

Vietnam Communique

Oct 27-Nov 3

Action slows in all four corps

Americal Div

Soldiers of the Americal Division killed 235 enemy soldiers in the week's heaviest fighting.

October 31st the troopers killed 44 enemy in a widely scattered contact. The action took place in the southern portion of the I Corps Tactical Zone.

Troopers from the 1st Squadron, 1st Armored Cav., under operational control of the 11th Light Infantry Brigade, killed 23 VC and one NVA soldier in scattered contacts. The soldiers also detained 21 suspects, found two tons of rice and captured one individual weapon. All of the action centered in a valley 12 miles west of Quang Ngai City.

Units of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade, operating in the Wheeler/Wallowa area, killed 11 other VC in scattered contacts. The infantrymen also captured two individual weapons and uncovered one ton of rice.

Riflemen from the 198th Light Infantry Brigade accounted for nine VC killed and nine suspects detained in the operation Burlington Trail area.

1st Avn Bde

Gunners and pilots of the 1st Aviation Brigade killed 156 enemy in a week of light contact.

Troop carrying slicks from A Troop, 7th Squadron, 1st Air Cavalry flew two missions carrying Vietnamese troops into the Phong Dinh Province for a raid on a suspected VC command post. At the end of the mission the helicopter crews lifted the troops out along with a quantity of captured medicine and 28 confirmed VC detainees.

The Cobra gunships of the 307th Combat Aviation Battalion's 335th Armed Helicopter Company reported killing three khaki-clad VC, destroying 26 structures and setting off two secondary explosions in a series of raids throughout the day in An Xuyen Province, Vietnam's southern-most province, on Oct. 30.

In other action, gunships from the 175th Assault Helicopter Company killed eight VC and destroyed four structures while supporting the 7th Infantry Division (ARVN) seven miles northeast of My Tho. During that same action they also sank six sampans.

1st Cav Div

Members of the 1st Cavalry Division killed 29 enemy soldiers in a week of light fighting.

Small arms fire and aerial rockets were used to kill six enemy in the 1st Cavalry Division's area of operations, Oct. 29. The majority of the action took place near a heavily wooded area 11 miles west of Camp Evans.

Early in the morning, an element of the 1st Squadron, 9th Air Cavalry, flying over the area, engaged two NVA with rocket fire, killing both and destroying their weapons. An hour later in the same area an element from the 1st Bn., 5th Cav. engaged a small enemy force in a firefight. Three NVA were killed and two radios captured. At noon, an element from the 1st Bn., 12th Cav.

engaged a lone enemy soldier in the same area.

1st Inf Div

Troopers of the 1st Infantry Division killed 100 in a week of moderate action.

Big Red One soldiers along with air and artillery elements accounted for 42 enemy killed in a battalion-size action Oct. 31. Late in the morning the 1st Bn., 2nd Inf. engaged a force of NVA regulars as the battalion operated in a jungle area outside their night defensive position 17 miles northeast of Tay Ninh City. The infantrymen battled the enemy for a short time before the enemy force broke contact. The soldiers then pursued the NVA force until contact was re-established when the enemy became pinned down in several bunkers.

4th Inf Div

Soldiers of the 4th Infantry Division killed 41 enemy soldiers.

The body count in the 4th Infantry Division's action on the Ia Lang River 19 miles southwest of Pleiku rose to 37, Oct. 29, as mechanized troopers and a gunship added 19 more.

The 2nd Bn., 8th Inf. was in a night position 1/4 mile north of the river when it began to receive ground probes on the west side of its perimeter. An Air Force gunship was called to the scene and commenced to rake the area with

heavy fire which set off three secondary explosions. At the conclusion of the fighting, the soldiers said they could hear bodies being drug from the scene.

A sweep of the area in the morning by the mechanized troops revealed 19 bodies. In addition, 69 field packs, 59 Chicom grenades, 6 crew served weapons, 600 rounds of small arms ammunition, 70 assorted mortar rounds and a significant amount of explosives were located.

