

MACV Leads Joint Effort

294NP-72939



MACV Orientation Edition

Fall-Winter 1969

U.S. Goal: To Repel Aggression

You have come to fight in Vietnam because this is the place the Communists have chosen as the battlefield in their war of aggression.

Our purpose here has been simply stated by our President and Commander-in-Chief, who said, "Our objective is the independence of the Republic of Vietnam and its freedom from attack. We want nothing for ourselves — only that the people of the Republic of Vietnam be allowed to guide their own country in their own way."

The conflict in this small nation bears much wider significance. It involves the security of the United States and the Free World because the North Vietnamese and the Chinese Communists are using it as a test case for their so-called "wars of liberation."

Second Reason

There is a second reason. As the President said, "Around the globe . . . are people whose well-being rests in part on the belief that they can count on us if they are attacked."

"To leave Vietnam to its fate would shake the confidence of all those people in the value of America's word," he said.

The assault on the Republic of Vietnam is clearly an aggression. In pointing this out, former Secretary of State Dean Rusk added that North Vietnam organized and directed the aggression, backed by Communist China.

The cadres of fighters, saboteurs and assassins who form the backbone of the Viet Cong were specially trained in North Vietnam.

No Room For Doubt

"Had all these (thousands from North Vietnam) crossed the line at once — as the North Koreans did in invading South Korea (in 1950) — nobody in the Free World could have doubted that the assault on Vietnam was an aggression," Rusk said.

The Communists recognize that Vietnam is the testing ground. The North Vietnamese Army head recently referred to the Republic of Vietnam as a model of the national liberation movement.

"If the special warfare that the U.S. imperialists are testing in South Vietnam is overcome,"

(Continued on Back Page)

MACV Assists and Advises At RVN Training Centers

Training soldiers as well as increasing the effectiveness of training is a large and complex undertaking in any army. For a nation at war, where training centers and schools are subjected to periodic mortar and rocket attacks, and training materials, instructors and facilities are in short supply, the prob-



Smoke rises from treeline where gunships have laid in their rockets as U.S. helicopters insert Vietnamese infantrymen during operations in the Mekong Delta.

Many Nations Assist

Free World Force Stems Foe

The flags of eight countries — the U.S., Australia, China, Korea, New Zealand, Philippines, Spain and Thailand — fly alongside the colors of the Republic of Vietnam at the Headquarters of the Free World Military Assistance Forces in Saigon. Each represents a nation which has provided military units to assist the Republic of Vietnam in its fight against aggression from the North.

Supply Materials

Thirty-one other nations are assisting in this struggle by providing cement, textbooks, tools, medical supplies, school equipment and industrial and construction material and equipment. Several hundred Free World civilians work in Vietnam as doctors, teachers and technical specialists. Approximately 4,000 scholarships have enabled young Vietnamese to study in Free World countries other than the United States.

Large Korean Force

The Republic of Korea Forces, Vietnam, represent a military manpower contribution second only to that of the United States. The combat units include two Army infantry divisions and an augmented Marine brigade. The

2nd ROK Marine Brigade (or "Blue Dragon Brigade") is located in the I Corps Tactical Zone, working closely with and drawing support from the III Marine Amphibious Force. The Army divisions are located in the II Corps Tactical Zone. They are the ROK Capital Division, known as the "Tiger Division," and the ROK 9th or "White Horse" Infantry Division.

The combat support, other than that organic to the two divisions and the Marine brigade, is provided by the 100th Logistical Support Command at Nha Trang. Control over the entire ROK contribution is exercised by the headquarters in Saigon, with a field command at Nha Trang, co-located with I Field Force Vietnam.

The major Korean civic action unit is the Construction Support Group popularly known as the "Dove Unit." It is located in III Corps Tactical Zone just north of Saigon and has the mission of constructing roads, bridges, schools, temples, dispensaries, nurseries, playgrounds and other structures of this nature. The ROK Aviation Support Group is presently operating three C-46 aircraft.

The Koreans also operate a mobile surgical hospital at Vung Tau, which has 100 beds allocated for RVNAF and 40 for the ROK forces.

The Naval Transport Group, consisting of three LSTs and two LSMs, provides an important addition to shallow-draft shipping in Vietnam.

Larger Thai Force

Thailand, in early 1969, increased her forces in RVN by deploying the second increment of the Royal Thai Army Volunteer Force. The arrival of these forces increased the Volunteer

Force to full division size and the strength of the entire Royal Thai Forces, Vietnam, including Air Force and Naval units, to approximately 12,000 troops.

Aid From Down Under

The Australians, who were the first country after the United States to come to the aid of the Vietnamese, now have approximately 8,000 fighting men from all three services providing assistance to Vietnam. In addition, Australia is committed to several economic and social assis-

(Continued on Back Page)

The United States Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV) is a unified command subordinate to the Pacific Command. With headquarters in Saigon, MACV controls all of the United States Armed Forces in Vietnam and draws its components from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard. With these forces, MACV conducts its assistance mission to the Republic of Vietnam. This involves two kinds of war. MACV forces must engage the enemy in combat on the ground and territorial waters of Vietnam, but it is also essential to MACV's mission to provide assistance to the constitutional government of Vietnam in building and maintaining a free society capable of defending itself against its Communist aggressors.

All United States military forces have a dual responsibility to plan and execute combat operations and to conduct and support civil operations and revolutionary development programs.

Army Force Largest
MACV presently has under its control more than 500,000 United States servicemen to accomplish these tasks.

The United States Army, Vietnam (USARV) is the largest single element of MACV's joint forces with more than 330,000 men. It is organized to conduct the land operations which augment those of the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces. USARV operating forces conduct operations throughout the nation and work closely with the Vietnamese Army.

Navy Has Many Jobs

Naval forces engaged in Vietnam belong to either the U.S. Naval Forces, Vietnam (NAVFORV) directly under control of MACV or the U.S. Seventh Fleet. NAVFORV has the responsibility for the advisory effort with the RVN Naval Forces, coastal and inland waterway patrolling operations, and the U.S. Naval Support Activity, while the U.S. Seventh Fleet supports land combat operations with air strikes and naval gunfire. Coast Guard elements are attached to NAVFORV to assist in coastal operations.

Air Force Support

The Seventh Air Force operates from bases throughout the country to provide close air support to all allied forces engaged in combat operations. The Air Force strikes the enemy's lines of communications, attacking his assembly areas and supply bases. It also provides an extension of the U.S. Seventh Fleet's (Continued on Back Page)

Commander's Message

As you begin your service in Vietnam, you are joining with military personnel and civilian technicians from nations in a Free World team dedicated to assisting the people of the Republic of Vietnam to resist aggression.

