a detachment of U. S. Army and Australian Caribou that team with U. S. Air Force C-123 planes to perform this unusual duty.

This joint team resupplies all Special Forces camps in an area over 500 miles long and ranging from 50 to 250 miles wide.

Where the Viet Cong are still active, Vietnamese Air Force Skyraider fighters are employed for protection of delivery aircraft. The Army and Air Force pilots speak highly of these men who rendezvous with cargo planes and escort them in for the off-loading operation.

One pilot said, "It's amazing how much respect the Viet Cong have for these fighters. When they see them escorting us, they are very reluctant to break up the show with ground fire."

Also helping to provide protection in hostile areas are armed

UH-1B helicopters. They provide close cover when one of the cargo planes must land, off-load, and take off. During this period, the choppers hover close above the airstrip looking for enemy who might decide to get into the act.

Normal runs for the planes average one long-distance and several short-haul runs per day. When moving large, heavy loads such as ammunition, the planes will operate in a shuttle manner, taking a full load each trip.

For the men in isolated camps, the sight of the cargo planes is pleasant indeed, since for most it's their only contact with the outside world. The pilots and crew therefore, try to bring the latest news from adjacent units.

Professionalism and skill of the pilots making these supply runs is unquestioned. They must know all the factors of each Special Forces camp, including weather conditions, runway peculiarities, and all the approaches that can be used in bad weather.

Whether it is an Australian pilot, American Army Aviator or Air Force pilot, they all know that these supplies are the backbone for the Special Forces men in these camps.

... and gets them with on-the-spot delivery