9th Inf Div

Old Reliable soldiers of the 9th Infantry Division killed 138 in a week of moderate contact with the enemy.

Soldiers of the 9th Infantry Division and supporting elements killed 43 VC in widely scattered actions late Nov. 3 and 4.

In the heaviest action, troopers from the 3rd Squadron, 5th Cav., along with Air Force tactical airstrikes and artillery, accounted for 23 enemy killed in scattered actions centered in Mo Cay and Truc Giang Districts in Kien Hoa Province. A total of 14 of the enemy killed and 94 bunkers and 65 structures destroyed were credited to the airstrikes while artillery from the 3rd Bn., 34th Artillery accounted for seven enemy killed.

Gunship crews from the 3rd Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry reported killing 15 enemy south of Can Glouc, after the enemy were exposed by artillery-fired aerial flares.

Elsewhere, a night ambush element of the 2nd Bn., 60th Inf. detained three suspects, while another ambush element from the 2nd Bn., 47th Inf. killed one VC.

Cavalrymen from A Troop, 3rd Squadron, 17th Cavalry killed four more enemy in widely scattered contacts. Two suspects were detained and one Hoi Chanh received by soldiers from the 2nd Bn., 39th Inf., operating near Rach Kien.

11th Cav

The 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment's aero-rifle platoon killed three VC and detained 11 others during a series of lightning-quick raids east of Lai Khe Oct. 28.

Action began when an enemy soldier was captured beside a tunnel complex. The detainee was questioned and revealed the location of other enemy soldiers. The helicopter cavalrymen then took to their choppers and found four VC, one of whom told where more VC were hiding in some thick brush.

Again the troops took to their helicopters and surprised 10 VC. As the helicopters landed fighting began. Three VC were killed and seven detained during the brief firefight.

25th Inf Div

Members of the 25th Infantry Division killed 84 enemy during a week of moderate contact.

October 28th helicopter gunship crews and ground forces from the 25th killed 33 enemy, while Air Force airstrikes, in support of the division, accounted for nine more.

In the heaviest action, a scout helicopter from C Troop, 3rd Squadron 17th Air Cav., under the operational control of the 25th, on an early morning aerial reconnaissance mission nine miles northeast of Trang Bang sighted four enemy soldiers. The chopper crewmen engaged them, killing one as the others fled.

A short time later, a scout helicopter from the 2nd Brigade drew fire as it hovered near the ground in the same area while checking an enemy body. The initial burst of enemy fire killed one U.S. soldier while continuing fire pinned the helicopter down. The pilot radioed for help.

When gunship crews from C Troop, 3rd Squadron, 17th Air Cav. arrived they observed 18 enemy soldiers. They immediately engaged the enemy while elements of the 4th Bn., 9th Inf. were being airlifted to the location. A firefight followed as the infantrymen landed in the hot landing zone. When contact broke, 11 enemy had been killed. There were no further casualties.

101st Abn Div

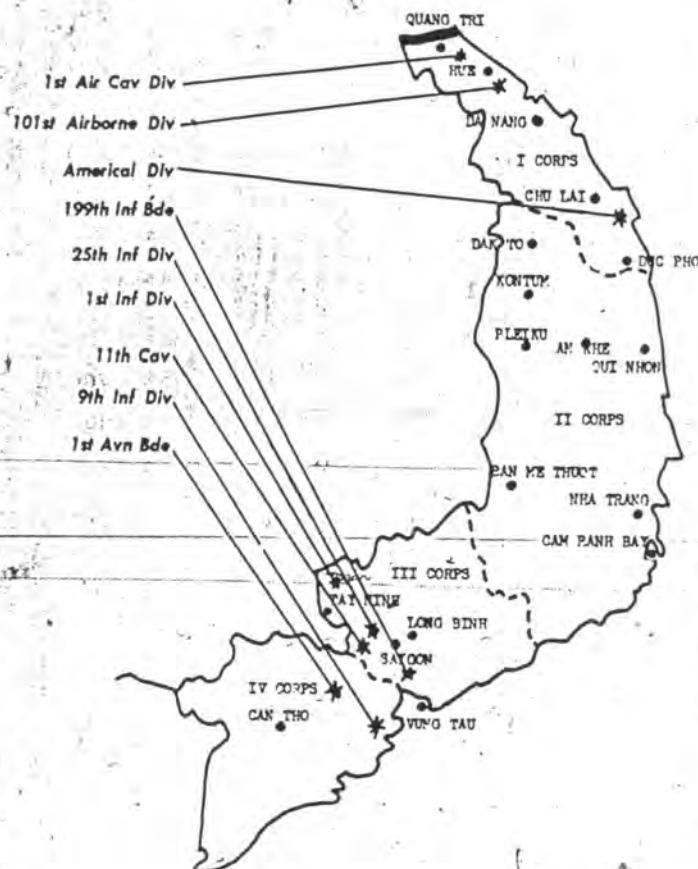
The 101st Airborne Division killed 52 enemy in a week of light contact.

