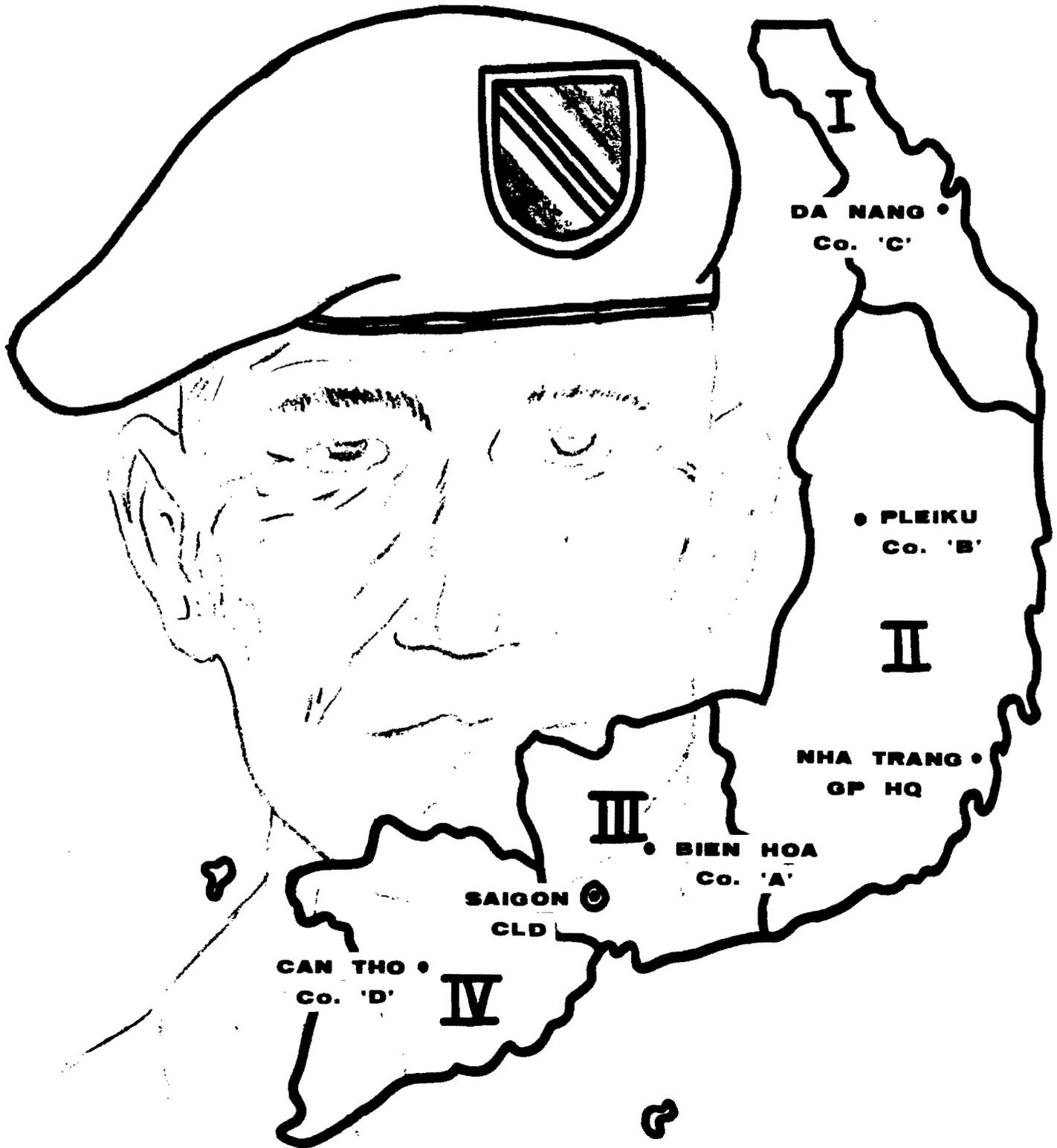


5TH SPECIAL FORCES GROUP (ABN)



WHAT IS THE 5TH SPECIAL FORCES GROUP (AIRBORNE) DOING IN VIETNAM?

More than 60 Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) camps dot the remote and contested areas of South Vietnam. These outposts are commanded by the Vietnamese Special Forces (VNSF) and are manned by CIDG troops, locally recruited civilians of principally Vietnamese and Montagnard ethnic backgrounds who comprise the Camp Strike Force.

