

Troops Can Stay Via MARS Station

BEN HOA, (173rd ABN-IO) — Would you believe that every day dozens of people in the United States are receiving telephone calls from MARS?

Well, it's true. But in this case, MARS stands for the Military Affiliate Radio System, and every day wires and parents of servicemen in Vietnam are receiving phone calls from their loved ones overseas.

A typical station which caters to the troopers is the 173rd Airborne Brigade's MARS station, located at the base camp here. This station, under the direction of Capt. Richard C. Bentley has a two-fold purpose. First, the station provides a back-up means of

communication throughout the country in the event normal communications fail, and secondly they provide facilities for the passing of written messages and telephone conversation both in and out of the country.

The first priority for telephone calls goes to the sick and wounded men in the 3rd Surgical Hospital here. For these men, facilities have been arranged to allow them to speak to their families directly from their beds. Special telephones are used which are connected directly to the radio room at the MARS station. Being able to speak to the folks back home is a great morale booster for the bed-ridden soldiers.

Prize Comes Equipped With Abn Capt's Initials

TUY HOA, (101st ABN-IO) — Captain Joseph Jenkins of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division may be the only man in

Vietnam who can claim having his war trophy come complete with monogram.

Jenkins is the Commander of A Battery, 2nd Battalion, 320th Artillery which was engaged in throwing back an attack by North Vietnamese Army (NVA) regulars. As he dashed for the perimeter directing his artillerymen's defensive fire, a khaki-clad NVA lieutenant charged to within ten yards of the perimeter and singled out the battery commander for a kill with his pistol.

The NVA lieutenant raised his pistol and fired twice at Jenkins. The Screaming Eagle officer hit the ground and fired his M-16 on automatic. The enemy gave a wild jerk and the pistol flew through the air in an arc and landed on the ground next to Jenkins. The 101st paratrooper picked up the weapon, stuck it in his belt, and joined his artillerymen to repel the rest of the enemy force.

When the action was over, Jenkins looked at his captured weapon. It was a black-handled, 7.62, Soviet automatic pistol. It had a star carved on the handle and had been well oiled. But there was something else. Right on the trigger guard, in small letters, were the initials "J.J." The initials of Joseph Jenkins.

"I guess the pistol was just looking for a home," said the captain speaking from his bullet-riddled tent. "It doesn't have to look any further."

COs Change At 196th Inf

TAY NINH, (196th INF-IO) — Brigadier General Richard T. Knowles, former II Field Force, Vietnam (IFFV) Chief of Staff, recently assumed command of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade here.

In taking over one of the Army's newest combat units, General Knowles replaced Brigadier General Edward H. deSaussure Jr., who has been reassigned to I Field Force, Vietnam.

The 196th Light Infantry Brigade is termed "light" for its absence of the heavier type of arms and equipment normally found in most infantry brigades. Yet, in essence, it is a miniature division, streamlined for greater mobility. It has its own organic support element, maneuver infantry battalions, cavalry troop, and artillery battalion.

General Knowles is a graduate of the Artillery School's basic and advanced courses, the Command and General Staff College, and the U.S. Army War College. He completed airborne training in 1961.

Vital Role

TUY HOA, (4th INF-IO) — Playing a vital role in the daily operations of the 1st Brigade, 4th Infantry Division is the Communications Section of Headquarters Company whose primary mission is to keep the telephone lines open, day and night.

A section that is not often in the headlines, the commo section has a job which, though unglamorous, is of crucial importance to the operation of the brigade. The men often face danger in carrying out their mission: the 24-hour job of laying lines, repairing them and stringing wires over the entire countryside.

In the 1st Bde., three men are assigned to this duty, SSgt. Thomas F. Johnson, Sgt. Harry Stiff, and Sp4 William J. Oswald. The men's work on a typical day involves repairing broken lines, restringing wires across roads and fields and making physical checks of roadside lines, occasionally stopping for minor repairs.

One road requiring constant line checks is Highway 1. The route is used by all types of vehicles from horse-drawn wagons to jeeps, tanks, and bulldozers. Traffic is often snarled by herds of cattle driven along the side of the highway by local farmers. Frequently, roadside wires come down or are broken by the traffic.

climbed out of the water and walked around to the front of his house to find his parents. As he reached the front he saw a sight that sent him into shock. His parents were lying dead in a pool of blood. The Viet Cong had cut their throats with a machete.

