

SUNSET SAFARI—Paratroopers of Company B, 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry, 173rd Airborne Brigade, carry C rations from the Battalion distribution point to the company area in Long Khanh Province during Operation Toledo.

(Photo by SP4 Berni Zawacki, 173rd ABN-IO)

Pilot Hears Of Son's Birth Over Radio

PLEIKU, (155th AVN-IO) — Chief Warrant Officer Robert E. Weimer admitted to being a little concerned when his Commanding Officer ordered him by name to switch frequencies on the radio of his UH-1D helicopter, in flight.

"I knew there had to be something wrong," said Weimer, "especially when he called me by name."

Flying South of here for the 155th Assault Helicopter Company, 52nd Aviation Battalion, Weimer tuned to the designated channel and 155th Commander, Maj. Robert V. Atkinson, contacted him.

"Robert Weimer, Memphis, Tenn.—wife Donna requests serviceman be notified she had a 7-pound, 13 ounce boy. Doctor advises both mother and child doing fine." This straight from the services of the International Red Cross.

Weimer's happy reply over the birth of his first born came back, "Thank you. Thank you."

Co-pilot John Frosting said Weimer's sun visor was down and hid any expression on his face. "I was standing by on the controls in case he dropped them, though," Frosting added.

Army Memos

20TH UNESCO ANNIVERSARY—

20th UNESCO Anniversary to be celebrated Nov. 4 has already been hailed by Presidential proclamation that underscores human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization was cited for having "a critical role to play in bringing educational techniques of the developed world to the newly emerging nations of man's family."

SIXTH DEFENSE COLLEGE CLASS—

Senior Military and civilian students from Latin America and U.S. are attending sixth class of the Inter-American Defense College, Ft. Lesley J. McNair, Washington, D.C. Course of studies at college encompasses world economic, political and military factors that influence Inter-American Defense. Major General Thomas F. Van Natta (USA-ret.), first director of college, addressed new class.

ARMED FORCES INSURANCE—

Military Life Insurance, Servicemen's Group Life Insurance and other previous insurance plans from World War II and Korean Conflict are fully documented in a new Armed Forces Information and Education pamphlet entitled Armed Forces Life Insurance Counselor's Guide, Supplement No. 1. Identification numbers are: DoD PA-9, DA Pam 360-517-1, NAVPERS 15212 Sup-1, AFP 34-1-7A, NAVMC 1195 (Rev 65) Sup-1.

ARMY AVIATION—

Panel Discussion on Army aviation in RVN is scheduled for Army Aviation Association of America annual meeting, Oct. 12-14, Washington, D.C. Featured panelist is Maj. Gen. Harry W. O. Kinnard, former CG, 1st Cavalry Division and present Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development. Another agenda item will be awards presentation to outstanding aviator, aviation soldier of year, and aviation unit.

SAVINGS BONDS GAIN—

August marked the sixth consecutive month to show continued gains over 1965 in the purchase of Savings Bonds.

The gains followed President Johnson's announcement in February of a new higher 4.15 percent interest rate.

Treasury Department figures show that E Bond sales were the highest for any August since 1945, except for 1963, while combined sales of E and H Bonds were the highest for that month since 1963.

VETERANS DAY—

"We have set aside one day of the year to honor the dead and the living whose actions have testified to their courage and devotion," President Johnson said in his Veterans Day, 1966

RE-UP!

Oct 8, 1966



UNLOADING AMMO—Men of the 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division, unload Bangalore Torpedoes from a supply helicopter during a battalion-sized operation south of the Division's base camp in Cu Chi.

(Photo by Sp4 Wallace Stachera, 125th SIG-IO)

101st Airborne Troopers Thankful For Aviation Co.

TUY HOA, (101st ABN-IO)—Paratroopers of A Troop, 17th Cavalry, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division think Capt. Donald Kelsey of the 48th Aviation Company and his crew are the greatest guys in the world.

The 17th Cavalry was on operations north of here when they encountered a Viet Cong force. Their Commander, Capt. Richard Maglin, called for gunship support. Within minutes Captain Kelsey was on the scene.

The gunship commander came in shooting once he determined the location of the enemy. Immediately the Viet Cong tried to withdraw and were caught in the open "I've spotted them; they

have weapons," Kelsey reported over the radio to Captain Maglin. "They're coming out of the village. I'm going in after them."