U. S. Army Special Forces (USASF) detachment members act only as advisors to the VNSF detachment members at the camps. Camps have the responsibility of engaging the enemy, and interdicting enemy supply routes, gathering intelligence about the enemy, and increasing local confidence in the Government of Vietnam.

USASF advisors teach the VNSF and Camp Strike Forces such techniques as camp defense, patrolling and ambushes, radio communications, weapons training, demolitions employment, intelligence gathering, and small unit tactics. They assist the Vietnamese in programs designed to increase popular confidence and trust in the GVN. The USASF participate in combat offensive operations with the VNSF and CIDG.

The commanders of the camps are the Vietnamese Special Forces detachment commanders. Their senior advisors are the USASF detachment commanders.

A U. S. advisor's success is reflected in the performance of his counterpart. Before a U. S. advisor can accomplish his mission, he must establish rapport and understanding with his VNSF counterpart.

U. S. advisors are not permanent fixtures in the camps. Their goal is to teach their counterparts to lead and fight alone, without U. S. advisors.

Since 1 May 1967, USASF advisors have withdrawn by mutual agreement from 7 CIDG camps: Plei Yrong, 1 May 67, II Corps; Vinh Gia, 1 Jul 67, IV Corps; Vinh Than, 15 Dec 67, II Corps; Ben Soi, 2 Jul 68, III Corps; Kinh Quan II, 15 Nov 68, IV Corps; Plateau Gi, 20 Jan 69, II Corps; and Gia Vuc, 31 Jan 69, II Corps. The performance of the VNSF at those camps reached a proficiency which indicated U.S. advisors were no longer required. More U. S. advisors will be withdrawn from other camps as the VNSF become more proficient and desire them to do so.

Mobile Strike Forces (MSF) in each corps zone are deployable in minutes when CIDG Camps come under siege or are threatened by the enemy. An additional Mobile Strike Force Command is centrally located at Nha Trang and is prepared to deploy rapidly to any hot spot in Vietnam. Mobile Strike Force troops are recruited locally and are airborne qualified at the VNSF parachute school located at Dong Ba Thin. VNSF and USASF Command the Mobile Strike Forces.

Special Forces camps and Mobile Strike Forces are under the operational control of the ARVN Corps commander in whose zone they are located.

VNSF receive their training at Dong Ba Thin. Headquarters for both the VNSF and USASF are located at Nha Trang.

COMPOSITION OF A TYPICAL U.S.A.S.F. "A" DETACHMENT

"A" Detachment: Composed of three officers and eleven enlisted men. The Commander is usually a Captain and he is responsible for all actions of the

"A" Detachment. He is the commander of the U. S. "A" Detachment, NOT the camp commander. He advises the camp commander, the Vietnamese Special Forces



detachment commander.

Executive Officer: He is a First Lieutenant, second in command of the detachment and assists and advises his counterpart.

Civic Action/Psychological Operations Officer: He is a First Lieutenant and advises and assists his counterpart in civic action projects, motivation and indoctrination programs and psychological operations. He assists his counterpart in building the confidence of the local people in the Government of Vietnam.

Operations or Team Sergeant: He is the senior enlisted man of the team

and coordinates all training conducted by the detachment as well as advising his counterpart.

Intelligence Sergeant: He is responsible for advising his Vietnamese counterpart on all intelligence gathering efforts in the camp tactical area of responsibility. Intelligence about the enemy is used in planning operations against the enemy and is sent to higher headquarters where it is processed and sent to major units.

Asst. Intelligence Sergeant: Assists the Intelligence Sergeant and advises his counterpart.

5TH SPECIAL FORCES TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

5TH SPECIAL FORCES GROUP (AIR-BOFNE) -- Assigned to RVN, it is one of seven U. S. Army Special Forces Groups based around the world, and has the mission of assisting and advising the Vietnamese Special Forces at the Special Forces CIDG Camps and Mobile Strike commands in all four Corps Tactical Zones of RVN.

CIVILIAN IRREGULAR DEFENSE GROUP (CIDG) CAMP -- Over 60 of those camps dot the remote, denied and contested regions of RVN. Their mission is to engage the enemy, interdict enemy supply routes, gather intelligence and increase local confidence in the Government of Vietnam. A typical camp has a Vietnamese Special Forces detachment, a U. S. Special Forces advisory detachment, and several Camp Strike Force Companies.

VIETNAMESE SPECIAL FORCES -- At each camp there is a Vietnamese Special Forces detachment whose mission it is to train and lead the Camp Strike Forces in the accomplishment of the camp mission.