The enemies of the Republic of Vietnam are the Hanoi-controlled forces which are invading its borders and attempting to undermine its authority. These enemy forces are sworn to destroy the government of Vietnam and its military forces, to discredit them in the eyes of the world and to impose on the Vietnamese people an authoritarian government not of their own choosing. Your reason for being here is to defeat those forces.

Your task is both varied and difficult, for you must not only be prepared to defeat the enemy by force of arms, but you must also participate to the greatest degree possible in helping the Vietnamese build a strong nation, capable of maintaining its rightful place in the community of free nations. Your tour in



Vietnam will be a challenge; but as in the case of all genuine challenges, its accomplishment will give you the real satisfaction of a job well done. I take this opportunity to ask you to work hard to assist in accomplishing our goals and to tell you that your nation will honor your efforts.

CREIGHTON W. ABRAMS
General, U.S. Army



Helicopter assaults are almost routine for many Army infantrymen in Vietnam as they carry out their part in a mission to suppress enemy advances.

U.S. Divisions Take Fight To Enemy

The fight against Communist aggression is carried to the enemy by seven U.S. Army Divisions. The 1st Cavalry, 1st Infantry, 4th Infantry, 9th Infantry, 25th Infantry, Americal and 101st Airborne divisions are the major U.S. Army combat elements. The 9th Division was the major unit involved in the first redeployment of troops from the combat zone. Only the division's 3rd Brigade remains in-country.

These major units operate throughout the Republic of Vietnam, working together with Free World Military Assistance Forces to defeat the enemy.

The United States Army — first of the services to arrive in the Republic more than a decade ago — is the largest single component service in-country and has upwards of 300,000 officers and men. Organized in the summer of 1965, the United States Army, Vietnam (USARV) is a balanced force of combat, combat support and combat service support elements which make it the largest Army command overseas.

USARV's ground combat forces also include the 199th Light Infantry Brigade, 173rd Airborne Brigade, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade of the 82nd Airborne Division and the 1st Brigade of the 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized).

USARV's Vietnamese counterpart is the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) which is organized into four corps located with geographic boundaries from the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) in the north to the Mekong Delta in the south. USARV operates within these four Corps Tactical Zones (CTZs) and directs the battle through the Field Forces it has established.

Operational control of Army combat organizations is exercised by three corps-type units: I Field Force, II Field Force and XXIV Corps. (The Americal Division is under the operational control of III Marine Amphibious Force).

The 108th Artillery Group has control of Army artillery units in the northern part of I Corps (the northernmost CTZ). Located elsewhere throughout Vietnam are the 23rd, 52nd and 54th Artillery Groups, as well as the divisional and Field Force artillery units.

Of the more than 3,200 Army aircraft in-country, the 1st Aviation Brigade operates more than 1,850. Brigade units fly a variety of missions, ranging from tactical combat assault, direct fire support, aerial reconnaissance and surveillance, Medevacs (medical evacuations) and troop lifts to cargo hauls. The result has been more than 13 million troops transported, more than 39,000 enemy troops killed from the air and almost 1.5 million tons of cargo carried in the past two years alone. The firepower

of the Huey Cobra (AH1G), the scouting ability of the Cayuse (OH6), the heavy lift capability of the Skycrane (CH54) and the Ute (U21) command aircraft have all added to the effectiveness of the Army in the Republic of Vietnam.

The largest single in-country unit is the 1st Logistical Command, with 50,000 men. The command provides the necessary support required for combat operations of more than 500,000 U.S. and allied soldiers.

Some 80,000 tons of ammunition,

90 million gallons of petroleum products and 14 million rations are part of the monthly supply to friendly forces. The command's force of 6,000 repairmen maintains more than 36,000 vehicles, 900 artillery pieces and 38,000 radios.

More than 16,000 men of the 1st Signal Brigade work at 220 sites in the Republic of Vietnam to provide communications for U.S. and other Free World Military Assistance Forces. From Dong Ha near the Demilitarized Zone to Ca Mau in the Mekong

Delta, the brigade operates networks which carry more than 2,600 voice, teletype and data circuits.

Since 1962, teams of the 5th Special Forces Group have served. The "Green Berets" serve from remote camps providing support for military operations, intelligence, civic action and psychological operations. Their skills have raised the proficiency of Vietnamese regulars and Civilian Irregular Defense Groups. The many medals awarded these men attest to the fighting ability and bravery symbolized by the "Green Beret."

The 18th Military Police Brigade is the largest combat-tested MP unit in Military Police Corps history. Highly decorated because of its actions during the Tet attacks of 1968, the brigade continues to perform its many combat direct support missions, escort of VC suspects, physical security, discipline, law and order and traffic control. The brigade also has an active civic affairs program.

Army engineers in Vietnam — about 35,000 strong — have literally been the "builders of Vietnam." Supporting more than a score of military operations, they have proven their ability to fight as well as construct. For the Army, the engineers build base camps, hospitals, port facilities, roads, bridges, airfields, pipelines and storage areas for everything from "C" rations to aviation fuel.

If a soldier becomes a casualty, it is likely he will be airlifted to a hospital by one of the air ambulance "Dustoff" helicopters operated by the 44th Medical Brigade. Professional help is no more than a few minutes away, by air, at one of the 17 hospitals operated by the brigade. Men who receive hospital care have a 99 per cent chance of surviving, the highest level achieved in American military history.

Headquarters Area Command is responsible for the administration of all Free World Forces installations in Saigon. The Capital Military Assistance Command, with Vietnamese forces, is responsible for the security of the Saigon area.

Other units assigned to USARV are the 525th Military Intelligence Group, the 509th Radio Research Group and the 507th Transportation Group.



Army infantrymen find chasing the enemy in his own jungle haunts can be slippery business.

XXIV Corps

'Honed In Combat'

PHU BAI (USA) — XXIV Corps has a record of impressive accomplishments since its activation in Vietnam Aug. 15, 1968. Initially established as Provisional Corps Vietnam in March 1968, it became operational in northern I Corps. XXIV Corps first was activated in World War II, and saw action on Leyte and Okinawa. The Corps remained in Korea until deactivation in January 1949.

The XXIV Corps area of responsibility includes the DMZ and all but a small portion of the two northernmost provinces of Quang Tri and Thua Thien, including the ancient capital city of Hue.