Soldiers of the division and supporting gunship crews killed 18 enemy Nov. 1, found the bodies of two others and detained three suspects.

Paratroopers of the 2nd Bn., 501st Inf. found two enemy bodies in a bunker complex 20 miles southwest of Hue. Later the same day a battalion reconnaissance patrol, operating 12 miles southwest of Hue, killed six enemy during a brief exchange of fire with an estimated enemy platoon.

199th Inf Bde

Redcatchers from the 199th Light Infantry Brigade operating in the "Pineapple" region south of Saigon destroyed 22 bunkers and detained one suspect. Members of the 2nd Bn., 3rd Inf. found and destroyed the bunker complex eight miles south of Due Hoa. One U.S. soldier was wounded in the action. During operations south and west of Saigon this week brigade members killed two enemy and detained five suspects.



Two win aviation awards

LONG BINH, (USARV)—Two Vietnam veterans received the Army Aviation Association of America's top individual awards for their outstanding contributions to Army aviation during

1967-1968. Maj. Robin K. Miller and Sfc. Jesse J. Dodson Jr. were named "Army Aviator of the Year" and "Army Aviation Soldier of the Year," respectively, during

the association's Tenth Annual Honors Luncheon at the Sheraton-Park Hotel in Washington, D.C.

Miller has served three tours of duty in Vietnam as a pilot and gunship platoon leader. During the three day, Vi Thanh battle in December 1967 Miller supported 129 medical evacuations, and in the process destroyed numerous enemy automatic positions.

On Jan. 12, 1968 the major engaged an enemy sampan, wounding its crewmen and allowing a captive American soldier to escape from the sampan. He then landed to rescue the American soldier.

During the Tet Offensive Miller's gunship platoon played an important part in the defense of the Vinh Long Airfield. He learned at this time of enemy movement in the vicinity of a convent 800 meters from the airfield and made more than 20 trips into and out of the convent courtyard to rescue 208 children and nuns in spite of heavy ground fire.

Dodson was cited at the luncheon for his achievements as shop foreman of the 450th Transportation Maintenance Detachment in the 170th Assault Helicopter Co.

The citation commended Dodson for being a professional soldier in every respect and said he combined a technical knowledge of helicopters, an understanding of the immediate military requirement, an abundance of drive and force together with outstanding leadership to consistently render invaluable maintenance support and produce an exceptionally high aircraft availability rate.

GIs foil ambushes, receive Silver Stars

DONG BA THIN, (ENGR)—Two engineer soldiers were presented Silver Star medals recently for their heroic actions in separate incidents involving enemy ambushes.

Spec. 4 Gary D. Douglas and Spec. 4 Alfred Engle received the awards at a ceremony here.

Douglas received the award for the gallantry he displayed while driving the convoy commander's jeep in his unit's movement between Kontum and Pleiku, which was hit by an enemy force firing mortars, rockets and small arms. After leading several of the convoy's trucks out of the ambush site to safety, he quickly turned his vehicle around and returned to the battle area.

