

Dalat Supplies Army Produce

DALAT, (1st LOG-10)—This "fresh fruit and vegetable center" of Vietnam supplies virtually all of the produce and fruits eaten by U.S. personnel in-country.

The 1st Logistical Command, working with the 80,000 people who live in this mountain city 150 miles northeast of Saigon, is one of the main agencies responsible for supplementing the diet of American forces.

The farms of Dalat provide more than 400 tons of produce daily. Fifteen varieties of fresh fruits and vegetables are shipped by rail, truck, and air to 12 cities and towns in the Republic for use by civilian and military personnel.

This abundance in Dalat came about beginning in 1966 with the first visit of a revolutionary development team. One of the team's objectives was to accelerate economic progress by showing the people, with the aid of supplies, technical advice, and training, just how they could improve their farm methods.

The 1st Log's Army Procurement Agency, Vietnam is the unit responsible for acquiring the produce for mess halls.

Dalat's produce was finally chosen for use because of the ideal year-round growing season.

Because of its' rapid growth, the program here has also produced a varied diet for Vietnamese civilians as well as American fighting forces. In addition, the economic advantages of the program both to the local farmers and to the Vietnamese economy are substantial.

Increased in-country demand for fresh fruits and vegetables has provided Vietnamese farmers with incentives to increase their production. Ninety percent of the farm production in the country is consumed by the Vietnamese, while the Army purchases the remainder.

In a recent interview, Dalat's mayor, Madame Nguyen Thi Hau, commented on the procurement agency's activities. "The farmers here are very eager to modernize their farming methods and learn new marketing procedures.

The program has had a beneficial effect on Dalat's economy, and we hope it will continue to teach the people here how to better both their products and their lives."



ARMED ESCORT—A member of the 4th Battalion, 503rd Infantry carries a Vietnamese girl across a rice paddy as the 173rd Airborne Brigade conducted a search and destroy mission as part of Operation Bolling.

(Photo by Sp4 Paul V. Butler, 173rd ABN-10)

4th Inf In 'Battle Of The Bees'

Helicopter Gives Final Blow

OASIS, (4th INF-10) — It was a battle between an army of bees and an army of people, and for a few stinging moments, it looked as though the bees had the upper wing.

The people involved were eight 4th Infantry Division men from the 1st Brigade's A Troop, 1st-Squadron, 10th-Cavalry who

were riding atop an armored personnel carrier through a thick wooded area southwest of the brigade camp.

The bees belonged to a swarm, headquartered in a 12-foot high tree, which the personnel carrier almost ran into.

Specialist Four William Travis, driver-of-the-carrier, said he didn't see the several-foot-thick swarm until the carrier was almost atop the bee tree.

He tried to conciliate by bringing the carrier to a lunging stop a foot short of the tree and throwing it into reverse.

The bees, however, were too bellicose. One stung Travis in the back of the head. Another tried to sting SSgt. Charles W. Bynum, tank commander, on his moustache.

"But I was too quick for him," Bynum said. "I slapped him off as fast as he landed."

The carrier had cans of insect repellent inside, but as the sergeant put it, "We were too busy battening down the hatches."

While the carrier was securing its defenses, 1st Lt. Roy Attridge, platoon leader for Battery D, 4th Battalion, 60th Artillery, called for air support.

The lieutenant's crew was riding about 15 feet behind the carrier in a "Duster," equipped with twin, 40mm cannons.

A Huey crew dropped a green, smoke grenade into the swarm, and hovered low enough so that the wind from the helicopter's rotor blades swept it aside.

The carrier then made a rumbling getaway.

But the Battle of the Bees wasn't over yet. An hour and a half later, the carrier ran over another bee-laden tree.

This time, however, a 10th Cavalry helicopter came down quickly enough to sweep the bees aside before they had a chance to organize an attack.