The major subordinate combat elements of the Corps are two battle-hardened divisions; the 3rd Marine Division, with the 1st Brigade of the 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized) under operational control, and the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile). Supporting artillery, Marine air units and Naval patrol elements also are operational within the Corps. Coupled with the U.S. team is the tough and aggressive 1st ARVN Division.

Mobility is the hallmark of the XXIV Corps. The area embracing Quang Tri and Thua Thien provinces has been the scene of some of the most vicious and decisive battles of the war. During the enemy's 1968 Tet Offensive, the North Vietnamese Army and the Viet Cong made a concentrated effort to overrun and hold the northern two provinces in the area south of the DMZ. To combat this attack, General William C. Westmoreland, then in command of U.S. Forces in the Republic of Vietnam, ordered his deputy, General Creighton W. Abrams, to organize a new headquarters — MACV Forward — to assist in the command and control of fresh U.S. units being rushed into the area to assist the Marines, already heavily committed. MACV Forward herald-

ed the reactivation of XXIV Corps.

With the defeat of the enemy in Hue, the ancient capital city of Vietnam, XXIV Corps set out to destroy the enemy in the Corps area of operation. With hard driving and lightning-like thrusts, Corps units began a determined and systematic campaign to drive the North Vietnamese Army out of the Republic of Vietnam or to destroy it in place. For many hapless enemy units, the latter proved to be the case. Most of the others fled to their jungle canopy sanctuaries or pulled back north to the DMZ.

By late summer of 1968, the major North Vietnamese units were no longer effective in the northern I Corps provinces. U.S. and ARVN forces could concentrate on the destruction of the Viet Cong and its insidious political organization, while at the same time assisting the government of the Republic of Vietnam in returning the people to their homes, villages and farms.

Typical of the mobility and

coordination of all forces, American and ARVN, Marines and Army, military and civilian, was the classic Vinh Loc operation in September of 1968. A combined force of allied units including the 101st Airborne Division, elements of the U.S. Navy in "Swift" boats, the 54th Regiment of the 1st ARVN Division and Vietnamese Regional and District Forces, attacked and overran the island of Vinh Loc, a long established Viet Cong stronghold.

The Corps has pushed ahead with the pacification program, and saw the opening of a self-sufficient fishing village at Gai Dang in Quang Tri Province.

The Corps has truly earned its motto, "Honed In Combat". Its early days were spent in places like Khe Sanh, the Rockpile, Con Thien, and the city of Hue, and more recently the A Chau Valley. Not content to rest on its laurels, XXIV Corps continues to exercise its mobility and to engage the enemy whenever and wherever he can be found.



Artillerymen chamber another round destined for "Charlie".

I FFORCEV Controls II Corps

NHA TRANG (USA) — I Field Force Vietnam, with responsibility for U.S. troops in the II Corps Tactical Zone, has operational control over the largest tactical area in the Republic of Vietnam.

II Corps, making up 48 percent of the land mass of the Republic, includes 12 provinces in both the rugged Central Highlands and the rice-rich coastal plains.

Constant patrolling along the Republic of Vietnam's western border has made it difficult for the North Vietnamese to move men and supplies to the south. Reconnaissance-in-force ground operations — buttressed by the

mobility and firepower assured by artillery and aviation units — have kept the enemy off balance and denied him sanctuary.

Roads once closed are now open. Vital Highway 19 has for months been traveled from Qui Nhon to An Khe and Pleiku. Highway 14 from Pleiku to Dak To has been secured, as has Highway 20 running from Dalat to Saigon and Highway 1 between Phan Rang in southern II Corps to Bong Son in northern II Corps.

U.S., ARVN, and other Free World Forces have freed critical areas from enemy control, allowing thousands of Vietnamese people to return to the work of shaping their own lives and re-

building their homes and their economy.

I Field Force is now in its fifth year in Vietnam. The area in which it operates is now characterized by improved Vietnamese air and ground forces that are taking on an increasingly larger share of combat.

Along the Cambodian and Laotian borders the enemy's efforts to open key infiltration routes have met with defeat — beginning with the battle of Duc Lap in the summer of 1968 and continuing through the hard fighting in the spring and early summer of 1969 around Dak To, Kontum, and Ben Het. Vietnamese ground troops and Civilian Irregular Defense Forces assumed major combat roles in each of these battles.

Five major combat elements operate in II Corps. They are the 4th Infantry Division, 173rd Airborne Brigade, I Field Force Artillery, 17th Combat Aviation

Group plus three separate battalions. Task Force South comprises the 3rd Battalion, 506th Infantry, 101st Airborne Division; 3rd Battalion, 503rd Infantry, 173rd Airborne Brigade; and the 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry.

Fighting alongside U.S. and ARVN forces are two divisions from the Republic of Korea — the Capitol (Tiger) Division and the 9th (White Horse) Division.

Responsible for assisting in nation-building in II Corps is an agency called Civil Operations and Revolutionary Development Support (CORDS). This agency has helped the Vietnamese people rebuild war-shattered homes and schools and assisted them in developing self-government.

Whether it is stopping military aggression or helping to eliminate hunger and disease, I Field Force stands ready to help the Republic of Vietnam retain its freedom.

Enemy Denied Victory

LONG BINH POST (USA) — The "Plantation," situated in the northwest corner of Long Binh Post, is the home of II Field Force Headquarters.

II Field Force Vietnam has operational control over the densely populated III Corps Tactical Zone, an area of some 10,000 square miles, extending from the South China Sea inward to the Cambodian border and from 60 miles north to 15 miles south of Saigon.

In the Corps' area are such diverse units as the 25th (Tropic Lightning) Infantry Division, the 1st (Big Red One) Infantry Division, the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), the 11th (Black Horse) Armored Cavalry Regiment, the 1st Australian Task Force, the Royal Thai Black Panther Regiment, the Capital Military Assistance Command (CMAC), the 199th Light Infantry Brigade and the 3rd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division. The remaining brigade of the 9th Infantry Division is also under the operational control of II Field Force Vietnam.

Bien Hoa Province is the home for Bien Hoa Air Base,

Long Binh Post and Bearcat, base camp of the Thais. Among the Corps' other 10 provinces are Tay Ninh, bordering Cambodia, and Phuoc Tuy and Binh Tuy which comprise the Corps' southeast border.

Through cooperation with ARVN units and Republic of Vietnam Regional and Provincial Forces, U.S. units in III Corps have successfully denied the enemy victories. This cooperation has also stimulated and been the guiding force in a strengthened Revolutionary Development (RD) Program and pacification effort, handled mainly by Civil Operations and Revolutionary Development Support (CORDS), headquartered in Bien Hoa City, Bien Hoa Province.