He rushed to his wounded commander's aid and applied a tourniquet to stop the bleeding. He treated two other casualties in the immediate vicinity, moved them all to a helicopter evacuation point, and then began directing the defense of the convoy.

Bullets struck all around him, but he refused to take cover and delivered deadly machine gun fire on the attackers, forcing the enemy to break contact.

Engle distinguished himself

when he came upon an ambushed jeep while driving his two-and-a-half ton truck to his unit's work site along Highway QL-1.

The two wounded occupants of the jeep were still receiving an intense volume of fire from the ambushers so Engle quickly maneuvered his truck to a point between the attackers and the casualties.

Then he proceeded to lay down a suppressive base of fire from his vehicle's cab while his assistant placed the wounded in the truck. When they were aboard he took them to a helicopter landing zone for medical evacuation.

Armor unit's bravery cited

CAMP ENARI, (4th INF)—President Johnson awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for extraordinary heroism to the 1st Platoon of Co. B, 1st Bn., 69th Armor.

The platoon was cited for its part in the defense of a Republic of Korea cavalry position in Pleiku province in August 1968.



VIETNAMESE SCHOOL GIRLS troop the line during an award ceremony at LZ English recently. The Vietnamese Cross of

Gallantry was presented to several 173rd Airborne Brigade paratroopers.



from the desk of

Shorttimer Sam

Dear Shorttimer Sam, I am extending in Vietnam to have my MOS changed from infantry to MP. Here is what I want to know. After I leave Nam after my extension I will have one year left in the Army. If I extend my ETS for 11 months what are my chances for getting Taipei as my station? Spec. 4 D.T., 1st Inf.

No can do. According to USARV Reg 614-8 you can only extend for the following locations: long tours in Hawaii, Japan, Philippines, Okinawa, Thailand and Guam, or a short tour in Thailand or Korea.

Dear Shorttimer Sam, When I was drafted into the Army I took and passed the Warrant Officers flight test. What I would like to know is could I re-enlist for the above field and get an immediate reassignment to the school. I realize I would immediately be sent back to South Vietnam but better in the air instead of on the ground. Pfc. J.R., 11th Inf P.S. I have seven months left until DEROS.

There just is no way you are going to get back to CONUS much before your DEROS. Well, maybe a day or two if your transportation just happens to work out that way. Talk to your career counselor for all the info on going to flight training.

Dear Shorttimer Sam, I have been here in Vietnam for seven months and what I would like to ask you about is an Intra Theatre Transfer (ITT). I am planning to extend my tour here in Vietnam for another six months after my one year tour is over. From what I have heard a soldier who extends for another six months after his tour is finished would have a very good chance for an ITT. Does the personnel or reenlistment office by any chance have any paper or regulation concerning the guarantee of an individual for an ITT before signing his extension papers? What kind of MOS do they really need for an ITT to Japan, Thailand or the Philippines? Spec. 4 D.D., 168th Engr. Bn.

The reg that covers ITTs is USARV Reg 611-8. There is no guarantee for an ITT. All MOSs are needed in Japan, Thailand and the Philippines. You cannot request a specific point such as Bangkok so although you can request Thailand, you have no guarantee of being stationed in Bangkok. Anyone can apply for an ITT within the Pacific Command regardless of whether he has extended. Extending in Vietnam does not give one a better chance of getting an ITT. Why not break down and go talk to your personnel section for the full scoop.

Dear Sam, This is my first tour in Vietnam. I spent three months with the 1st Infantry Division and then got switched to the 4th Division. I reenlisted to come back to the Big Red One. My question is do I wear two shoulder patches? When I left the 1st, I put the patch on my right shoulder; then when I came back I left it there and now I am wearing two 1st Infantry Division patches. Am I right or wrong? SSgt. J.T., 1st Inf.

Boy you sure get around don't you. You may wear two Big Red One patches. Or, if you like, you could wear a 4th Division patch on your right shoulder and really let those new guys know you have seen the sights of Vietnam.