The gunship captain dove at the enemy blazing with every weapon on his aircraft, and four Viet Cong fell.

"I've got them," came the calm voice of Kelsey over the radio. "There're four of them laying over there. All you have to do is police them up. I'll cover you."

Kelsey circled his ship over-

head until the cavalymen had the field under control. He turned his craft for home, but he would be back several times that day to give the 17th Cavalry some breathing room.

"That gunship really saved us," said the 17th Cavalry, praising Captain Kelsey and his crew.

The cavalry captain said the gunship commander maneuvered his chopper in all directions, spraying the area with covering fire, and enabling A Troop to evacuate their wounded.

Xmas Mail By Nov. 1st

SAIGON, (MACV-IO) — Christmas mail will have to go early to reach the United States in time for the holidays.

Parcels paid at the surface rate, including those weighing less than five pounds, must be mailed by November 1st, since the peak mailing period will run

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Establishing Night Landing Zones Hard Work For 25th Avn.

CU CHI. (25th INF-IO) — A luminous artillery flare hangs in the wet night air, its brief light silhouetting the forms of five men riding in a helicopter.

The men quickly checkout the rice paddy terrain below, for once the flare has burned out they must work in total darkness. Their mission is to establish a landing zone, using only small landing lights, for a night air attack to be carried out by an infantry unit of the 25th Division.

The five men assigned this

most difficult task wear the well known black cap of the 25th Aviation Battalion, 25th Infantry Division. With the reputation of

"First in, Last out," they are widely respected by the fighting men of the 25th Division, for without the Pathfinders to show the way the air attacks which have proved so effective would be nearly impossible.

As the chopper hovers over the paddies, 1st Lt. James A. Hill and his team jump down into the knee-deep water. There is no

need for Hill to bark out orders because each Pathfinder knows exactly what he must do as he silently fades into the darkness.

Suddenly one by one the small lights began to appear on the narrow berms of the paddies. In a matter of moments, the individual lights take the shape of a landing pad visible to the incoming aircraft, yet much more subdued to enemy detection than the spotlights normally used by the choppers during a night landing.

With the light set out, Cpl. Talmadge Dobbs takes his place at the front of the landing zone. "It's hard enough," explained Hill, "to land one of those whirly-birds during the day, to say nothing about landing one at night with a minimum of lighting."

However, with the guidance of the Pathfinders and the experience of top-notch 25th Avn. pilots, wave after wave of choppers loaded with Tropic Lightning troops are landed without a trace of difficulty. Once the infantry has landed, it is the responsibility of the Pathfinders to maintain the landing zone for getting the troops out as they return from their mission. This is often the most risky part of a mission for the Pathfinders, since it is sometimes done under intensive enemy fire. Again the Pathfinders show the way, making sure that every man is aboard a chopper and on his way back to base camp.

New Annex

SAIGON. (1st LOG-IO) — With the aid of soldiers of the 4th Transportation Command, Viet-

U.S. Airlines Making G.I. Travel Easier

WASHINGTON, (ANF) —The nation's commercial airlines are making major changes in flight reservation policies and, in some cases, on fares which will benefit all U.S. military personnel.

Recently approved tariffs include three major items. One is preferential boarding on all planes for military standby passengers before other standby reduced fare groups are seated.

A second is confirmed reservations and half fares on 15 of the carrier services to individuals on emergency leave.

A third is reserved seats and 60 percent or more re-

that under the new emergency leave plan, military passengers must present to the carrier a document from their commanding officer or from the American Red Cross certifying the emergency. Fourteen airlines, including American, Braniff, Delta, Continental, Trans-World, United, Western, and one helicopter service have approved this tariff so far.

The Civil Aeronautics Board, which must approve any tariffs proposed by an airline, announced that Allegheny and Ozark carriers have decided to let servicemen play only one-third fare and make reservations for



NEW LIFT—A 254th Helicopter Ambulance Detachment dustoff chopper demonstrates the jungle penetrator, a life-saving device on air ambulances used successfully by air ambulance companies to evacuate wounded soldiers from areas where choppers can't land.

(Photo by 1st LOG-IO)

1st Cav 'Blacksmiths'

Base Camp



Special Forces Capt. John A. [Name], along with Army of the Montagnard tribe officials disintegrated the Montagnard tribe into a more [Name].
(Photo by 5th SFG-IO)

From Death Medical Bn.