Soan had no one to turn to. He didn't know where his brothers

he was picked up by a man on bunker guard and brought to the "Manchu's" headquarters.

After Soan finished his story, he drank a soda and laid his wet clothes on sand bags to dry and fell asleep on a wooden bench, feeling secure that at last he had found someone to help him.

'Minipads' Reduce Dust In Chopper Operations

TAN SON NHUT, (18th ENGR-IO) — Throughout Vietnam there is a heavy demand for heliports to accommodate UH-1 and CH-47 helicopters.

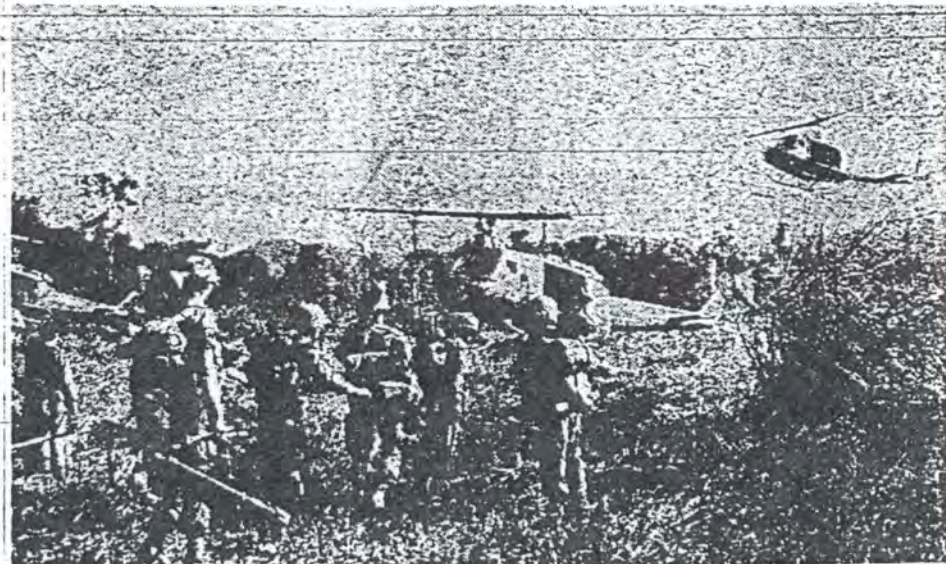
Along the east coast of Vietnam, most of the heliport sites are sandy or dusty during the day season. During takeoffs and landings, the helicopter downblast raises thick, swirling clouds of dust, causing damage to engines and rotor bearings, in addition to blinding the pilots. The 45th Engineer Group, commanded by Lt. Col. George M. Bush, has recently come up with a design to help overcome this problem.

The new design calls for the construction of "minipads" and was made possible by the successful application of penoprime, a new dust palliative material of asphaltic base.

When an area has been selected

as a helipad site, it is dozed, leveled and graded in the usual procedure. The entire area is then compacted with a sheepfoot and steel wheel roller and "shot", that is, sprayed with penoprime. The penoprime is usually applied with an asphalt distributor although, in difficult areas, a hand distributor can be used. The asphaltic substance, when sprayed onto sand, binds small particles together, making the surface dust-free.

Penoprime requires very little setting time, and construction of the minipads is usually initiated immediately after the area has been shot. A minipad is a 24-foot square of pierced steel plank (PSP) surfacing placed directly upon the compacted, penoprime sand. They can be built separately or in groups, depending on the use and work load of the heliport.



GOING OUT—Men of Company B, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry prepare to load on 1st Cavalry Division choppers for an air assault during Operation Irving.

(Photo by Sp4 Marc Davies, 1st CAV-IO)

members — including some railroad rails — had to be removed as did the old decking and caps.

As work progressed, the original eight-foot roadbed was widened to 10 feet with three-foot walkways on either side.

When the bridge was completed there was mention of a ribbon-cutting ceremony. But with a 50-truck Korean convoy from Cam Ranh Bay and a long line of Vietnamese waiting to cross the bridge, ceremonies were dispensed with. "They'll remember the bridge a lot longer than a ceremony," said one engineer sergeant as lines of trucks and people moved across Company B's bridge.