Dear Sam, I would like to know about some medals I think I was recommended for while a member of the 101st Airborne Division. In June I got hit in the leg and got sent to the hospital. Then in August I was evacuated to Japan. It looks like I won't make it back to Vietnam. Is it possible for me to get my medal? Spec. 4 P.L., 7th Field Hospital.

If your unit put you in for a medal and it is approved, the orders will eventually catch up to you. Keep in mind that it takes time for the paperwork on awards to go through. The hospital has authority to award you the Purple Heart.

Dear Shorttimer, I have come to you with a rare problem. It seems my three buddies and I have been away from the U.S. for so long they seem to have forgotten how many states there are in the U.S. They said the District of Columbia is a state, and, if this were true there would be 51 states. In a dictionary it says D.C. is a state with 69 square miles. According to my teaching, Rhode Island is the smallest state. Also on the new 10 cent stamp there are 50 stars, one for each state. What is the true story? Pfc. M.G., 173rd ABN.

O.K. pall Now take it easy. Just take two aspirin, lie down, elevate your feet and rest for a while. The District of Columbia is not a state, although if it is alleged to be a state of confusion. There are currently 50 states in the U.S. You know, if I didn't know April Fools Day was in April I would think it was today. Really now!

Dear Shorttimer Sam, Do you have any idea why the Rowan and Martin "Laugh In" does not appear on Channel 11 on Saturday nights any longer? For such a popular show I do not understand why it was replaced. Sfc. A.B., MACV.

You are really right about the "Laugh In" being a great show. The TV shows come over in 13 week packages. The TV people here do not know in advance what they will be sent. It's sort of like a giant box of Cracker Jacks with the shows being the surprises. The boob tube people tell me that they expect the "Laugh In" will be in future packages. In the meantime the "Friday Surprise" has been used and may continue to be used on the "Friday Surprise." These surprises make life interesting for us, don't they?

Questions on any subject may be sent to Shorttimer Sam, in care of The Army Reporter, Hq. USARV, APO 96375. All questions will be given prompt attention and deep thought. Unsigned or anonymous letters will not be answered.

Shorttimer Sam

HueyCobra company deals death to Charlie

By Spec. 4 John A. Sullivan
CAN THO, (USARV) — One of the deadliest and busiest helicopter companies in Vietnam is the 235th Armed Helicopter Company.

Part of the 307th Combat Aviation Bn., 164th Group, the only all HueyCobra helicopter company in Vietnam, they provide close air support throughout IV Corps. Their area of operations covers 14,000 square miles, a large part of which is made up of rice paddies.

Hit VC in backyard

"Our job is to destroy the VC in his own back. Our area of responsibility includes areas that have been under the almost total control of the VC for years," said Capt. Jim Clary.

The 235th flies in direct support of ARVN and other South Vietnamese units working in the Delta. When supporting ground units the crews are briefed the night before. In the morning the Cobras meet the troop carrying Huey slicks at a prearranged rendezvous point. Then they provide close air support for air-assaults, ground action and medevacs.

They also cooperate with the province chiefs in using free fire zones. The province chief

designates certain areas which are off limits to everyone and he warns the populace that aircraft will shoot at anyone or anything in the zone. The 235th sends aloft a heavy fire team of three Cobras plus a Huey slick carrying a representative of the province chief and an American adviser. The observation chopper guides the Cobras into the free fire area and then the Cobras are free to fire upon any target in the area.

On IV Corps standby

During the day, the 235th maintains a light fire team of two Cobras on a 10 minute standby for duty anywhere in IV Corps. They are scrambled to aid the defenders of an outpost under attack, supply air support for medevacs or to protect the pilots of downed aircraft until they can be rescued. If the action is far away from their home base at Can Tho, they can refuel and rearm at airfields throughout the Delta.

The Cobras also perform an escort role for the four airmobile companies in the Delta, augmenting their organic gunships. They supply suppressive fire and reconnaissance in landing and pickup zones. "Their increased speed and maneuverability is invaluable when the fighting gets hot," Clary noted.

