



POLICEMEN EVERYWHERE—At a highway checkpoint near Cam Ranh Bay, an air policeman, Vietnamese national policeman, and Korean military policeman work with PFC Daniel J. Contreras of the 218th MP Company, 97th MP Battalion as they check Free World Forces supply traffic. (Photo by 18th MP-IO)

Flying Escort, 162nd Assault Chopper Makes 3 Med-Evacs

PHU LOI, (1st AVN-IO) — A helicopter from the 162nd Assault Helicopter Company recently made a triple med-evac during a mission five miles west of Lai Khe.

A "Vulture" ship, piloted by WO David L. Farenkamp and Richard P. Freeslang, was flying escort for the 1st Infantry Division during road-clearing operations, when a call for a med-evac crackled across the radio.

The chopper crew went to the scene of a mine-damaged tank. As they touched down, a second explosion ripped the air as another armored personnel carrier ran over a mine 200 yards away.

Quickly recovering all the wounded from both damaged vehicles, the crew administered first aid as they raced to the hospital at Lai Khe. As they delivered the wounded, the radio

once again carried call for an emergency med-evac.

Returning to the same area, they found one man dead and another critically wounded in a mine-torn truck. Once more, the

Vulture raced to the hospital.

An infantry officer commented, "Those choppers are life-savers. Several men would have died in this mess if it wasn't for that ship and crew."

1st Log Has Major Port At Cam Ranh Bay

CAM RANH BAY, (1st LOG-IO)—The Cam Ranh Bay Support Command, once just miles of sand dunes, has been transformed into one of the 1st Logistical Command's major ports. Since its establishment in April 1966, the command has grown to meet the increasing supply demands necessary to the increasing number of men and units in Vietnam.

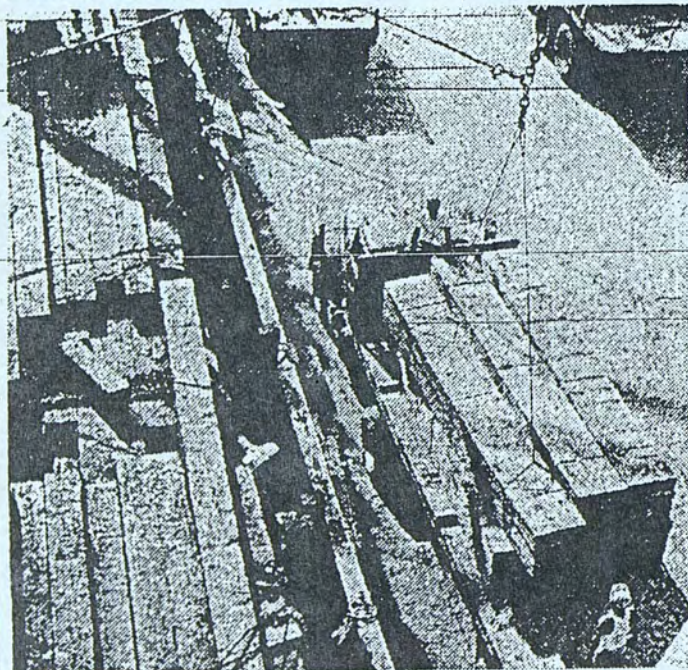
A year ago the port consisted

of two piers capable of unloading four ships at one time. Today there are five piers capable of handling 10 ships at once.

In April 1966, 73,000 tons of cargo passed through the port. Now the port handles 173,000 tons per month.

Obtaining supplies is only half the logistical job. The goods must be transported to where they are needed. In the spring of 1966, convoys from the port were rare. But the arrival of several transportation companies has made daily convoys to sub-area commands possible. Convoys travel to Nha Trang, Phan Rang, Tuy Hoa and even to subordinate elements at locations such as Ban Me and Dalat.

Although Cam Ranh Bay's growth has been great since its conception, the future promises continued expansion. The Republic of Vietnam and its allies anticipate the evolution of Cam Ranh Bay into one of the most prosperous and vital ports in Southeast Asia.



WAR SUPPLIES—A typical sight at the Cam Ranh Bay port is the constant flow of supplies being unloaded from ships at any one of the bay's five piers. The bay, part of the 1st Logistical Command, is operated by the Cam Ranh Bay Support Command. (Photo by 69th SIG BN)

cently mechanized unit of the division's 2nd Brigade, found it was having problems with the communications end of the creed.