Also, the 23rd and 54th Artillery Groups, the 12th Combat Aviation Group and the 20th Engineer Brigade provide key support to II Field Force combat units fighting in the Corps. They also support Vietnamese self-help programs and the upgrading of ARVN combat units.

MACV Orientation 3



Infantrymen scramble for cover during a heliborne assault on the enemy west of Quang Tri.

Project 'Call Home' Links VN, Hometown

Project "Call Home," an existing telephone service between the Republic of Vietnam and the Western Hemisphere serves as an electronic bridge which spans the Pacific for the U.S. serviceman so that he may contact his home.

The approach to the bridge begins at various USO clubs, posts and hospitals throughout the Republic of Vietnam, then to the Saigon USO, 119 Nguyen Hue (pronounced Wen Way) and terminates in the USA, Canada, Mexico, Alaska, Hawaii or Puerto Rico. The path from Saigon to CONUS is via High Frequency radio to Hong Kong and then submarine cable across the Pacific to the USA.

The calls are limited to a minimum of three minutes and a maximum of five minutes and may be placed either pre-paid or collect. The station-to-station rates are \$9.90 tax included, collect (or 1080 piasters pre-paid) for three minutes to \$16.60 collect (or 1779 piasters pre-paid) for five minutes. Person-to-person rates, tax included, are a little higher (three minutes; pre-paid 1427 piasters, collect \$13.20; five minutes; pre-paid 2136 piasters, collect \$19.80). Calls to the U.S. and Canada may be either pre-paid or collect.

The rates for Canada are ap-

proximately the same as for the U.S.; however, as the length of time of the call increases, the rates become a little higher than those to the U.S. Calls to Mexico, Puerto Rico and Alaska have station-to-station rates of 1774 piasters for three minutes and 2957 piasters for five minutes.

All requests are put through on a "first come, first serve" basis with the exception of priority-handled calls of an emergency nature. Pre-paid calls are payable only in piasters. Collect calls are charged in U.S. dollars to the called telephone.

Callers should bear in mind that the Eastern Standard Time Zone is 13 hours behind Saigon. A call placed here Monday morning is being received in New York the previous Sunday evening.

Daylight Savings period, April 27 through the last Sunday in October, the time lapse is cut to 12 hours. The time lapse between Saigon and other U.S. time zones may be calculated by subtracting the difference between them and the Eastern Zone (e.g. Los Angeles is three hours earlier than New York), or by consulting page XXI of the United States Government Agencies, Vietnam Telephone Directory.

The serviceman may also con-

tact home by using the Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS). There are currently 79 MARS stations operating in the command. They are located throughout Vietnam and work closely with the military unit and individual MARS volunteer operators in the U.S.

Use of the MARS is completely free. The only cost incurred is for the extension of the call over a commercial system from the receiving MARS station to the recipient's telephone. Charge for this extension will be the actual telephone company rate and varies with the distance of the receiving MARS station to the called party. Calls placed over the MARS network are payable only on the Stateside end.

MACV's 'Observer'

The Observer, authorized weekly newspaper of the U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, is circulated free of charge to units in the Republic of Vietnam.

The 12-page tabloid, Vietnam's oldest military newspaper, has a circulation of 100,000. It is a joint service newspaper that emphasizes news and feature stories dealing with combat operations, civic action projects and modernization of the Vietnamese armed forces.

Copy and photographs for use in the paper should be addressed to: The Observer, HQ MACV (MACO-C), APO 96222.

Nearly every unit in Vietnam has its own newspaper. In addition, each of the military services has a newspaper that covers the entire gamut of that service's in country activities. U.S. Army Vietnam publishes The Army Reporter; Seventh Air Force publishes the Air Force News; the U.S. Naval Support Activity, Saigon publishes The Jackstaff News; and the III Marine Amphibious Force, Vietnam publishes Sea Tiger.

Space Available Is Hard To Get

U.S. servicemen returning to Vietnam from emergency leave in the States are provided transportation on a space-required basis, but those returning to Vietnam from compassionate leave in the States are afforded space-available transportation.

Both Travis Air Force Base, Calif., and McGuire Air Force Base, N.J., in the past have reported that space-available travel has been difficult to obtain.

Although many flights leave both bases for overseas destinations, the seats are filled either with replacements or others traveling in a duty status. Travelers depending on space-available seats should therefore be prepared to buy an airplane ticket.

Transportation coordinators at the ports will not permit a serviceman to stand by for space-available passage after his leave terminates.

A man with insufficient funds for a ticket to Vietnam must report to the nearest transportation officer. An airplane ticket may be supplied, but the cost subsequently will be deducted from his pay.

Free Delivery

Combat Mail Call

Mail service for the U.S. Armed Forces in Vietnam is the best ever provided in a combat zone. This excellent service includes a variety of mail privileges to which the GI is entitled. These privileges include free mail, certain special airlift services, and customs exemptions.

To speed mail to Vietnam, the U.S. Post Office Department and Department of Defense give air mail service to letters, post cards, voice tape recordings, and many parcels, regardless of the class of postage paid. All mail leaving Vietnam is airlifted to CONUS. Personal correspondence receives air mail service to its destination, third and fourth class items go according to postage paid after entry in CONUS.

To assist the serviceman, free mailing privileges apply to all letter mail, post cards, and voice recordings mailed from Vietnam. To take advantage of the privilege, write the word "FREE" in the upper right corner of the address side of the envelope. No postage is required. Include as a return address, name, rank, social security account number, organization, and APO/FPO number. This service also applies to correspondence going to an international address. In this case the serviceman does not write the word "FREE" where postage is normally affixed, but leaves that part of the envelope clear so that his postal clerk may imprint the phrase "FREE Mail - Post Payee" with a special stamp.

Also available to servicemen and their correspondents is Parcel Airlift, or PAL. Parcels weighing up to 30 pounds and not exceeding 60 inches length and circumference combined

may be airlifted from the office of origin to its destination for regular fourth class postage plus a fee of \$1. Although all parcels are airlifted to CONUS, PAL service gives the serviceman the added benefit of guaranteeing airlift within the U.S. postal system. Smaller parcels weighing up to five pounds with the same outside dimensions are airlifted free on a space-available basis (SAM) at no extra charge.