U.S. ARMY SPECIAL FORCES -- USASF -- Are trained to advise and assist the Vietnamese Special Forces in the teaching of such subjects as camp defense, tactics such as patrolling and ambushes, light and heavy weapons emplacement, intelligence collection,

and radio communication.

COUNTERPART -- Each member of the U. S. Special Forces detachment at a CIDG camp has a Vietnamese Special Forces counterpart, and vice versa. Counterparts have training similar to USASF and similar responsibilities. For example, a USASF intelligence sergeant at a camp will have a VNSF intelligence sergeant counterpart to whom he will impart everything he has ever learned about intelligence gathering techniques. At the same time, the U. S. counterpart will glean all the years of knowledge his counterpart has of the enemy's operational techniques.

CAMP COMMANDER -- Is the VNSF detachment commander at the camp. His counterpart is the USASF detachment commander, who advises the commander, but is NOT the camp commander. The camp commander is responsible for the success or failure of the camp mission. All the camp commander's superiors are ARVN officers and the camp falls under the operational control of the ARVN Corps Commander of the Corps in which the camp is located.

CIDG PROGRAM -- Civilian Irregular Defense Groups Program -- Civilians are locally recruited in the area in which they will be operating. They will serve in the Camp Strike Forces

or the Mobile Strike Forces. About 40 per cent of the CIDG troops are ethnic Vietnamese; about 40 per cent are Montagnards. The remainder is composed of ethnic minorities including Nungs, Vietnamese with Chinese ancestry, and Vietnamese of Cambodian ancestry.

CAMP STRIKE FORCES -- These troops spend most of their time on offensive operations around their camps and defend it when it is under attack. There are usually several Camp Strike Force Companies at each camp which are led and trained by the Vietnamese Special Forces.

MOBILE STRIKE FORCES -- Are an airborne qualified ready reaction force for camps under siege or threatened by the enemy. A Mobile Strike Force is centrally located in each of the four Corps areas with an additional Mobile Strike Force in Nha Trang, poised for deployment in minutes to any hot spot in RVN.

HEAVY WEAPONS SERGEANT: This non-commissioned officer is responsible for advising his counterpart in Camp defense techniques, proper emplacement of weapons, and final protective fires to include preplanned artillery and mortar concentrations.

LIGHT WEAPONS SERGEANT: He is responsible for teaching light weapons training and small unit tactics to his counterpart and CIDG.

SENIOR MEDICAL SPECIALIST: This man is the best trained medic in the U.S. Army. He is capable of performing minor surgery and is responsible for camp sanitation and health as well as teaching his counterpart and the CIDG combat first aid.

ASST. MEDICAL SPECIALIST: He has the same training as the senior medic, and assists him.

DEMOLITION SPECIALIST: He is trained in the employment of simple and advanced demolitions methods. His mission is to train his counterpart in the employment of demolitions on operations and in camp defense.

RADIO OPERATOR SUPERVISOR: This enlisted man is responsible for establishing and maintaining communications with higher headquarters and teaching his counterpart communications theory and application.

CHIEF RADIO OPERATOR: He assists the communications chief and advises his counterpart.

CIVIC ACTION/PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS NCO: He is the administrative assistant to the CA/PO officer and advisor to his counterpart.

NOTE -- All members of the team rotate as advisors to their counterparts on combat operations with the Camp Strike Force.

ALL REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION AND TRANSPORTATION REGARDING THE 5TH SPECIAL FORCES GROUP (AIRBORNE) SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO THE INFORMATION OFFICER, 5TH SPECIAL FORCES GROUP, NHA TRANG. PHONE 3663 OR 3092.

BIEN HOA - Company A, 5th SFG, Information Officer/NCO - Phone 2993/3722/3485

PLEIKU - Company B, 5th SFG, Information Officer/NCO - Phone 5585/3722/3485

PRESS CENTER -- Phone 3835/2691

LA NANG - Company C, 5th SFG, Information Off/NCO - Phone DNG Flamingo 218/216

PRESS CENTER -- Phone III MAF 456/Motley 227

CAMP THO - Company D, 5th SFG, Information Officer/NCO - Phone 2805/CT 219

PRESS CENTER -- Phone 2029/2189/2833

SAIGON - CIDG, -- Phone Tiger 3771/3772

CAMP GOODMAN -- Phone APVN 50355/50598

NHA TRANG - 5th Special Forces Group Headquarters -- Phone 2267/2269