Battalion, 25th Infantry "Well-hounds" of the 25th Infantry Division, describe some of their reactions and experiences during the battle.

Lieutenant David B. Price, a platoon leader in Company B, 2nd Bn., was wounded as his company fought to free a sister company encircled by well-dug-in Viet Cong.

"We were about halfway there when we were hit," he relates. "The VC waited until we were about 20 feet away and opened up with more automatic weapons than I thought they had. It was so loud I couldn't hear the company commander shouting orders behind me.

ground.

"About three hours after the action started the firing to my rear increased. When I turned to see why I saw a captain with a radio on his back and a M-60 under each arm charging one of the VC bunkers. He got it, too.

"This went on until noon the next day. A few hours later the 196th (Light Infantry Brigade) got through to the encircled company and we pulled out of the area to let artillery and air strikes hit Charlie."

More than 100 dead Viet Cong were counted as Lieutenant Price and Co. B pulled out.

One of the men in the encircled Company C, was Sp4 William

crawling toward the rest of our squad when we ran into a group of VC throwing grenades at us. The sound of the firing was so loud I couldn't hear anything. There was nothing we could do but find cover and wait for help.

"A large tree had been chopped down by the fire and I crawled under that. As night fell I could see tracers cutting the air all around me. I just lay there and thought about home all night long.

"When it got light again the firing increased and I was hit. We could tell a unit was coming in for us but we didn't know who it was. About noon Charlie started to fall back and a few hours later our units got in to us. I was never so glad to get out of anywhere in my life!"

Neither Lieutenant Price or Specialist Johnson were seriously wounded in the battle.

PFC Strikes

AN KHE, (1st CAV-IO) — A Sky Trooper of the 1st Cavalry Division set up his own ambush recently, and way-laid five Viet Cong moving toward his company's perimeter.

Private First Class Eugene Cagle, of Company B, 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry was in position on a trail leading into the company perimeter.

In the darkness, he heard someone moving towards his outpost. When they were within 20 meters, he opened fire. He killed one of five VC and wounded another.

The other three fled.

Pilots Give 6 VC Tough Lesson

PHU LOI, (1st INF-IO) — Six Viet Cong learned recently what it's like to tangle with the men who ride the Big Red One Longhorn helicopters.

Major Donald A. Lacy, a member of Company B, 1st Aviation Battalion, was flying an OH-13 chopper in support of the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry, when he and Capt. Edward L. Carr, com-

mander of Company A, spotted six VC in a rice paddy.

When the chopper began to receive fire from the VC, Lacy maneuvered his craft so as to allow Carr to pick off two of the insurgents with his M-16 rifle, and seriously wound two more. Then Lacy hovered over one of the injured men, while Carr leaped out and subdued him with his pistol.

A Shower In Jungles

PLEIKU, (4th INF-IO) — It is a barren road, muddy and winding, leading through elephant grass often measuring six and seven feet in height, and yet, at the road's end is an experience in luxury.

Within the confines of a barbed wire compound are three tents situated next to a running stream, providing a shower point for the forward command post (CP) of the 1st Division's 2nd Brigade and the 25th Infantry Division's 3rd Brigade.

Soldiers can be seen daily, trudging along this road in groups of two and three—weapons loaded, towels in hand—toward this mecca for units participating in Operation Paul Revere IV. Vehicles laden with troops drive along the road regularly.

Arriving at the stream covered with dirt and perspiring from hours, even days of toiling, the men have as their reward for travelling the muddy road, the luxury of a shower—a luxury, however, lasting only briefly.

After taking full advantage of the cool, running water, the men must return to their uniforms, don their gear, and brave the teeming jungle, returning along the muddy road to accomplish the job at hand.



JUST LIKE UPTOWN?—Well, not quite, but a 1st Cavalry Division trooper has to make the best he can from a shave and a shoeshine—field style. Chances are neither will last long as he beats through the jungles on Operation Thayer II.

(Photo by Sp4 Anthony C. Thomas, 1st CAV-IO)

equipped with a Chinese-made, .30-caliber machine gun and several hundred rounds of ammunition. A number of pounds of rice and sets of shoes were also found and destroyed.