Escorted from Qui Nhon by Maj. William R. Downey, executive officer of the 15th Med. Bn., the smiling youngster had completed a journey which included port-stops on the coast of Vietnam and a brief stay in a Hawaiian harbor.

Lieutenant Colonel Francis C. Dimond, commanding officer of the surgical hospital, together with Chief Surgeon (Maj.) Norman M. Rich, turned the smiling boy over to his now happy mother. She had waited three months, and all of that day, for a son she never again expected to see.

1st Cav. Sets Record

AN KHE, (1st CAV-IO) — The largest rocket "prep" of a landing zone in aerial rocket artillery history took place in Pleiku Province where the 1st Cavalry Division was conducting Operation Paul Revere II.

Landing Zone Cat was beyond the range of the Cavalry's conventional artillery and the job of preparing it for a helicopter assault was handed to the Cavalry's aerial rocket artillery (ARA) battalion, the 2nd Brigade, 20th Artillery.

Battery B was tapped for the job and six armed UH-1B helicopters, each carrying 48 rockets, made their way to the target.

As the ships neared the zone, the battery formed into three sections, two ships to each section. Two sections sprayed each side of the long axis of the zone

while the third section handled the ends. Rockets saturated the perimeter of the zone.

A total of 326 rockets were fired, setting a record for ARA landing zone preps.

Thirty seconds after the ARA fires were lifted, troop helicopters landed to discharge the Cavalry infantry.

The zone became one of the major staging areas for later Cavalry actions and was termed a major factor in the overall success of "Paul Revere II."

VC Mauled At River

DI AN, (1st INF-IO) — "We really caught them by surprise!" exclaimed Sgt. Dan Synovec, platoon leader of the 1st Infantry Division's 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry, about a seven-man patrol he led into a VC infested river area.

Sergeant Synovec was scanning a swampy river region 25 miles northwest of Saigon, when he spotted a beam of light from the opposite bank.

"After we saw those lights, we heard voices from both sides of the river," said Synovec. "I told the men not to fire until we knew about how many there were." They were just a few feet away from us.

The men silently watched for 35 minutes as the VC shuttled men and supplies across the river. The patrol planned each step carefully before attacking the ferry boats. Then, like cats, the Rangers hit.

"I aimed at the flashlight and fired a rifle grenade," said Sp4 Nickey D. Bacon. "After that, everybody opened up on them," Bacon added. "We knew they outnumbered us, so we started to pull back and call in the heavy stuff."

As the small, effective patrol inched its way back to the 2nd/16th's base, the artillery and mortar rounds rained down on the baffled Viet Cong.

Minutes later Synovec and his men reached friendly lines leaving behind two destroyed ferry boats and an unknown number of VC casualties.

No Leisure When 'Honcho' Takes Charge

DI AN, (1st INF-IO) — To her fellow Vietnamese workers, she's "Honcho." The men of the 2nd Battalion, 18th Infantry, 1st Infantry Division, call her "Mamasan."

Mrs. Tran Thi Thanh, group leader of the workers hired to work in the 2nd Battalion, 18th Infantry area at Camp Martin Cox answers to both names. Her conical hat and sunglasses are familiar sights throughout the Vanguard camp as she directs the workers and keeps them busy.

Sergeant Owen F. Johnson is grateful for Mrs. Thanh's work. "She's a strict 'Honcho.' The people accomplish a lot more when she's in charge."

"She just waves me aside," explained PFC Gary L. Parham, who oversees the work. Private First Class Bernard J. Landers agreed. "We explain to her what's to be done, but the actual assigning of the workers to specific tasks is her job."

"The hiring of Vietnamese nationals to work at Camp Martin Cox is part of the 1st Infantry Division's civil affairs program, designed to aid the stabilization of the local economy," explained MSgt. William R. Lowe Jr., the Intelligence NCO.

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SERVICE—A CH-54 Flying Crane of the Division carries a CV-2 Caribou which re-d in Tuy Hoa Province.

(Photo by 1st CAV-10)

52nd Avn. Bn. Making History; Calls Itself 'Montagnard AF'

PLEIKU, (1 FFV-10)—Although the unit is carried on the Army's rolls as the 52nd Aviation Battalion, the men call themselves "The Montagnard Air Force."