"The APCs were new to most of our men," said Sgt. John F. Lawler, "and the radio setup was most unfamiliar."

The infantryman, who does most of his traveling on his feet, has a very simple radio, according to Lawler. The radio in the APC has several component parts and is an intercom in the track.

"The men were doing several things wrong, including improper connection of cables, improper intercom switch settings, and other problems," said the sergeant. These caused maintenance problems.

The solution Lawler came up with was a working radio spread out on a display board. Using the display board, he explained the radio to individuals or entire platoons. Discussed in detail were the functions of each part and how each part was connected to the power source, speaker, and other important points.

Since the end of April, when the program began, Lawler has taught more than 400 men of the Panther Battalion.

9th Inf Squad Hits VC Nest

RACH KIEN, (9th INF-IO)—A rifle squad from the 9th Infantry Division raked an enemy position in the area west of here known as the Rat's Nest recently killing one enemy and capturing an automatic weapon.

On a search-and-destroy mission, Company B, 3rd Battalion, 39th Infantry came under automatic weapons and rifle grenades fire from several directions. Pressing an assault, SSgt. George Christiansen maneuvered his 3rd Platoon squad up to one of the enemy bunkers.

Behind an L-shaped bunker, the squad found the body of an enemy soldier, a Browning Automatic Rifle (BAR), 50 rounds of .30 caliber ammunition, and two Chinese hand grenades.

196th Infantrymen Take Break To Swim In South China Sea

CHU LAI, (196th INF-IO) — Steamy jungles, flooded rice paddies, and the Viet Cong all seemed a million miles away as the Guardians of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade's 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry, went swimming for the first time in eight months.

The battalion had just arrived here at the sprawling Marine base on the northern coast of South Vietnam. As the temporary base camp for the battalion

was completed, the Guardians found they had some spare time.

After spending eight months in Tay Ninh, inland and more than 300 miles away to the south, the lure of the beach on the South China Sea was overpowering. Two-and-a-half ton trucks were pressed into service, shuttling the happy infantrymen the four miles to and from the beach.

June 3, 1967

Recon Teams Almost Land In Center Of NVA Campsite

LE THANH, (4th INF-10) — "It was the closest call we ever had," explained PFC Douglas M. Thompson, a long range reconnaissance team member for the 4th Infantry Division's 1st Brigade.

Thompson was talking about an evening when two teams were sent out to reconnoiter near a suspected enemy location but ended up being dropped almost in the center of a North Vietnamese Army (NVA) campsite.

Sergeant Ronald K. Hahn's team was the first to be inserted in the area. His team was to have served as a radio relay on high ground while the second team nosed around at a lower level. The second team was inserted 45 minutes later on the other side of the hill that Hahn's team landed on.

"We weren't there 25 minutes," said Hahn, "before we heard two shots about 215 yards in front of us." Then they heard dogs barking and voices headed in their direction. "It was obvious that the enemy spotted the helicopter when it dropped us off. We called for extraction," said Hahn.

Meanwhile, PFC John S. Myers was leading his team away from its landing zone on the other side of the hill. Myers, Sgt. Alvin R. Groves, PFC James W. Homeyer, and Thompson were headed down into a draw on their side of the hill when the other team began to hear the enemy.

Then Thompson began to hear voices around his own team.

"They were 135 yards away in one direction and 75 yards away in the other direction, forming a horseshoe as they closed in on us," he recalled. The second team called for extraction.

"That 20 minutes seemed like forever," said Hahn as he remembered the time between his call for extraction and arrival of the ships.

Three helicopters, two gunships, and one slick, hovered above the first team's location. The gunships made a pass around the landing zone, filling the brush with rocket and machinegun fire. As the first gunship came around for a second pass, the slick hovered five feet from the ground and the men jumped onto the skids and pulled themselves into the cabin.

The second slick pilot wanted to come down while it was still light, before the gunships had

completed providing cover for the other extraction. But he was advised to wait for the gunships, which were almost ready to escort him down. They were there in a flash but the landing zone was not as large as the other one. The gunships had to sweep the area and then the slick would have to go down alone.