Customs benefits enjoyed by the U.S. serviceman in Vietnam are the \$10 exemption and the \$50 exemption. Each member of the U.S. Armed Forces and other U.S. citizens are authorized a \$10 customs exemption on all bonafide gifts purchased on the economy when the value does not exceed \$10. To claim this exemption, indorse the completed customs declaration "Bonafide Gift Not Exceeding \$10." There is no limit to the number of \$10 exemptions claimed except that one person may not receive more than one such gift from the same person on the same day.

The larger customs exemption is authorized for servicemen assigned to Vietnam or its contiguous waters. This \$50 exemption applies only to merchandise purchased at or through an agency sponsored by the Armed Forces such as the regional exchange. Unlike the \$10 exemption, this is applicable to the first \$50 of aggregate value. Duty is payable on any amount over \$50. This exemption also applies when on R&R, temporary duty or when a patient is in a hospital outside of Vietnam. Indorse the completed customs declaration "Bonafide Gift - \$50 exemption claimed under public law."

Savings Deposit Plan Offers 10% Interest Rate

As a U.S. serviceman stationed overseas for a period greater than 90 days, you will be eligible to save through the Uniformed Services Savings Deposit Program (USSDP). You may already know about the 10 per cent annual interest rate paid on savings. There are other aspects about the program which you may now wish to consider.

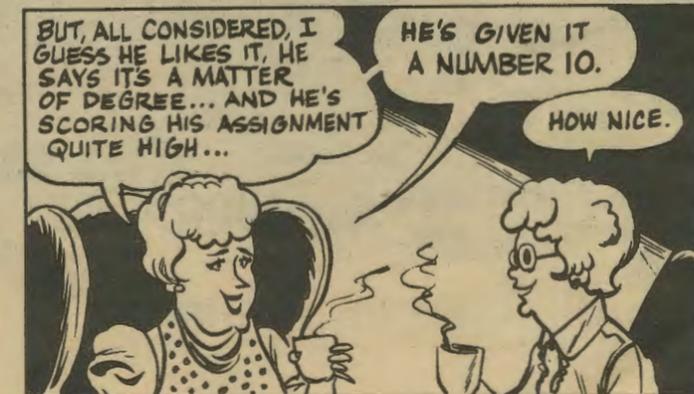
INTEREST. Interest is compounded quarterly. This means that interest is computed every three months based on the principle plus accumulated interest from preceding quarters. The amount computed at the end of the quarter is then added to your account. The amount of interest each quarter is determined by averaging the total in your account on the 10th of each month to obtain the average amount on deposit for the three-month period. Since the 10th of the month is the date the averages are taken, money deposited on or before that draws interest for the entire month while deposits after the 10th do not commence drawing interest until the next month. The 10 per cent will only be paid on deposits plus accumulated interest up to \$10,000. Ordinarily the account stops drawing interest the last of the second month after the month you return to the United States. However, if you go directly to another overseas duty point with less than 90 days in the United States you may leave your monies on deposit and interest will continue uninterrupted by your transfer.

DEPOSITS. Each month you may deposit an amount not to exceed your pay and allowances minus allotments and withholdings. Payments for reenlistment bonuses, unused accrued leave and travel allowances are excluded. Deposits must be in multiples of \$5.

WITHDRAWALS. Money, once deposited, may only be withdrawn under specific circumstances. All high-yield investments have such restrictions, but your USSDP has fewer restrictions than most because this program is administered by the military service. You may withdraw your funds with interest in conjunction with your return to the United States on a permanent change of station (PCS) or when taking 30 days leave in the U.S. as a result of an extension of six months or more. Your money may be withdrawn anytime an emergency involving the health and welfare of you or your dependents requires. You may also apply for accelerated withdrawal when you have your orders and are within 30 days of DEROS. Your account will then be closed and a check mailed to your U.S. address to await your return. Money in your USSDP account cannot be withdrawn for any purpose at any time without the permission of you, the depositor. This program offers an excellent investment opportunity. It is easy to participate. See your finance officer; a cash deposit or Class S allotment will get you started.

The MACV Orientation Edition is an authorized publication of the Office of Information, Headquarters, U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, APO San Francisco 96222. It is published semi-annually for the information and orientation of newly assigned members of the command. Editorial content is compiled by the staff of The Observer, MACV's official newspaper, and the paper is printed by the Stars & Stripes in Tokyo.

COMUSMACV	GEN C. W. Abrams, USA
Chief of Information	COL L. G. Hill Jr., USA
Chief, Command Information Division	LTC M. L. Shiro, USA
Officer-in-Charge	LT G. L. Daugherty, USA
Editor	SFC M. T. Badger, USA
Assistant Editor	SP4 C. B. Feldpousch, USA



Marines' Story Is One Of Success

United States Marines are in the Republic of Vietnam for the second time in their history. They landed from the USS Constitution in 1853 in what is now the city of Da Nang. They landed the first time to serve our nation's interests in the Far East. They returned for the same reason.

The Marine air-ground team in Vietnam is known as the III Marine Amphibious Force (III MAF) and is composed of the 1st and 3rd Marine Divisions, the Army's 101st Airborne and Americal Divisions, the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, Force Logistics Command and supporting elements. Together with Vietnamese forces, other U.S. forces and Free World allies, the III Marine Amphibious Force has blunted every enemy threat in the five northernmost provinces known as I Corps.

Members of the III MAF have the distinction of being part of the largest Marine field command ever deployed on the field of battle. And history has been made by units of III MAF.

The Presidential Unit Citation (PUC) was awarded the 26th Marine Regiment and its reinforcing units which held the Khe Sanh combat complex during the seven-week battle with two North Vietnamese Army divisions and exacted a bloody toll from the enemy while keeping this large force tied down.

The 5th Marine Regiment is another unit which distinguished itself and was awarded the PUC for Operations "Union" and "Union II" in which it inflicted more than 3,000 enemy casualties and eliminated the 2nd NVA Division as an effective fighting force for many months.

The Marine air-ground concept, pioneered by the Corps in the 1930's, has proved itself again in Vietnam. Recognition was given when both the 1st Marine Division and the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing were awarded PUCs in October 1968.

In March of this year the III Marine Amphibious Force was awarded the Unit Citation of the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross



Leathernecks of the 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, board choppers in preparation for an heli-borne assault.

with Palm for operations conducted in I Corps.

In June of this year the 1st Marine Division was awarded the Unit Citation of the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross with Palm.

The 3rd Marine Division had received the Presidential Unit Citation in 1967.

