

have built homes for refugees, conducted community cleanup campaigns and provided candy and food for numerous orphanages they visited.

One of the biggest problems scouting has is its low priority. Scouting comes under the control of the Ministry of Education in Saigon. This ministry has many other problems and priorities, so scouting is low on the list.

Another problem local scout leaders have is the

Bn., 5th Cav.

McGough proposed the possibility of such a course when his battalion moved here to assume base defense.

The course was set up using 12 targets. Three shots are fired at each target with each hit counting for one point. The scoring system was conceived by Lt. Col. Ronald Rassmussen, battalion commander.

## Former foes lauded

# Kit Carson program doubles

**CAMP EAGLE** — Participation in the Kit Carson Scout program of the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) has increased more than 200 per cent in the past four months according to Capt. C. Richard Buchwald, Kit Carson liaison officer.

He also noted that the division is presently working on a plan to increase the number of scouts involved in the program from

231 to 328 or two for each maneuver platoon. The additional allocations for scouts will be filled from units being redeployed from Vietnam under President Nixon's Phase II plan.

"These scouts do save lives," Buchwald said, "and it is only natural that we increase the program. He added that field reports coming into headquarters indicate an increased tactical

value of the scouts."

Published reports throughout Vietnam have lauded the scouts for their proficiency in the field but the scouts also serve a function in the pacification efforts of the Screaming Eagles.

"The scouts know many of the villagers," he says "and people in the villages can identify with the scouts, resulting in a better line of communication."

The use of the scouts is dependent upon the unit officer in charge. "The commanders have complete flexibility in the use of the scouts," Buchwald said.

This flexibility includes promotions of the scouts. The program at present has distinct levels a scout can attain.

The first is platoon scout. He is directly out of political training school at the national Chieu Hoi centers and Screaming Eagle Replacement Training School. From there, the scout may advance to the level of company scout and then to battalion scout.

## Tree-top missions air Psyops words

**XUAN LOC**—Flying at tree-top level, with the sun glistening on small ponds and rivers that snake through the jungle, gives the world an appearance of peace.

Aboard "Fireball" chopper 459 this day, however, the work of war is a constant task. For this flight carries equipment that might someday mean the lives of many men in the field.

This flight, in addition to its usual armament of a minigun and M60 machine gun, carries a 1,000-watt speaker from which blare forth the "sounds of Psyops."

Capt. Thomas Windberg, a member of the 199th Light Infantry Brigade's civil affairs office, commands the console. At the flick of a switch he sends a tape recorded message through the speaker and out over the landscape.

From the sky the voice of a former colleague urges the enemy, in his own language, to give himself up, rally to the cause and seek a new life. His only other choice, the message says, is to face annihilation in a country that wants no more war.

At the same time Maj. Julius Horvath, civil affairs officer, releases hundreds of leaflets guaranteeing the enemy safe passage through allied lines should he "Chieu Hoi."

The results of this particular flight were almost immediate.

In the early afternoon of the same day, three NVA soldiers threw down their weapons and rallied. It might be said that they got the word from a "little bird."

It requires long hours of work, long hours of waiting, long hours of patience, but the rewards are there.

Every Hoi Canh who rallies to the Government of Vietnam is one less enemy an American or Allied soldier must face. To men such as Windberg, Horvath and the crews of choppers such as 459, each can be considered a personal victory.

December 8, 1969



**MAKING A WISH** as he blows out the candles on his birthday cake, Spec. 4 Larry Erickson, Co. D., 2nd Bn., 18th Inf., 1st Infantry Division, celebrates his 22nd birthday in the jungle 30 miles north of Saigon. Erickson's friends fashioned the cake from a C-ration pound cake and waterproof matches.

## Chief's pleas heard

**BONG SON** — A hamlet chief's letters to the Viet Cong, since early September, have persuaded 35 former residents to leave the VC and return to their hamlet in Binh Dinh Province.

Speaking through an interpreter, Dinh Suong, the Khanh Trach hamlet chief, explained: "The enemy forced many of the men from our hamlet to fight for the VC."

For a long time we didn't hear from them. We feared that the VC had killed our men."

One day a young wife confided to the chief that her husband had been visiting her at night and then returning to the hills before daylight.

Like many others, the hus-

band was afraid his escape would bring reprisals from the VC against his family.

Suong soon learned that other families had similar experiences to relate. The chief began writing letters to the Khanh Trach men, explaining that they could safely return to their families because government troops and 173rd Airborne Brigade paratroopers were securing the hamlet against the VC.

So far, the families—have passed on more than 80 of the chief's letters, and 35 men have answered the appeal to come home.

Now, the chief also directs his letters at others who have never lived in the hamlet.

## Copters rain rice on refugees

**FB BUTTONS** — When you have a swelling refugee population isolated by terrain and the enemy, the flexibility of airmobility comes to the fore.

In northern Phuoc Long Province an average of 25 tons of rice a week is airlifted by 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) helicopters to district capitals of Bo Duc and Duc Phong, near the Cambodian border. Four tons of tool kits, containing mostly farm tools, have also been delivered in the past month.

