

scattered throughout four provinces: Darlac, Pleiku, Phu Bon, and Quang Duc. In the four areas are seven sub-stations, or leprosarium clinics. Home for Miss Kingsbury is Ban Me Thuot Leprosary Treatment Center.

The whole project is sponsored by the Christian and Missionary Alliance. Miss Kingsbury works closely with the Republic of Vietnam government and is a representative of the government's Public Health Department for leprosy treatment in the highlands.

Miss Kingsbury's work is channeled in two ways. On the one hand there is the treatment of the disease itself. The usual medication is the drug Dapsone, given in pill form.

The pill is the same one taken daily by U.S. forces in the highlands to ward off malaria. The other area of concern is preventing complication resulting from leprosy.

"Leprosy patients become disfigured not so much from the disease itself, but from carelessness," explained Miss Kingsbury. "The disease deadens the nerve endings and the patients have no sense of pain, nor can they distinguish between hot and cold."

"As a result, the patients pay little attention to cuts and burns and injuries. Infections some-

Cross Of Gallantry

XUAN HIEP. (IV CORPS-IO)

The widow of the former chief of this Mekong Delta village has been presented the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Silver Star for leading the three-year defense of this outpost at the junction of the Mang Thit River and the Nicholai Canal.

The award was presented to Mrs. Nguyen Thi Ba, and signifies participation in direct combat against the VC during the three years she held the outpost.

Between 1964 and mid-1967 when this village was the only outpost on a broad stretch of the Mang Thit not to fall to the Communists, more than 20 defenders were killed and the population fell from several hundred to 70.

Then this year the 9th Division, Army of the Republic of Vietnam, and the Vinh Long provincial government began a joint effort to reopen the canal to commercial shipping.

Since then, two battalions of the 16th ARVN Regiment have been stationed in the area and nearly a dozen new outposts have been established to take the strain off of Mrs. Ba's villagers.

Operations mounted by the

division and provincial forces have put the VC on the defensive for the first time since 1963. In August, the Mang Thit-Nicholai waterway was opened to commercial use. The route cuts nearly three days off the normal time for rice to move from the southern Delta area.

Since the ARVN build-up in the area has taken much of the pressure off this village, the hamlet has served as a refugee center.

Most observers believe an important factor in the villager's resistance was their desire to defend the Church, which the VC had vowed to destroy.

COOLING WATERS—Private First Class Phillip W. Wain takes time out to clean up after his unit, the 1st Cavalry Division's Company C, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry conducted search and destroy mission as part of the 1st Cav.'s Operation Pershing near Song Re.

(Photo by Sp5 Charles Hoover, 1st CAV-IO)

Field Expediency Added To Program

CHU LAI, (AMERICAL-IO)—A little ingenuity and some field expediency have added to the safety program of one Americal

Division unit.

The chemical section of Headquarters Company, 94th Supply and Service Battalion recently started using their decontamination trucks as emergency fire vehicles.

The equipment used for fire-fighting includes a decontamination truck, a two and one-half-ton truck with a 400-gallon water trailer, and a pump with 350 pounds-per-square-inch pressure. Water is pumped through two, one-inch hoses.

The innovation has already proved its worth. In the past month, the new fire-fighting trucks have put out three small fires in storage areas before they could spread.

Phantom Attached To 1st Avn Bde

SOC TRANG, (1st AVN-IO)—The Phantom has been formally added to the rolls of the 1st Aviation Brigade. The Phantom Combat Aviation Battalion is presently under the command of the 13th Aviation Battalion.

They will have command responsibility for all of the 13th's fixed-wing aircraft units.

Engrs Supply Orphans With Food, Clothing

BIEN HOA, (USAECV-IO)—The Tan Mai Orphanage here houses, feeds, and educates 120 children and infants. It is managed by Catholic nuns who quite often do not have enough food for the children.

Chaplain (Capt.) Edwin J. Rowan III of the 34th Engineer Battalion, 79th Engineer Group, learned of the problem and organized assistance for the orphans.

Led by Headquarters and Headquarters Company, the 34th Engineers responded with money, food, and clothing for the children. Several engineers also wrote their home churches for donations.

When all the contributions were collected, the engineers gave the orphanage a large quantity of food, milk, candy, clothing, soap, tooth brushes, and tooth paste. In addition, Rowan gathered together much needed writing tablets and pencils for the orphanage school.

WO Eligibility Requirements Changed By Dept Of Army

WASHINGTON, (ANF)—The U.S. Army has changed certain eligibility requirements for warrant officer flight training.

DA Message 831572 makes the following changes effective immediately to AR 601-108, "Warrant Officer Flight Training Option," and AR 611-85, "Selection of Enlisted Volunteers for Training as Aviation Warrant Officer."

—The minimum Aptitude Area (GT) score on the Army Qualification Battery is changed from 115 to 110.

—The minimum FASTWOCB (Warrant Officer Candidate Battery of Flight Aptitude Selection Tests) composite score is changed from 230 to 250.

In addition, the requirement in AR 611-85 for an examining board is deleted and replaced with the requirement for an applicant to be interviewed by a field grade Army aviator. The interviewer will determine leadership potential and whether the applicant possesses qualifications for successful completion of flight training.



CANDY FOR THE KIDS—Chaplain (Capt.) Edwin J. Rowan III, assisted by a Catholic nun, passes out candy to some of the 120 children who live at the Tan Mai Orphanage in Bien Hoa. Rowan, who is a member of the 34th Engineer Battalion, 79th Engineer Group, learned that the orphanage was often without food and organized a donation program for the needed supplies.