Tired but elated, the platoon hacked its way back through the jungle, arriving at a pre-arranged river point where friendly forces were waiting with a gunboat ride back to the base camp.

short walk. The prisoner was questioned again, and changed his story and said there was a rice cache all right, but only 200 meters from it was a 40-man NVA fortification.

The Second Platoon of Alpha Company was called in to reinforce the Recon Platoon. After their arrival the combined force moved in on the position. The NVA guards spotted their approach and opened fire. With the NVA fortification definitely located, artillery was called in on the position. At the same time, the

coastal village thirty miles north of Qui Nhon. The action resulted in the capture of 14 Viet Cong.

Arriving by helicopter at 6:50, the sky troopers caught members of a VC psychological warfare team as they were still washing the sleep out of their eyes.

Drowsy and confused, many of the VC who were sent to teach the villagers of the evils of the imperialistic invaders from America surrendered without a struggle.

Vietnam Communique

1st Cavalry Division—Elements of the division are continuing Operation Thayer II in Binh Dinh Province. The 7th Cavalry reported significant contact with a NVA unit and killed 55 in the action.

A patrol encountered an enemy squad near Bong Son and killed four Viet Cong. Enemy casualties in the operation are now above 350 killed. Cumulative friendly casualties have been light. Operation Byrd has so far accounted for 228 enemy killed, 27 captured, and more than 1400 tons of rice captured or destroyed.

101st Airborne Division—Nine Viet Cong have been killed, two NVA and two VC captured as units of the 1st Brigade continue Operation Thayer II. Friendly casualties have been light. Other elements of the brigade have killed 65 enemy and captured 28 in "Geronimo I."

1st Infantry Division—Operation Lam Son II is continuing with units from the 2nd Brigade reporting sporadic contact with the enemy. One hundred and twenty-nine enemy have been killed thus far with 117 captured and 943 suspects detained.

25th Infantry Division—Elements of the 1st Brigade participating in Operation Lanikai report light contact with the enemy. Twenty-two enemy have been killed, four captured, and 26 suspects detained. Strike pilots flew nine sorties in support of the operation. Cumulative friendly casualties are light as the operation continues. Units from the 3rd Brigade Task Force reported heavy contact with the enemy in Operation Paul Revere IV in Kontum Province. Friendly casualties were moderate while 166 enemy were killed. Strike pilots flew 49 sorties in support of the action. The operation was also supported by B-52's. Operation

Kalihi, involving units of the 1st Bde., has ended with 39 enemy killed, three captured, and 60 suspects detained. Friendly casualties in the action were light.

4th Infantry Division—Elements of the 2nd Brigade engaged an estimated two battalions of enemy near Plei Djereng during Operation Paul Revere IV and

killed 76 VC. Two enemy were captured. Friendly casualties are light as the operation continues.

173rd Airborne Brigade—Units are continuing their search and destroy operation in the Tay Ninh city area. The operation is reinforced by two ARVN Ranger battalions. No significant contact has been reported.



Last month when the 18th Military Police Brigade became operational.

Under the brigade concept, all non-tactical MP resources within Vietnam were consolidated into a single unit—the 18th MP Bde.—under the command of Col. Thomas F. Guidera.

When the brigade became operational, USARV was provided with a uniformly high standard of military police services and a single, well defined point of contact for major commanders requiring

basis which will relieve tactical and logistical commanders of police responsibilities near their base areas and insure coverage between the various boundaries.

The brigade's responsibilities range the gamut of military police duties—from law enforcement to support of tactical units in combat.

To perform this widespread mission, military police responsibilities have been divided approximately in half. The commanding officer of the 16th MP Group, Col. Louis J. Klekas, provides MP services to the units located in the Vietnamese Army's I and II Corps Tactical Areas. Police services to U.S. organizations in the III and IV Corps Tactical Zones and the Capital Military District are provided by Col. Robert Sabolyk's 89th MP Group.

Aviator Gets DSC

TAN SON NHUT, (USARV-10)

—An airborne spotter who took his aircraft through heavy enemy fire to aid a Vietnamese battalion has been awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

He is 1st Lt. Jack G. Gilliland of the 74th Reconnaissance Airplane Company, 145th Combat Aviation Battalion. He was on a visual reconnaissance mission when the battalion asked for help in locating enemy positions. Flying through intense ground fire, he marked positions with smoke.