With the arrival of sufficient troops in I Corps, Marines were able to put the air-ground concept to its fullest use. Using helicopter-borne assaults, another innovation pioneered by Marines during the 1950s, the 1st and the 3rd Marine Divisions, have maintained a mobile posture which has kept the enemy off-guard, never knowing where the Marines will strike next.

III MAF Mission

The mission of the III MAF is to conduct military operations in the I Corps Tactical Zone in support of and in coordination with the commanding general, I Corps and Tactical Zone I, in order to assist the Government of Vietnam to defeat the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army forces in the Republic of Vietnam. This is being done by defending the main base areas, destroying the enemy ground forces, uprooting the Communist infrastructure and providing security for the populated areas.

Under the command of Lieutenant General Herman Nickerson Jr., III MAF is carrying out its mission with enthusiasm in

the I Corps area. From 1954 to 1962, Marines were limited to advisory duties with the Vietnamese Marine Corps. This role changed in April 1962, when a helicopter squadron was sent to Soc Trang to help train and support the Vietnamese Armed Forces.

Nearly three years later, the 9th Marine Expeditionary Brigade landed at Da Nang on March 8, 1965, the first U.S. ground force to arrive in the country.

Since that time, the Marine command has expanded its control from 249 square miles to almost 10,000 square miles, killing more than 110,000 of the enemy in the process. During the past four years there have been more than 400 major combat operations of battalion size or larger carried out in I Corps. In addition, offensive action against Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army forces has been pressed by round-the-clock small unit operations. III MAF units have conducted more than 580,000 small unit patrols.

Marine jet fighter, transport and helicopter units of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing have played a large part in the success story. Jets cover the ground troops everywhere in I Corps, helicopters transport Marines to the tops of enemy mountain strongholds and transport aircraft assure Leathernecks of constant supply.

The Force Logistical Command procures and delivers supplies and equipment throughout I Corps.

Pacification Program

Much of the financial backing and materials for III MAF civic action programs, which reach into every village and hamlet in its area of operations, comes from the Marine Corps Reserve Civic Action Fund. Marine Reserves who "wanted a piece of the action," working through CARE, have given the Vietnamese an opportunity to help themselves. Self-help kits and materials have put carpenters and Seabees into business. So far this year, Marines and Seabees have helped the Vietnamese to build more than 302 schools and other buildings such as dispensaries and churches. Wells, playgrounds, bridges and even individual homes have come through the efforts of Marines working with local Vietnamese.

The General Walt Scholarship Fund, named in honor of the first commander of III MAF, General Lewis W. Walt, has given aid to more than 6,700 worthy but needy students who might not otherwise have continued their education.

Combined Action Platoon

One of the brightest spots in assistance to the Republic of Vietnam is another case of Marine imagination and adaptability — the Combined Action Program. This is a program wherein Marines team with militia of the Vietnamese Popular

Forces to live, work and fight in strategic rural areas.

Normally, 14 Marines and a Navy hospital corpsman join with 35 Popular Force soldiers to form a Combined Action Platoon (CAP). They live in the village with the people and gain their trust and respect. In four years, the program has grown from one CAP to 113. The success of the program is reflected in the faces of the people and the improved security of the villages.

Kit Carson Scouts

Another Marine Corps first, the Kit Carson Scout Program, saw its beginning in the spring of 1966. Kit Carson Scouts are former Viet Cong who, disenchanted with communism, rallied to the side of the Republic of Vietnam and are now helping the Marines find and destroy enemy soldiers and caches in the I Corps area.

The overall mission of the Kit Carson Scout is to help find and identify enemy units, assembly areas and routes of movement. He helps in the search for VC weapons, equipment and supplies. The scouts are also used to interrogate detainees and suspects.

By the end of 1968, there were 494 Kit Carson Scouts located in I Corps.

Tradition Strengthened

The III Marine Amphibious Force has added new names to the long tradition of the Marine Corps: Operation "Starlight," first major engagement by Marines in Vietnam in August 1965; Operation "Hastings," largest multi-battalion operation of the Corps; and "Double Eagle," largest amphibious landing since the Korean War.

Other operations that will long be remembered by Marines of III MAF are: "Allen Brook," "Mameluke," "Meade River," "Taylor Common" and "Dewey Canyon."

Perhaps the name historians will best remember is Khe Sanh. During the first three months of 1968, Marines inside the combat base near the Laotian border in northwest I Corps won the day against heavy odds and incessant artillery and rocket attacks.

Success Story

The III MAF has defeated the enemy at every turn in the northern provinces of Vietnam. Pacification is meeting with increasing success, with the elimination of the Viet Cong infrastructure and the local guerrillas and the establishment of local security forces.

The III MAF story is a story of success.



Marines take a closer look at part of a 288-ton cache.



During Operation Dewey Canyon mortar men fire at enemy.

Foe Pays Heavy Toll To RVNAF

One of every nine citizens of the Republic of Vietnam has been trained to fight Communist aggression. According to the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces (RVNAF), almost 1.5 million Vietnamese are now in the uniformed services backed by nearly as many civilian home-defense personnel. This is 11.7 per cent of the population.

The 1968 Mobilization Decree boosted the Republic's national, territorial and paramilitary forces, putting six per cent of the country's total population into full-time military service. This does not include the People's Self-Defense Group which is composed of unpaid civilians trained to defend their homes and villages.

Statistics indicate that more than 100,000 RVNAF personnel have been killed fighting Viet Cong and North Vietnamese regulars since 1960. During the 15 months ending March 31, 1969, RVNAF lost more than twice as many men than the rest of the allied forces. From January 1968 until March 1969, Vietnamese troops lost 39,307 as compared to the Allies' 19,433.

RVNAF forces in turn inflicted more than 100,000 casualties on the enemy during 1968, including 85,000 killed, according to reports.

Tet Offensive

The year 1968 was less than a month old when the Vietnamese and their Free World Force allies faced their first big challenge of the year. This was Phase I of the enemy's Spring Offensive which began during Tet, the Vietnamese Lunar New Year.

The offensive began Jan. 30 with night attacks on 27 of the 44 province capitals. In many of the cities RVNAF forces were not only the first hit but also the major force available to drive out the enemy. The RF/PF were often first to make contact with the enemy and in many cases completely frustrated the Communist attacks.

The Communist attacks during Tet marked a turning point for the Republic's armed forces in terms of morale, manpower and equipment. The Viet Cong (VC) and North Vietnamese Army (NVA) hurled 84,000 troops, many of them their most combat-experienced, against the Republic of Vietnam forces and their allies. Hanoi had assured its forces that RVNAF units would desert in masses to the Communist banner. However, not a single unit went over to the enemy.