Cripple Aided By MEDCAP

CHU LAI, (AMERICAL-10) — Can, a pretty 10-year-old Vietnamese girl, was never expected to walk until a MEDCAP from the 196th Light Infantry Brigade came to her village.

Born with her left foot inverted, little Can had a handicap which would have bothered her the rest of her life.

"When we first visited the village we became acquainted with Can's father, the village Red Cross representative who serves as their doctor," said SFC William B. Wisinewski, first sergeant of the 408th Radio Detachment which was providing security for the MEDCAP.

"The little girl was very shy and would not even come near any of the MEDCAP teams," Wisinewski said.

Last summer, with her family's consent, Can was taken to the 1st Marine Hospital where her foot was fractured, rotated, and corrected. Her foot was then placed in a cast for over two months.

Now, when the medics of the 196th visit the village, they are met by a smiling child who hobbles with her crutch to say hello to her friends. "Thank you so much for helping us," said Can's mother, almost in tears. "Our baby can walk now," added her father.

"With daily exercise, Can will be able to walk without her crutch," said Maj. Bruce S. MacDonald, brigade surgeon.

"The little girl will never be able to walk without a limp," stated MacDonald, "but without the operation, she would have never been able to walk at all."

Vietnam Communique

Operation MacArthur — Elements of the 4th Infantry Division's 1st Brigade, the 173rd Airborne Brigade, the 1st Brigade of the 1st Cavalry Division, and Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) troops continue to fight enemy forces around Dak To near the Cambodian and Laotian borders. During the first 20 days of November, 269 allies were killed, 836 wounded, and 41 listed as missing in action. Communist losses are listed as over 1000 killed and 13 detained with 173 individual and 66 crew-served weapons captured. Fierce fighting erupted on hills 882, 889, and 1338 when the allied units pushed the enemy out of their mortar and rocket-firing positions.

American Division—Over 2000 enemy have been killed in the division's Operation Walla-Wheeler and over 2400 suspects have been detained. American losses stand at 226 killed and 840 wounded. The Communists have also lost 321 individual and 58 crew-served weapons. Action in the operation has been light and scattered for the infantrymen in the southern I Corps Tactical Zone.

1st Cavalry Division—Operation Pershing, nearing 300 days of operations, has accounted for over 4100 enemy killed in Binh Dinh Province. An enemy rice cache was found by Company B, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry on the Bong Son Plain that could feed an NVA battalion for more than a month and the company is continuing to evacuate more rice.

25th Infantry Division—Members of the 3rd Brigade, engaged in Operation Diamond Head, have uncovered a total of 33,700 pounds of rice found in 10 separate storage points. All of the rice has been flown to Dau Tieng for distribution to Vietnamese villagers.

199th Light Infantry Brigade — A platoon from the brigade

was on patrol near Saigon when they were attacked by an unknown-sized enemy force. The enemy hit the infantrymen with claymores, M-79 grenades, and small arms fire. The Redcatchers countered and the fire fight ended in 10 minutes. Three enemy and one infantryman were killed.

Free World Forces — Troops from the 2nd and 7th Battalions, Royal Australian Regiment, and supporting units terminated their portion of Operation Santa Fe. The Aussies killed 38 enemy during scattered action in the operation and detained five suspects.



Commo Van Lifts Off In Attack

PLEIKU, (1st SIG-10) — "I didn't need a siren; as soon as that first round hit a few yards away, I knew we were under attack."

Specialist Four Richard J. Becker was at his switchboard, operated by the 43rd Signal Battalion's Company A, the night a 20-minute attack placed 46 rounds of 122mm rockets in their compound.

"The van lifted right off the ground," Becker said. "That's the closest they've come."

Becker closed the heavy door on the van that houses the three-position switchboard and then manned the board from a position on the floor. "That way I had maximum cover when there were no calls coming through."

During an attack, only high precedence messages are put through. "The board really lit up with calls for artillery support and calls to and from the hospitals," Becker said.