The lieutenant directed mortar fire and when the enemy began to flee, his aircraft made three low passes to hamper their withdrawal. When the aircraft's rockets were used up, he used his M-16 to kill three Viet Cong.

Although the aircraft was hit, he had a flight of armed helicopters in a final assault against the VC.

ROKs and 14th Hit VC Like 'Revenuers After Still'

PHU TAI, (I FFV-10)—"They went through the Phu Cat Mountains like a posse of revenuers going through the Ozarks after moonshiners!" That's the way Americans of the 14th Aviation Battalion describe the Republic of Korea Army's Capitol Division's search and destroy operation "Meng Ho Six."

The American's description is valid; they furnished the helicopter support for the ROK's—troop lift, supply missions and gunships in the drive to clear the Viet Cong from the hills from which the Viet Cong until now

have controlled Highway 1.

"Meng Ho Six" not only accomplished its military mission. It also cemented a firm friendship between the Korean division and the American battalion.

"It would have been almost impossible to have succeeded in this operation without the 14th, to have encircled the enemy and destroyed him. To have gone in on foot would have taken too much time. Thanks to the 14th we had the element of surprise and rapid deployment of troops."

So Maj. Gen. Lew Byong Ilion, commanding general of the ROK division described the contribution of the 14th to the success of the Korean mission. "But then," he continued, "I regard the 14th as part of my division, the relationship is so close. We have full confidence in the 14th. The ROK's had earlier worked with the 14th in Operation Crazy Horse."

Apparently the only people unhappy with the American-Korean spirit of cooperation were the Viet Cong. They not only lost their mountain lair, which hadn't been held by Free World troops since the French left in 1954,

they also lost a lot of Viet Cong.

From the start of "Meng Ho Six" the Koreans accounted for 452 VC killed, 462 captured, and about 300 individual and crew-served weapons captured—and took the mountains, according to General Lew.

While the ROK's were busy on the ground, the three assault helicopter companies of the 14th, commanded by Lt. Col. Samuel P. Kalagian, were flying from before dawn until after dark, rain or shine.

The battalion lifted 7,500 Capitol Division soldiers and flew in 5,000 tons of supplies during the first 12 days. Troop movements were to initial landing zones and deployment of earlier-landed soldiers. Supplies consisted of ammunition, water and rations, as well as fortification materials.

The Americans also furnished suppressive fire from their gunships, to keep the VC down while the Koreans moved in. In 12 days, the chopper crews fired 8000 rounds of 40mm grenades; 1000 2.75-inch rockets, and 370,000 rounds of machine-gun ammunition.

Communist Supply Route Destroyed By Cav-CIDG

AN KHE, (1st CAV-10) — A platoon of the 1st Cavalry Division's 8th Engineer Battalion working with a Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) during Operation Thayer II has destroyed a major-communist sup-

ply route, a VC sniper fired at the friendly unit, but missed. A CIDG soldier wounded the sniper, who escaped through the jungle leaving a trail of blood.

Farther on up the trail, the men found six bridges and blew



WATCHFUL—1st Cavalry Division soldiers of the 2nd Brigade, 5th Cavalry alert during Operation Paul Revere IV in Pleiku Province.

(Photo by PFC Bruce R. Montoya, 1st CA)

Infantry Sergeant Lauded

CU CHI, (25th INF-10)

—Sergeant Ralph M. Graff is leader in Company C of Battalion, 14th Infantry. In his duty and does it well, in fact, that recently awarded the Silver Star for what he considers a paid job.

Graff's unit was on a search and destroy mission near Ninh, about 40 miles north of here, to secure the 25th Infantry Division arrived 196th Light Infantry.

Company C had engaged Cong force the day before. They had come out on top, long, hard fight. The day was back in the same search of the rest of the

Graff's squad had to point as the company through jungle. Without the still air was split crack of a rifle.

Within minutes, the platoon found itself locked in fighting with a well-concealed force of superior number without hesitation, Sergeant Graff organized his squad, evaluated the situation and radioed the platoon leader.

In his evaluation, Graff that two members of the team had been wounded in initial action and lay exposed to further enemy fire.

Disregarding the interference throughout the area, Graff moved forward to his two wounded men. He quickly administered first aid and dragged them back to the platoon medic for further treatment.