In a fire fight the Cobra is called in for maximum firepower."

Earlier in the year the Cobras, working with airmobile infantry units, struck hard at the enemy's supply lines. A Cobra heavy fire team with five slicks traveled up the canals until they came to a likely lay-over point for enemy sampans and barges. The ground troops would air-assault into the area while the Cobras supplied air cover. After a 30-minute search, the troops would be pulled out and move to another area. Using this method large numbers of enemy weapons and supplies were captured.

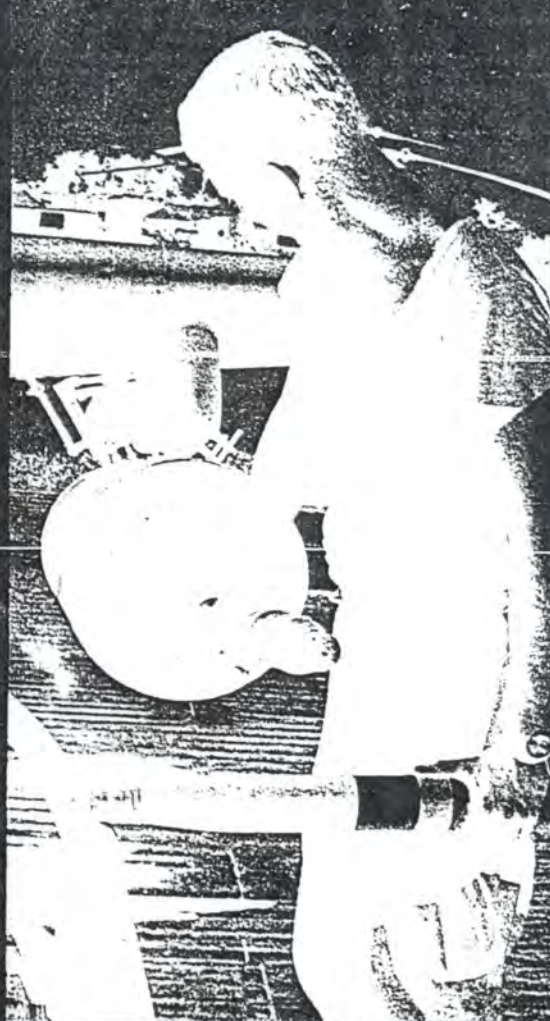
Busy at night too

At night the company is just as busy. A light fire team flies with a slick carrying flares. Their primary duty is the defense of military installations and outposts in the Can Tho area. If the enemy attacks the team is scrambled. While the flare ship lights the area, the Cobras attack the enemy. Defense is not this team's only role. They also recon area where reports indicate the enemy may be hiding. Again they use areas designated free fire zones by the province chief. Many an enemy soldier has found his dark hiding place lit up by flares and attacked by the Cobras.

The Cobras also fly with Army Mohawk aircraft. At night two Mohawks go up with a light fire team. The first Mohawk uses its sensing equipment to locate troop concentrations. The second Mohawk drops flares, lighting the area, then the Cobras destroy the enemy using their rockets, grenade launchers and miniguns.

The pilots and crews of the 235th are proud of their Cobras. "Cobra is the aircraft, the Cadillac of helicopters. It handles more like it was a fixed wing aircraft than like a helicopter," is how WO George Szokoly expressed it.

"We are one third again as airmobile because of our speed," Clary noted. "Cobras are quicker, better reacting than normal gunships."



A BIG PUNCH is supplied by the Cobra's rockets. The delicate job of loading and arming the rockets is handled by the pilots and co-pilots. Lieutenant Charles Poulton immediately reloads after a combat mission.



ALWAYS CHECKING to make sure the Cobras are combat ready the ground crews have a big job. Here Spec. 5 William Sydnor adjusts the throttle linkage. The ground crews perform maintenance, refuel and rearm the Cobras in a minimum of time.



A DEADLY SIGHT from the ground the HueyCobra looks just as formidable seen from an observation helicopter above it.