The goal of the program is to make refugees from Viet Cong-controlled areas self-sufficient. Before an individual can be removed from the refugee rolls, he is provided with a six-month supply

of rice as well as building materials and tools.

In Phuoc Long Province, the largest province in the III Corps area, there are few roads connecting the far-flung villages. Although the province chief and his refugee advisor could provide the rice, he had no means of transporting it to the districts for distribution. That's where 1st Cav. airmobility takes over.

"All we really had to do was go through our channels to get the aircraft," said Capt. Tim Desiderie, assistant logistics officer for the "Black-horse" brigade. "The Vietnamese brought most of the rice by convoy from Saigon, guarded it on the airstrip at FB Buttons, and broke it down into packages for distribution."

THE ARMY REPORTER

Page 7



**CAUTIOUSLY MOVING** in to pick up a 155mm howitzer, a Chinook raises plenty of dust around Spec. 4 George Orville, 23rd Artillery Group, as he prepares to attach the hitching straps to the belly of the chopper. The maneuver was part of a seven-day program to test the new combat howitzer.

## Enemy drive smashed

# Battle rages on Highway 19

**CAMP RADCLIFF** — Twenty enemy soldiers, sent reeling for cover by the firepower of 4th Infantry Division's infantry, armor, and artillery units, were killed one mile east of An Khe by helicopter gunships of the 238th Aviation Co.

A combined NVA and VC force initiated the contact on Highway 19 between An Khe and Qui Nhon when they were met by infantrymen of the 1st Bde.'s 1st Bn., 8th Inf.

Automatic weapons and small arms fire slowed the enemy advance until a tank and two Armored

As the enemy advance dissolved into a frantic search for cover, UH1B helicopters moved into the area.

The helicopter fire teams, commanded by Captains Charles Avery and Larry Smith, raked the enemy for 40 minutes.

The hill's base was utilized by six enemy soldiers as a source of cover. "They weren't too well concealed," Smith said. "We hit them all."

The helicopters veered off after expending their ordnance while the artillery battery continued to barrage until the remnants of the enemy

LIBRARY  
ARMY WAR COLLEGE  
PERIODICALS  
DEC 9 1969

## The Army Reporter

The largest Army newspaper in the world

COPY

Vol. 5, No. 49
U.S. Army, Vietnam
December 8, 1969

## 32 VC die as thrust fails

**TAY NINH** — "Man, it was just like a turkey shoot!"

That was how scout helicopter pilot WO William McIntosh described his part in the aerial reconnaissance activities following an attack on FB Ike.

Three "Pink Teams," including one made up of McIntosh and Cobra gunship pilot Lt. Steve Justus, harassed the remainder of the VC battalion on withdrawal routes to the north. After 12 hours of reconnaissance by units of the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), 32 enemy lay dead along the routes outside Ike.

"We caught the first group in a trenchline about 300 yards north of Ike," said Justus. "Then we just followed the trails up to the north and kept picking them off."

The helicopters of A Troop, 1st Squadron of the 9th Cav., accounted for 20 of the kills, while four were killed by artillery, six

by 1st Bde. Forward Air Controllers (FACs) and air strikes, and two by the rifle platoon of A Troop.

"As they got farther from the fire base, they started grouping together and heading for several small bunker complexes. Only

one group fired at us; the rest appeared to be taken completely by surprise," said McIntosh.

Justus expended all his ammo six times during the day. Other teams in the area did likewise as enemy were spotted along trails and in or near bunkers.

## Boats waylay NVA, rupture river supply

**FB KIEN**—The Saigon River is a vital means of resupply for the NVA. The waterway serves as a means of moving rice, weapons, ammunition, medical supplies and personnel. But for enemy supplies to reach their final destination, the river must be crossed, and one major obstacle to that is the 2nd Bn., 28th Inf.

Two types of boats are used to stop the enemy's resupply operations. Engineers from the 1st Infantry Division man the skiboats—lightweight ski barges powered by twin 40-horsepower engines. The larger Navy river patrol boats (PBRs) support the skiboats with massive firepower.

Mounted on the bow of every PBR are twin .50-caliber machine guns. The stern has dual M60 machine guns and automatic M79 grenade launchers.

"The PBRs provide security for the skiboats quite well," declared Pfc. Curt L. Lamparter. "'Charlie' might get the first shot, but those 50s will bring the 'max' on him."

Working closely with the skiboats and PBRs are the infantrymen stationed along the shore. It's the foot soldier who wades through the muddy rice paddies bordering the Saigon River and checks out grass trails that may lead to enemy positions.

As darkness nears, the infantrymen prepare their night ambush positions. PBRs and skiboats are set beside the river bank with the infantry aboard.

"One thing you have to watch for is 'Charlie' sneaking up on a boat and tossing a satchel charge aboard," noted Spec. 4 Davis G. Trass.

The enemy is commonly spotted in the "green eye" of the starlight scope while attempting to cross the river with food or weapons. Once the nighttime swimmer is sighted in the muddy water, a burst of heavy machine gun fire ends the enemy resupply



WITH THE SUN setting, two soldiers silhouetted by the sky keep a conversation going to pass the time. The men perched atop a bunker were looking over the perimeter of the 1st Infantry Division base camp at Lai Khe on a warm evening.