(Photo by USAECV-IO)

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them a new and unique assignment of both men and beasts to assist the 4th Infantry Division in the field.

These were the members of the 33rd Scout Dog Platoon at the beginning of their 12-month tour of duty. Having just completed three months of intensive training at Ft. Benning, Ga., they were now combat ready.

The dogs had also been carefully screened, eliminating the too-friendly or over-aggressive breeds, considered unfit for missions as scout dogs.

"When we arrived at this location last year there was nothing here," recalled Sp4 Edward Jklvejko, a dog handler with the platoon. "We managed to obtain wood from the ships docked at Qui Nhon while 4th Division engineers supplied metal for the roofs. Then we went to work, and before long we had so many projects going

nels. The men also constructed an obstacle course through which the dogs were run daily to relieve excess energy.

With less than a month in country, the 33rd was built up and ready for action. Patrols were set up for one dog and one handler each to go with each company.

The 33rd patrolled with the 2nd Brigade while the 50th, which arrived four months later, patrolled with 1st Brigade companies.

"While patrolling, the scout dog gives advance warning of personnel and various traps that may be in an area," explained SFC Thomas E. Cherry Jr., the platoon sergeant.

"They can detect a trip wire by the high frequency sound of the wind rushing over it, or sniff out a hidden booby trap from the scent of the person that planted it," he added.



THANKSGIVING—Eager faces greet a 1st Infantry Division bags of candy to children of the Binh Phuoc refugee center celebrated as part of the celebration of the mid-Autumn Children's Festival to Thanksgiving in the U.S. (Photo by PEC Dic)

Big Red One Helps Celebrate Autumn Festival

DI AN, (1st INF-10)—Hundreds of bright-eyed children, talking and laughing, gathered around the 1st Infantry Division soldiers as they unloaded a jeep full of boxes at the home of the district chief, Capt. Nguyen Minh Chou.

The large cardboard boxes, marked "gift of the people of the US," contained hundreds of smaller cellophane packages of sandals, clothes, balloons, toys, candy and paper lanterns to help the children celebrate the mid-Autumn Children's Festival, the Vietnamese Thanksgiving.

The 1st Inf. Div. civic action team, led by Capt. George A. Garrity, carried cakes baked by cooks of the division base camp to the schools, where they would be given to the children.

The day would be a holiday for the children of the schools here. After studying their lessons, they would spend the afternoon singing, playing, and waiting.

Vietnam Communiqué

1st Infantry Division—Operation Bluefield II terminated with five enemy killed and two detained in the five-day operation. The operation was a multi-battalion road clearing and search and destroy operation centered

about four miles northeast of Lai Ke. Its primary objective was to clear an eight mile strip along Route 391 between Bo La and Bau Bang. Six hundred acres of jungle were cleared in 100-yard-wide strips on either side

of the highway, which permitted airmobile assault landings along the entire length of the highway and also eliminated Viet Cong tax collections and reduced the possibility of ambush.

11th Armored Cavalry Regiment—Operation Wheeler has accounted for more than 80 enemy dead since its recent beginning. The area of operation is in the coastal plains and foothills west of Tam Ky. In addition to the 11th Cav., elements of the 101st Airborne Division are participating in the operation. Overall contact with the enemy was reported as only moderate. Enemy fire has consisted for the most part in small-arms and automatic weapons fire. In one contact, an enemy company in a dug-in position 7.5 miles northwest of Tam Ky returned fire with 57mm recoilless rifles.

173rd Airborne Brigade—Two hundred and fifty rounds of mortar and recoilless rifle ammunition, and five tons of rice were found by 173rd Abn. troopers recently during Operation Bolling in Phu Yen Province. The cache was located during a search and destroy mission 6 miles west of Tuy Hoa. In addition to the five tons of rice, the cache contained 100 rounds of 60mm mortar, 150 rounds of 57mm recoilless rifle ammunition, 15 grenades, and small quantities of assorted small arms ammunition.

4th Infantry Division—The ancient Greek odysseys were relived recently as Company D, 2nd Battalion/35th Infantry conducted another "golden fleece" operation with two Popular Forces platoons, resulting in 15 tons of rice being harvested without enemy interference. A "golden fleece" operation is one in which friendly forces guard against Viet Cong attack while the villagers harvest their rice.



Phong Dinh Uses RD 'Task Force'

CAN THO, (IV CORPS-10)—Phong Dinh Province is utilizing a "Village Task Force" concept to accomplish its Revolutionary Development goals.

Rather than send their 59-man Revolutionary Development (RD) teams to several isolated

3 Girls Point Out VC Mine

DUC PHU, (USAECV-10)—Three young Vietnamese girls may have helped save the lives of American soldiers on Highway QL-1 just south of here.

The 1st Platoon of Company B, 19th Engineer Battalion, 45th Engineer Group was sweeping for mines when the girls ran up to SSgt. William Pace and Sgt. Silas Allen shouting, "Mine—VC."

After contacting their platoon leader, the engineers moved to the spot with a mine detector and prober. The mine, an anti-personnel device, was blown in place. It had been booby-trapped.

Less than 25 minutes later, a reconnaissance team from the 25th Infantry Division moved directly through the area where the mine had been located.

"The girls were pretty lucky themselves," Allen said. "Their box containing soft drinks was laying only inches from the mine."