The Cobra carries a variety of weapons including rockets, miniguns and a 40mm grenade launcher.



A HANDY ROPE is used to pull Capt. Charles L. Holt Co. B, 2nd Bn., 27th Inf., 25th Infantry Division across a stream during operations near Cu Chi. Water is an ever-present problem to the infantrymen.

25th Inf Photo by Spec. 4 Robert O'Hare

Proves program's value

Kit Carson Scout aids 1st Inf

DI AN, (1st INF)—A product of the Chieu Hoi program, Le Van Det, a Kit Carson Scout attached to the Big Red One's 2nd Bn., 18th Inf., has become an outstanding addition to the U.S. force's fighting knowhow.

Three years ago, Det, then a Viet Cong rifleman with two decorations for valor, went into Ben Cat, the village of his youth, and surrendered to government troops.

"When I was a boy in Ben Cat, I did not understand things yet," tells Det. "The Viet Cong came into the village and I did what they said." Responding to their pressure, he became an active member of a local VC force.

In the months he has been a scout with the 1st Infantry Division unit, Det has exhibited a knowledge of the enemy which could only be acquired by having been one of them himself. In

the heat of a battle, Det will go running forward alone, zipping right around the enemy's lines of fire, knowing just where they can fire and where they cannot. With uncanny precision, he can singlehandedly silence enemy firing positions and lead his comrades through safe avenues of approach.

"He saved my life on several occasions, particularly once when he pointed out the presence of a mine I was about to step on," attested Pfc. Christopher Podgus. "I saw him personally blow three live bunkers spraying automatic fire during a recent contact," he added.

On another occasion while a Big Red One company was moving forward, Det observed three enemy moving along the flank of his platoon. Without hesitating, he moved ahead and engaged them. His squad leader

reported seeing two fall and the third disappear into the brush.

During the day-long battle which followed, he continually moved through heavy enemy fire to assist his elements in any way he could. When the Americans began to advance, he was in the lead, guiding the Americans safely through a bunker complex.

173rd in Marine-style landing

BONG-SON, (173rd ABN)—Paratroopers are playing marines along the north central coast of South Vietnam and liking it.

In a bizarre exercise that proved tactically quite successful, airborne infantrymen of the 173rd Airborne Brigade recently waded ashore from two LCM assault vessels reminiscent of World War II amphibious landings.

The assault, into a remote coastal area sympathetic to the Viet Cong, was replete with naval artillery from the destroyer, USS Harwood and Air Force bombing runs.

A rifle company from the 2nd Bn., 503rd Inf., participated in the maneuver which saw the paratroopers plunging off the landing craft, waist-deep into the chilly South China Sea.

Ironically, a former Marine was among these who made the landing. "I spent a year in Vietnam with the 3rd Marine Division in 1965 but never made an amphibious landing," said Spec. 4 Edward Richardson. "Now here I am with an airborne unit making an amphibious assault."

Despite getting wet, the paratroopers seemed to take a liking

to the beachhead landing. Specialist 4 Frank Pizzone said, "This is really a good change from heliborne assaults. I sure hope we make more."

Brigadier General Richard J. Allen, the brigade commander, chomped in to review the maneuver. "The amphibious assault operation is experimental," he said. "We hope to catch the enemy when they are not looking and shake them up a bit." After securing the beachhead, the paratroopers moved out and quickly rounded up 22 male suspects. A small basecamp was found as well as Viet Cong equipment.

"This certainly gives us a lot more flexibility," said Capt. Michael B. Ahearn who led the assault. General Allen emphasized the precise cooperation of the Navy and Air Force along with the 173rd. The landing was executed without a hitch.

"In the future," said General Allen, "we plan to use amphibious landings as a supplement to our heliborne assaults."

Switch roles

In a recent exchange, First Lieutenant Don Reighard, a fighter pilot, traded places with Capt. J. Michael Hagman, a rifle company commander with the 1st Infantry Division. "I was very impressed with the Air Force before I heard of this program," Hagman explained. "I nearly beat the division record for calling in close air support missions in a battle on Sept. 12. If it hadn't been for the Air Force, we would have been overrun for sure," he observed.