Myers held up a strobe light to guide the helicopter in. The chopper pilot could not turn on

a searchlight until he was almost in position to receive the second team. As the helicopters went in, its rotor hit the trees, shearing part of the blade.

The pilot continued bringing in his wobbling bird to an unsteady hovering position. The men jumped up and in.

The extraction was followed by heavy artillery fire and an air strike which killed at least 26 NVA soldiers.



ENEMY CACHE FOUND—The enemy uses his knowledge of the countryside to his advantage when it comes to hiding equipment. Here a member of the Vietnamese 25th Infantry Division uncovers a cache of enemy clothing hidden in a haystack near Rach Kien. The unit was on a joint search and destroy mission during Operation Enterprise with the 3rd Brigade, 9th Infantry Division.

(Photo by PFC Freddie Duncan, 69th SIG-BN)

New York Group Taking Big Part In 25th Inf's Pacification Mission

CU-CHI, (25th INF-10)—A Farmingdale, N.Y., group is partly responsible for the increasing success of the pacification mission presently being undertaken by an element of the 25th Infantry Division.

Last year, the 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry Manchu was adopted by the group, which calls itself the "Vietnam Assistance Committee" (VAC).

The VAC is presently working in partnership with the battalion

in an attempt to win the confidence of the rural Vietnamese villagers living along the supply route between Trang Bang and the Boi Loi Woods, 40 miles northwest of Saigon. They have donated food, clothing, and medical supplies.

Still in the early stages of the mission, the battalion has already seen signs of success. Recently a village chief came to the Manchu field camp early in the morning and reported that terrorists the night before had raided the village, stealing food and collecting taxes.

The fact that the chief was sufficiently confident in the ability of the Americans to assist him and that he risked his life by reporting the terrorist activities showed that the battalion has partially accomplished its goal.

The main road running through the pacification project area had been closed for two years because of VC terrorism. The Americans have replaced two bridges which had been destroyed by the enemy and have cleared away mines, making it possible for the villagers to communicate more easily with the

Chinook Answers FAC Pilot's Call

VUNG TAU, (1st AVN-10) — During a recent support mission, a CH-47 Chinook of the 147th Assault Support Helicopter Company received a radio call from an Air Force Forward Air Control (FAC) pilot for help in evacuating four Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) soldiers.

The Hillclimbers' chopper was sling hauling a load of equipment to a construction site north of Saigon when the FAC pilot reported that the wounded men

were in a jungle area about five miles northwest of the construction area.

The Chinook, piloted by Capt. Lloyd D. Mason and WO Marvin Johnson, proceeded to the construction site, released their load, then went to a nearby area to refuel and to hastily rig a rescue hoist for the new mission.

Upon reaching the rescue scene, the exact spot for pickup was pointed out by the FAC. An area approximately 50 feet square had been cut out in the jungle growth for the pickup. Dense trees 75 feet high encircled the area, making a landing impossible. The Chinook hovered over the tiny spot in the jungle just below the tops of the trees and lowered the rescue hoist to bring up the wounded men.

Five times the hoist descended and each time it came back to the ship with one of the four wounded men with the extra trip containing the men's equipment.

The entire rescue operation, from time of takeoff until completion, required 45 minutes, 20 of which were spent in a tightly controlled hover over the rescue zone.

Big Tunnel System Located

DAU TIENG, (4th INF-10) — An extensive tunnel system consisting of three levels and covering a 200-yard square area in War Zone C south of here was uncovered recently by the 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division on Operation Manhattan.

The main tunnel, part of a VC base camp complex, was guarded by a claymore mine at one end and had eight concealed entrances. It extended 30 feet into the ground.

"It's a good thing I've lost weight," commented 1st Lt. Rudy L. Whitehead, Company A platoon leader, after he had emerged from one of the small holes. "This is the biggest tunnel complex I've seen in the six months I've been here."

Several of the smaller tunnels had indications of being lived in less than 48 hours before the armored personnel carriers of the 2nd Battalion, 22nd Infantry rolled into the camp.

Heroics During Search Earn SS For Abn Lt

TAN SON NHUT, (USARV-10)—A platoon leader with the 173rd Airborne Brigade was recently awarded the Silver Star for his actions on a search and destroy mission near Xuan Loc.