If this is history-making, the name suits the battalion: for its men are making aviation history like the old-time Army Air Corps pilots who used to carry the mail back in the 1920's.

Almost everyone around the battalion knows that the unit arrived in Vietnam in March 1963, but that's ancient history. Right now the only history anyone around here is concerned with is tomorrow's history—being made today in Operation Paul Revere, for example.

The big job of the unit, commanded by Lt. Col. Foy Rice, is supporting the 3rd Brigade of the 25th Infantry Division in its sweeps throughout the Central Highlands of Vietnam.

With three assault helicopter companies—the ubiquitous Hueys—an assault helicopter support company of Chinooks, and part of a Bird Dog light plane aerial reconnaissance company, the "Montagnard Air Force" has been making life miserable for the Viet Cong since Paul Revere started.

All told, Colonel Rice has just under 100 choppers and planes in his command, and at any given time he probably has 70 of them in the air. The only time the pilots and crews can be sure of resting is when the rain is three feet deep and the shotgun riders can't see the muzzles of their machine guns. During Paul Revere there's been little rest for anyone in the battalion.

Between May 10 and September 1 pilots and crews of the gunships, troop carriers, cargo choppers, and recon planes flew over 21,000 hours in over 64,000 sorties.

During that time they carried over 78,000 passengers—fully-equipped infantry soldiers, for the most part—and just under 5000 tons of cargo—artillery, ammunition, rations, water, gas, and other supplies and equipment.

As part of their work they also evacuated 291 wounded soldiers and killed 129 enemy.

Flying the helicopters calls for far more, however, than loading troops and cargo and depositing the load. It also calls for shooting, and the choppers of the 52nd are equipped for assault work. Gunships are armed with combinations of rockets, machine guns, and grenade launchers; and even the sticks, the troop-carrying Hueys, mount a pair of M-60 machine guns.

During Paul Revere the pilots and gunners of the "Montagnard

Air Force" fired over 9000 2.75-inch rockets, over one million rounds of machine gun ammunition, and about 13,000 40mm grenades.

When the big Chinooks carry the artillery, they carry it ready to fire and fight. A 105mm howitzer crew sits in the helicopter, the weapon is slung below, and the ammunition is carried below the howitzer. When the pilot drops the howitzer, he insures that the tube is already pointed in the general direction of the enemy.

Pilots even take prisoners. Near Ban Me Thuot a chopper crew of the 155th Assault Company spotted an enemy soldier on the ground waving a white cloth. The chopper quickly landed and snatched up a VC sergeant, lost, sick, and fed up with the war. As a result CWO Robert M. Lorett and CWO Harold C. Pauley are each credited with one half a POW.

Every pilot in the battalion flies including the staff members, who fly combat missions daily. Recently the 52nd Artillery Group, a heavy artillery outfit, radioed that its gunners at Due Co and Plei Me, both scenes of hot fighting, were out of food and water.

Flying six hours per chopper in weather so bad they had to circumnavigate rainstorms as well as Viet Cong, four "Montagnard Air Force" staff officers flew in 9000 pounds of water and C-rations to the hungry and thirsty cannonceers.

Higher headquarters has recognized the work of the men of the 52nd. So far during Paul Revere 2163 Distinguished Flying Crosses, Air Medals and Army Commendation Medals have been awarded officers and enlisted men of the

battalion.

But probably the most unusual assignment of Paul Revere was that handed Capt. Richard L. Smith, now assistant operations officer of the battalion.

"I was flying a Huey with the 170th Assault Company, and we were supporting a battalion of the Republic of Korea Tiger Division. In one day I made 69 sorties carrying 39,000 pounds of cargo and about 700 gallons of water in 55-gallon drums, in addition to 160 soldiers.

"But what really made those Koreans happy was the delivery of rations. In addition to rice, I carried 55-gallon drums of kimchee for them. The job took eight hours and 35 minutes during which time the engines were never turned off."

25th Infantry To Distribute 450 RC Gifts

CU CHI, (25th INF-10)—Some 450 American Red Cross gift kits for children are now ready for distribution in areas surrounding the 25th Infantry Division's base camp here.