Hagman went out on an early morning mission in a jet fighter piloted by Capt. John Blaha. "It was quite an experience," remarked Hagman. "The target was in a woodland about 70 meters long and five meters wide. I can't get over how accurate the bombing was—just unbelievable! Every bomb landed within 15 meters of the target area," he noted.

Hagman is more impressed with the Air Force now. "I've always been confident in them—now I'll just be that much more confident. And I have certainly learned a lot about their ordnance and capabilities," he noted.

Learns respect

Reighard spent the night at the night defensive position (NDP) of the 1st Bn., 28th Inf. "It was a very exciting experience," according to Reighard. "We were on a little knoll about six miles northeast of Saigon where Company C had their night defensive position. I fired most of the weapons that the company had; it was different," he noted. Reighard has "more respect for the infantrymen now than before."

Pilots, infantrymen try trading jobs

LONG BINH, (II FFV)—Jet fighter pilots and combat infantry officers are trading jobs in a unique new program underway at the huge Bien Hoa Air Base, 20 miles northeast of Saigon.

Called Operation Teamwork, this program was designed to clear up misunderstandings that occasionally crop up between pilots flying close air support missions and ground commanders.

Learn Limitations

Army Capt. James M. Brogan, ground liaison officer, explained that many infantry commanders are not aware of the limitations and capabilities of close air support. "Some of them think that they can get an airstrike in a matter of minutes. Many times they can, but what they fail to realize is that an awful lot of time goes into making each strike possible. The maintenance on aircraft is staggering, something like 30 hours for every hour an F-100 spends in the air. Besides this, special bomb loads are required for particular targets and it takes time to load and arm the ordnance," he observed.

The swap program was originated by the 3rd Tactical Fighter Wing (TFW). The first exchange was made between officers of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment and pilots from the 3rd TFW. It was so successful that plans were initiated to make the program a permanent thing. Since then trades have been made with the 1st Infantry Division, 5th Special Forces, and the 9th Infantry Division.

Air Force pilots are interested in the program because it is an excellent opportunity for them to get on the ground to see first hand the results of their work. Captain Patrick McAdoo, a fighter pilot with the 604th Air Commando Squadron (Fighter), believes that the program has done a lot to further understanding between the Army and Air Force. He pilots an A-37 fighter—the smallest fighter, the

Massive Assault Wins Base

(Continued From Page 1) over Dau Tieng as guns of Battery B, 2nd Bn., 32nd Arty., the 1st Bn., 27th Arty., and 2nd Bn., 77th Arty., hurled projectiles into the target area seven miles south of base camp.

The artillery was still firing as the assault helicopter companies hovered almost 30 choppers into two pickup zones. The airlift consisted of the 187th, 128th and 116th Assault Helicopter companies.

While the efforts to establish the support base continued, the infantrymen began sweeps into an abandoned rubber plantation and heavy undergrowth, searching out snipers who harassed

the oncoming force.

The area, long an enemy hotbed, produced bunker complexes and numerous enemy supplies.

Company B found a 30-man sleeping position which apparently had been abandoned by North Vietnamese only hours earlier. Found were a 75mm recoilless rifle round and various tin cans, a poncho and other small items.

Meanwhile the battalion's reconnaissance platoon found a 300 lb cache of rice in a fighting position. Shortly thereafter Company B made another find, 800 lbs of rice and six motorized sampans.

A Company D soldier discovered a 10 foot tunnel behind a fireplace.

A substantial cache found in the tunnel included 30 lbs of tobacco, 100 packs of cigarettes, 100 cans of fish, 50 bottles of cough medicine, 75 bottles of perfume, 50 tooth brushes, a large supply of razor blades, and buttons for enemy uniforms.

Meanwhile Company A, normally mechanized, also flew an air assault into the area. Shortly after arriving they were greeted by sniper fire, and rang up the only body count of the day, killing an enemy hiding in deep foliage.