First Lieutenant Rexford W. Stickler, leader of a reconnaissance platoon for the 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry, 173rd Airborne Brigade was conducting the search when his platoon discovered an enemy base camp, with an estimated platoon of Viet Cong.

The enemy, well armed with automatic weapons and mortars, was 110 yards away in well-fortified positions. Stickler, after a prompt estimate of the situation, gave the order to attack.

His men came under heavy fire in the beginning of the assault while the lieutenant moved the length of the assault line directing fire and shouting words of encouragement.

When the left flank of the platoon became pinned down from mortar and machinegun fire, he ran to the flank and directed the men to safer positions. Stickler then moved forward exposing himself to enemy and friendly fire to direct artillery and air strikes.

Stickler remained in front until the enemy was routed. Although seriously wounded himself, he called for a dust-off chopper and immediately began administering first aid to his wounded men.

Seven MPs Rescue Civilians Trapped Inside Wrecked Bus

LONG BINH, (18th MP-10)—Seven members of Company C, 720th Military Police Battalion recently aided Vietnamese victims trapped in a bus which had hit a Viet Cong road mine near Tay Ninh.

While escorting a resupply mission, the MPs were sent ahead to clear a civilian traffic jam blocking the road. Suddenly there was a loud explosion. A bus, which had tried to back out of the traffic jam, had struck the mine with its rear wheels.

As the MPs worked to free the civilians, a medical evacuation helicopter was called.

As Sp4 Alford H. Pilkins kept the area clear of curious bystanders, Sp4 Ramiro Guzman and PFC Leslie A. Morris helped the people out of the bus. Sergeant Bobbie E. Vaughn, Sp4 Richard J. Racca, PFC Donald Hering, and Sp4 Richard R. Hartman administered first aid to the injured victims until the med-evac helicopter arrived and carried them to medical facilities.

82nd Med Det Provides Med-Evacs For Delta Dust-Off Team Supports US, Allied Personnel

SOC TRANG, (1st LOG-IO)—One of the more important aspects of Army aviation in the Mekong Delta is the 82nd Medical Detachment, the helicopter ambulance service.

More commonly known as the dust-off team, it helps cover 15,000 square miles in the IV Corps area supporting U.S. and Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) troops.

Seven dust-off choppers make up the team, supporting three ARVN divisions, U.S. advisory groups, Special Forces camps, and four assault helicopter companies.

One chopper remains at Dong Tam for an alternating three-day period supporting the 2nd Brigade, 9th Infantry Division.

When a dust-off chopper is on a mission, it hovers in a battle area waiting for the call. It has two gunships providing suppressive fire.

Once the pickup is made, usually in less than a minute, the patients are evacuated to

the nearest hospital. When surgery is required for the ARVN soldier, he is taken to Can Tho or the ARVN Hospital in Saigon. A serious U.S. casualty is taken to the 2nd Medical Detachment at Soc Trang where a doctor can stabilize his condition—make him ready for evacuation—before he is taken to a hospital, such as the 2nd Evacuation Hospital at Long Binh.

The medical board of the dust-off team is made up of just about anything a doctor could do in a chopper. There are exceptions, such as a trauma team or a heart massager. In such cases, doctors go out with the chopper.

This is possible because the advisors on the ground part of the team brief the pilot on the various injuries before the pickup is made. This makes the pilot and pilot crew, of the urgency of the med-evac before they see the patient. Thus, the aircraft commander, normally a Medical Service Corps pilot, knows where and how fast he must get a patient to a hospital.