Enemy 'Loses Face'

The enemy lost almost half its attacking force during the Tet attacks, 20,300 to the RVNAF; 18,581 to the U.S. and other Free World Forces. Within two days, the VC/NVA forces were pushed out of most of the towns and cities. Only in Saigon and Hue were their battles of greater duration.

On Feb. 18, the Communists launched the second phase of their 1968 Spring Offensive. These attacks were not as severe as those of Phase I and consisted mainly of rocket and mortar attacks.

Phase III of the enemy offensive was launched in early May with Saigon as the main target. Again the Vietnamese threw back the enemy with most of the fighting falling to the ARVN Airborne Division.

Reports show that from May 5 to June 16, a total of 3,708 enemy were killed in action in Saigon, 3,497 of them by Vietnamese forces.

Allied Operations

Between the second and third phases of the enemy offensive, Vietnamese forces joined in two large Allied operations, both in III Corps Tactical Zone. Quyet Thang in March cost the enemy 2,650 killed. In April Toan Thang was launched. Phase I of this operation, the war's biggest, ended May 31 and accounted for 11,397 enemy killed. Phase II of the operation ended Feb. 16, 1969, and accounted for an additional 25,428 enemy killed. Phase III was underway at press time.

In other operations in 1968, a three-month, corps-wide operation in the IV Corps Tactical Zone accounted for 9,572 enemy killed and 1,960 suspects detained.

Enemy Assaults

A series of enemy assaults against Vietnamese outposts began in late August in III Corps along the Cambodian border. During five weeks of "border battles," the enemy failed to overrun a single camp.

In a week of heavy fighting at the end of August, more than 800 enemy soldiers were killed attempting to take the outpost of Duc Lap in Quang Duc Province. A mixed Republic of Vietnam force of ARVN, Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) personnel, and Mobile Strike Force ("Mike Force") soldiers threw back every attempt to take the outpost.

In Tay Ninh Province, the enemy hit Phuoc Tan outpost Sept. 21 and Katum outpost four days later. At Phuoc Tan, Vietnamese Marines and Regional Force (RF) soldiers established a better than 20-to-1 kill ratio repelling the attacks. CIDG forces at Katum defended themselves with a casualty ratio of 13-to-1 in their favor.

Superior Results

In addition to operations with large kill rates, ARVN forces have also engaged in contacts which have gained results far superior to what numbers indicated. On Dec. 10, two battalions of the 7th ARVN Infantry Division made contact with an enemy force in IV Corps. In a short exchange of fire, the ARVN soldiers killed 30 and captured 78. This action wiped out a district Viet Cong force in Dinh Tuong Province.

RF/PF

Much of the RVNAF toll of the enemy, however, has not been the result of large operations, but small actions. Many of these involved Regional and Popular Forces (RF/PF). Stationed in villages and hamlets or operating from small bases, RF/PF



RVNAF Determination

personnel comprise almost 50 per cent of RVNAF.

These Regional and Popular Forces consist of locally recruited personnel who serve in their home areas. RFs are under the command of the province chief. The RF strength has now reached 218,000.

The 173,000-man Popular Force is under the control of district chiefs. PF units have the primary responsibility for hamlet and village security.

The RF/PF have greatly increased in efficiency since the issue of M-16 rifles began. By the end of 1969, the issue of M-16s to the RF/PF is expected to be complete.

New Equipment

All maneuver battalions of RVNAF have already been equipped with M-16s and by year's end, will also be equipped with M-60 machine guns and M-79 grenade launchers.

ARVN combat units increased their transportation capability by 50 per cent in 1968 by replacing old vehicles with new models while communications were improved by the replacement of the old PRC-9 and 10 with the newer, light-weight PRC-25 radio.

Armored commands added more personnel carriers and other armored equipment. Overall number of armored personnel carriers in RVNAF doubled during 1968 and the armor units continued to fulfill a number of missions throughout the Republic.

Typical of the employment and success of armor units in Vietnam are operations of the 3rd and 7th Armored Cavalry units. The four troops of the 3rd Squadron are responsible for se-

curing Highway 14 between Pleiku and Kontum in II Corps Tactical Zone and also for operating with the 22nd ARVN Division in the Bong Son and Phu My areas.

The squadron has almost completely freed its section of Highway 14, once known as "Suicide Alley," from enemy activity while one of its biggest single victories was the virtual annihilation of the H-15 Local Force VC Battalion Feb. 2, 1968. Results of the action were 260 VC killed and 36 captured, including the battalion commander.

During 1968 the 3rd Squadron ran up an incredible 80-to-1 kill ratio, having taken amazingly few friendly casualties.

The 7th Armored Cavalry Regiment is located in the I Corps Tactical Zone. From April 19 to June 13, 1969, the 7th conducted Operation Lan Son 274 in Thua Thien Province. While suffering only seven killed and 58 wounded, they killed 112 and detained seven.

In addition to separate armored, infantry and artillery units, the ARVN consists of 10 numbered divisions and an airborne division. Although usually employed in offensive operations against VC and NVA main force units, ARVN units also provide security for key areas and installations.

Pacification

The destruction of enemy material and personnel has not been the ARVN's sole job over the years. The Republic's initial pacification work was done by members of the nation's young army and today many elements of the armed forces have pacification as their primary mission.

Marines

In addition to the Army divisions, the RVNAF has a 9,500-man Marine division. Although primarily concerned with amphibious operations, the Marines often engage in joint operations with the Vietnamese Army and other Free World Forces. They also engage in numerous independent ground operations. Along with the ARVN Airborne Division, the Marines constitute the Republic's General Reserve Force.

Air Force

Also supporting the ARVN is the Vietnamese Air Force (VNAF), which is playing an increasingly large role in the war. VNAF currently flies more than 20 per cent of all tactical air missions throughout the Republic.

Organized in 1955 with a total of 95 pilots and 32 planes, VNAF now has more than 350 aircraft. During 1968 and the first half of

1969, VNAF efficiency and fighting capability was greatly increased when it acquired the F-5 Freedom Fighter and A-37 attack bomber, both twin-engine jets. In addition, last year the VNAF acquired a squadron of C-119 "Flying Boxcars" and is this year receiving UH-1 Iroquois helicopters to replace their older UH-34 Seabats. (In contrast to the U.S. military organization where helicopter support of ground forces is the mission of the U.S. Army or Marine Corps, the Vietnamese military organization assigns this mission to the Air Force.) Additionally, VNAF has A-1H Sky-raidiers, C-47 Skytrains and light observation and liaison aircraft.