Girls' kits include a hair grooming set, bracelet and plastic doll while the boys will receive such items as soap, pad and pencils, and a rubber ball. All kits are enclosed in a colorful cloth bag.

Inside each kit is a card which reads, "The children of the United States wish to the children of Vietnam a new spring full of luck and happiness."

A Soldier Speaks

Sergeant Major Corbin Ramsey



Week's article we spoke of the importance of word down so that each soldier is informed, and this week's article would deal with enlisted pro-

promotions policies are spelled out in AR 160-207; in addition, USARV has received many exceptions to policy motions as applied to US Army Vietnam; will deal with these exceptions to policy as DA message 774677.

E-2 may be promoted to E-3 upon their arrival. Headquarters USARV has authority to allocate major units reporting direct to this headquarters to promote to pay grade E-4, E-5, and E-6 relative vacancies in each major unit. DA will locate quotas to pay grade E-7, E-8, and E-9 and wide requirements.

One that arises frequently is, "Can a man be promoted during a normal 12 month tour?" The answer is yes. DA Message 774677 spells out the procedure for promotion within the 12 month period for truly personnel.

Percent of the authorized E-5 strength may be promoted to E-4, and up to one-half of one percent of authorized E-6 strength may be promoted from E-5 to E-6 within a 12

1st Division Mailman

DI AN, (1st INF-10)—The most harried but welcome messenger in the Big Red One's Support Command is a jovial fellow named Sgt. Larry Peterson.



Viet Cong

tracks bit into the bunker wall, pulling the armored vehicle up and over the top, crushing the enemy emplacement.

No longer pinned down, the men of Company C stormed the position, wiping out all resistance and chasing the fleeing VC survivors into the jungle.

ranging from small ambush patrols to company sized and larger search and destroy missions. The confidence of backup support lies in the elements of the 1st Battalion, 7th Artillery, and the close cooperation with the U.S. Naval and Marine authorities that normally operate in the Zone and the Vietnamese Regional Forces.

Cavalry Division for the association's outstanding aviation unit award for the period of April 1, 1965, through March 31, 1966.

The presentation will be made at the association's annual awards luncheon Oct. 14 in Washington.

Vietnam Communique

101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION,

1ST BRIGADE — Operation Seward continues in Phu Yen Province. One company killed six VC in a fire-fight with a 15 to 20 man enemy force. Friendly casualties were light. Another element located 30 enemy dug in on a ridge line. Eight enemy were killed. The paratroopers have killed 103 VC since the operation began Sept. 5. Fifty have been captured, 472 enemy suspects detained, and 44 individual weapons sized. U.S. strike pilots have flown 157 air sorties in support of the operation. Friendly casualties remain light.

1ST CAVALRY DIVISION — In Operation Byrd, a reconnaissance element engaged 15 VC in one fire-fight, killing four, detaining 10, and capturing one weapon. Friendly casualties were light. Operation Thayer, conducted with ARVN troops, have killed 142 enemy. The ARVN force has accounted for 132 of that number. Strike pilots have flown 333 sorties in support of "Thayer." Friendly casualties remain light.

25TH INFANTRY DIVISION — The 196th Light Infantry Brigade, attached to the division, began Operation Attleboro Sept. 14. Enemy casualties are five dead. One VC has been detained and four individual weapons seized. Friendly casualties are light as contact continues 65 miles northwest of Saigon. An element of the division has seized enough rice to feed a VC regiment for seven months. The latest estimate of the cache is 293 tons. It was found in an area where a battalion had been operating in Tay Ninh Province. The 2nd Brigade killed five VC in one action in Hau Nghia Province.

1ST INFANTRY DIVISION — Operation Huntsville, a 3rd Brigade search and destroy opera-

tion in Binh Duong and Bien Hoa Provinces, has ended. Friendly casualties were light. Eight VC were killed, seven captured, 53 suspects detained, and six individual weapons seized. Strike pilots flew 27 sorties in support. Operation Danbury, another search and destroy operation, has also ended. Seven VC were killed and 10 suspects detained

for questioning. The infantrymen seized 50 tons of rice, 1500 pounds of salt, and 50 bags of cement, all of which was turned over to authorities of the Binh Duong Province where the operation was being conducted. Friendly casualties in "Danbury" were light.

173RD AIRBORNE BRIGADE

— No major actions reported.



Oct 18, 1966