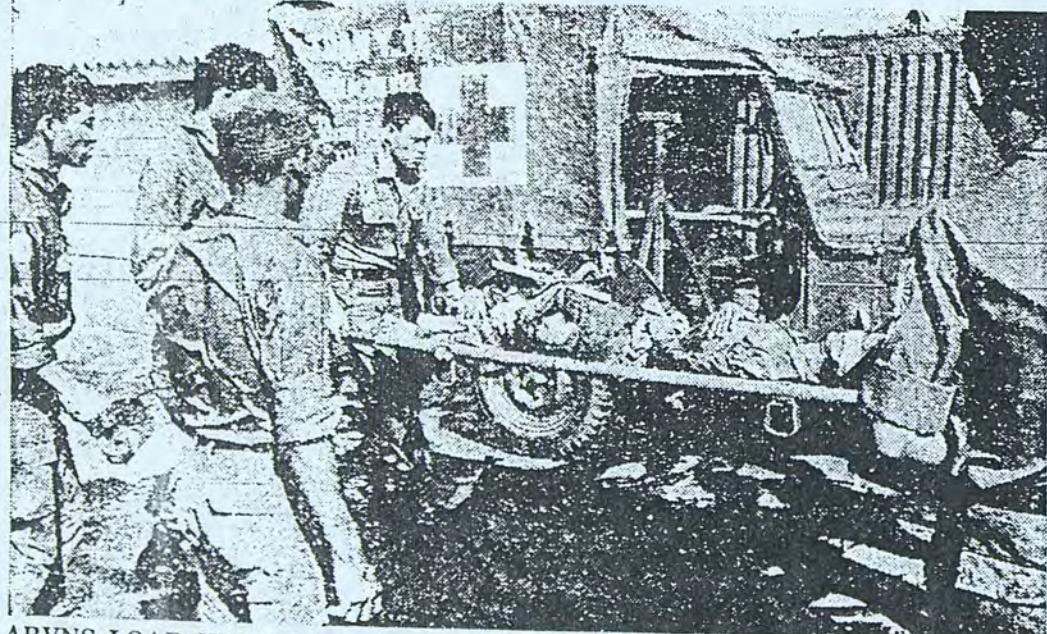
TEAMWORK SAVES LIVES—U.S. Army advisors and ARVN aidmen put a casualty aboard a waiting ambulance after the dust-off brought him in from an operation. (Photo by 1st LOG-IO)



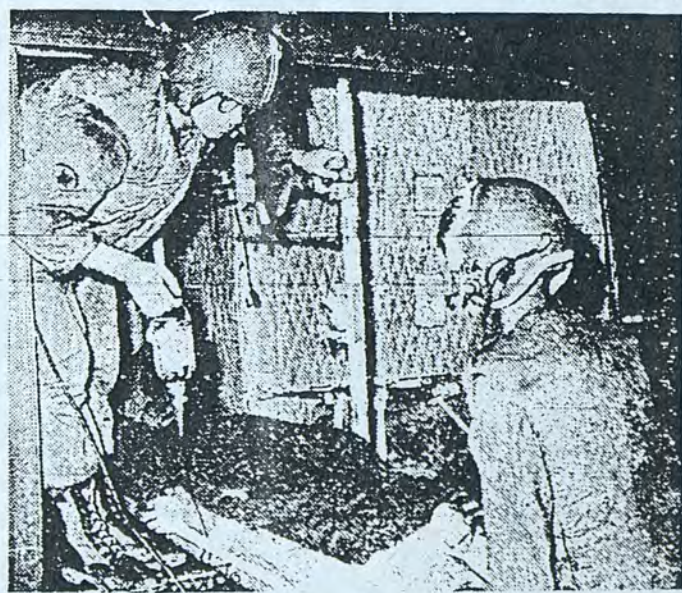
EVACUATION CHOPPER—Soldiers of the 1st Infantry Division carry a wounded buddy to a med-evac chopper. The man was wounded during a fight with an estimated Viet Cong company. (Photo by 1st INF-IO)



A WOUNDED INFANTRYMAN—Only moments away from the battlefield, is unloaded from a dust-off helicopter at the 3rd Surgical Hospital at Bien Hoa. The wounded man goes first to "Pre-Op" where he is prepared for surgery. Dust-off choppers make major surgical facilities a short haul away from the combat zone. (Photo by Sp4 Jack Germeau, 1st LOG-IO)



ARVNS LOAD WOUNDED—Army of the Republic of Vietnam aidmen rush a casualty to a waiting ambulance after a dust-off brought the patient from an ARVN operation near Soc Trang. (Photo by 1st LOG-IO)



DUST-OFF TRAINING—Specialist Five William G. Tucker and Sp4 Anthony A. Tunious, both members of the 82nd, simulate a night evacuation mission as part of their constant training program. (Photo by 1st LOG-IO)