## Cobras rip enemy assault

**FB KATE** — In one day of action, the Ruthless Riders from B Troop, 7th Squadron, 17th Cav., working in support of ARVN elements, killed 10 (NVA) soldiers six miles south of Bu Prang.

Learning that nearby FB Kate was under heavy mortar attack by a large-sized enemy element surrounding the location, the Cavalrymen headed toward the action.

Upon arrival, Light Observation Helicopter (LOH) pilots, Larry Rabren and WO heavy automatic fire from ground entrenched enemy troops. Despite the hindrance, they continued to fly their reconnaissance mission.

At this time Cobra gunships piloted by Capt. George Schelcher, and WO Raymond Christ rolled in expending fire over the area while a request was made for U.S. Air Force support.

By this time, the LOH pilots were released due to the intensive enemy fire. "Every time we would start reconning the enemy location, we would receive fire. By then our troop commander moved us out of the

area, and the Cobras just rolled in creating extensive damage. Every time they went in, they received ground fire," said CWO Gregory Fuller.

"From the air we could see that there were NVA soldiers all over a hill just outside the fire base. At the same time, friendly forces had left the fire base perimeter to check out the area," explained Rabren.

"It was easy to see that these men were in a tight position because the enemy was quickly closing on them. They also had to avoid the persistent enemy mortars which were pounding the entire area," he noted.

Gunships rolled in on the enemy, forcing them to change their point of concentration from the ground troops to the aircraft overhead. Rabren reentered the region killing one enemy soldier with a grenade.

Later in the afternoon, Schelcher from his Cobra gunship spotted an enemy position being utilized as a B40 rocket launching site. Minutes later, Schelcher pinpointed the enemy location with burst of minigun fire and rockets, killing three NVA

regulars destroying the rocket launcher.

After a full day of action, 10 enemy bodies were found among the rubble left behind by the Ruthless Riders.

## Assists ARVN mission

# Air fire quells NVA mortar

**MAI LOC**—Aerial rocket artillery from the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) killed eight NVA regulars approximately 300 yards south of the DMZ recently in support of US-ARVN operations. Their mortar position was destroyed and several small arms were captured.

Cobra helicopters from the 4th Bn., 77th Arty., were called on the fire mission by elements of the 1st Bde., 5th Mech. Inf., who were assisting a troop of the 2nd ARVN Regiment.

The ARVNs were in search of an enemy mortar position that had been harassing their night position, and came upon the enemy in an open area of rolling hills and rice paddies.

They surrounded the enemy position with armored personnel carriers and awaited the rockets.

**CAMP EAGLE**—Artillery barks out, and somewhere in the never-never land of firefights, shrapnel and mourning, the whimper of the exploding projectile echoes back.

It is more than a whimper to the enemy. It is often a devastating force, or, in terms of the small-arms firepower of the Wild West, the Persuader.

The artillery of the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) has all sorts of "Persuaders," from high explosive rounds to illumination. But a new addition to its arsenal may be the best persuader yet.

It is called the Propaganda Round. Loaded with more than 750 leaflets, the projectile is fused so it will create an air burst and send the leaflets floating to the ground.

"This is the first time the division has used these rounds," said Capt. Peter T. Fallini, Division Arty. S5 officer. "We hope to start using them extensively."

The round was first used in a recent artillery raid in the A Chau Valley. Guns from two firing batteries fired high explosive shells and then the propaganda rounds.

"There are two things Charlie fears most," said Maj. Gen. H. Tosh, division Psyops officer. "They're artillery and B52 raids."

After being given a demonstration of Screaming Eagle's explosive artillery, the remaining enemy soldiers got more than 7,000 leaflets delivered by artillery.

The leaflets have a picture of a B-52 dropping bombs on one side and tell the enemy on the other that the next bomb may have his name on it. So, the pamphlet says, you had better Chieu Hoi now.

"We have about 800 of these rounds," said Fallini. "They were especially difficult to get. The ones we did get were made in 1943."

Despite the fact that they are 26 years old, they work. "The rounds explode about 100 yards above the ground and cover an area 49 by 69 yards with leaflets," explained Tosh.

The leaflets are rolled and then dropped into the round. The fuse is timed for the air burst effect. When it explodes, a base plate is blown off and the leaflets are pushed out.

The explosion burns away the leaflet wrappers so they fall freely.

"The enemy was concentrated in a hedgerow of tall brush above a small NVA bunker," said Maj. Craig H. Leyda who was flying as section chief on the mission.

"I went in and blew the brush away with a few rockets," said Leyda. "Then Capt. James T. Barnett spotted two NVA soldiers in a bomb crater and killed them with one rocket."

Making consecutive runs on the position, the two-Cobra section used two-dozen rockets to destroy the enemy and their bunker.

Troops on the ground who searched the area after the strike found eight enemy bodies, the 60mm mortar tube that had been firing upon them, six AK47 weapons, one SKS carbine and one rocket-propelled grenade.

# 'Famous Fighting Fourth' recalls 52-year heritage