The organization of VNAF includes the Headquarters at Tan Son Nhut Air Base, five tactical wings, an air control and warning group, a tactical air control center, air training center, air logistics wing and an Aeromedical Center.

Navy

The Vietnamese Navy (VNN) is also expanding and receiving new equipment with 64 U.S. Navy river gunboats acquired June 25. This brought the total of craft turned over to VNN since June 1968 to 167.

All four major commands of the Vietnamese Navy have, as one of their primary missions, the transportation and support of ground combat elements. The VNN also has a ground responsibility in the Rung Sat Zone, the swampy area between Saigon and the sea.

The Navy consists of the Fleet Command, the Coastal Forces, River Forces and the newly formed River Assault and Interdiction Divisions (RAIDS).

The Fleet Command consists of VNN's "blue water" fleet and is also responsible for minesweeping on the waterway between Saigon and the South China Sea.

Coastal Forces include the coastal groups which are under four coastal zone commanders. These groups patrol the coastal water of the Republic from the Cambodian border to just south of the DMZ.

River Forces include the River Assault Groups and the River Escort and Transportation Group (RETG). River Assault Groups provide naval forces for inland waterway combat operations, including transportation, logistics and gunfire support to ground operations. The RETG was started in 1968 to protect the transportation of goods, especially rice, in the Delta.

RAID units, in addition to river assault missions, are also responsible for interdicting enemy troop and supply lines on key waterways in the southern portion of the Republic.

Joint General Staff

The Army of the Republic of Vietnam, Vietnamese Navy, Vietnamese Air Force and Vietnamese Marines as well as the 3,500-woman Women's Armed Forces Corps, are headed by the RVNAF Joint General Staff (JGS). In addition to the forces themselves, JGS is also responsible for the training of RVNAF personnel.

The Vietnamese Armed Forces school system includes the National Military Academy at Dalat; the Naval Academy at Nha Trang; the Air Force Training Center, also at Nha Trang; the Command and General Staff College at Dalat; the Reserve Officers School at Thu Duc; and number of branch and trade schools.

Additionally, all divisions have their own training centers and there are also national training centers for basic and advanced training.



ARVN Rangers of the 21st Infantry Division ford a canal in search of VC.

Mobile Advisory Teams Mold RF/PFs

The US Army in Vietnam has always felt that the territorial forces, more specifically the Regional Force Companies and the Popular Force Platoons (RF and PF) have great potential. For one thing, they make up over one half of the Army of Vietnam. For another, they have shown a great capacity for improvement — with a little help. Giving them a lot of help and encouragement in the form of training and “show how” is the job of the US Army’s newest and most effective grass roots emissaries, the Mobile Advisory Teams (MATs).

Actually, the first sustained large scale US Advisory involvement with the RF/PF was begun in 1964, when 50 five-man “district teams” were sent out. During the next two years, the rising number of US units in Vietnam provided an increasing opportunity to branch out from strictly regular force assistance and to allow up-grading of these “citizen soldiers” on a large scale.

By 1967, a variety of types of small US units had been created by US commanders in the field

Civic Action: A Vital Part Of U.S. Effort

U.S. military civic action programs in the Republic of Vietnam demonstrate the veracity of a statement once made by UN Secretary General U Thant who said, “Peace and order in the world are not the exclusive business of statesmen, diplomats and international officials.”

As an element of the long-range nation building concept, military civic action program projects help develop positive attitudes among the Vietnamese people in their identification with the legal government of their nation.

Hundreds of communities, for years under Viet Cong domination, unequivocally have switched their allegiance to the South Vietnam forces and their U.S. and Free World allies because of kindness and self-help opportunities provided them by civic action projects.

Construction

Homes, schools, orphanages, hospitals, wells, temples and pagodas are built for villagers or by villagers with the help of the Republic of Vietnam’s Armed Forces, U.S. and Free World troops. Tons of food, clothing and medical supplies are distributed to needy communities.

Individual members of U.S. forces voluntarily contribute thousands of dollars monthly towards the needs of the Vietnamese.

Civic action is an extension of every serviceman’s role as a diplomat, for the Vietnamese will judge the United States by what they see in the conduct of her servicemen.

Vietnamese Need Help

Engaged in a life or death struggle to resist communist domination, the South Vietnamese need the help of all of the Free World nations.

Nothing is gained and much may be lost through exhibitions of crude and unruly behavior. It is part of the U.S. serviceman’s responsibility as a member of the civic action team to behave with dignity and decency at all times.

Each of us must play a dual role — that of serviceman and that of diplomat representing the United States of America. It is part of our mission.

to aid and train RF/PF elements.

These teams ranged in size from three to 10 men and had missions varying in nature from carrying out “one night stands” — an instruction session for a popular force platoon right in a village fort — to supervising a five week refresher training course for a regional force company. Among the many titles that were used for these teams during the period were: Combined Mobile Training Teams (CMTT); Combined Mobile Improvement Teams (CMIT); “Red Catcher” and “Impact” Teams.

In late 1967, it was decided that a better, more effective team for this effort would be somewhat larger and more precisely tailored to the requirement. Accordingly, a standard organization was decided upon to operate both with PF platoons or RF units. These teams are called Mobile Advisory Teams (MATs). Each has an interpreter assigned.

The five US Army advisors on the MAT are the senior advisor (captain), assistant advisor (lieutenant) of the combat arms branches, Light Weapons Infantry Advisor (sergeant first class), Heavy Weapons Infantry

Advisor (sergeant first class), and a Medical Specialist (Sergeant First Class). Initially, the manpower for these teams was drawn from US combat units, using only personnel with not less than four or not more than six months in-country. Since March 1968, the teams have been trained by the USARV Advisor School at Di An. Every month some 300 students are graduated from this school after having been taught additional advisor techniques and given a familiarization course with the Vietnamese language. Most instructors are experienced advisors — all having served on district advisory teams. Or MATs. Currently 353 MATs have been deployed throughout South Vietnam. The primary mission of these MATs is to advise, instruct and otherwise assist the regional force companies and the popular force platoons on field fortifications, barrier systems, requesting and adjusting indirect fires, small unit operations (with emphasis on night operations and ambushes), patrolling, weapons, and emergency medical care. A secondary mission is to advise and assist RF/PF Group headquarters in improving command and control arrangements and in ensuring adequate support of

both administrative and logistical varieties. Yet another mission is to provide a liaison capability for the RF/PF units to any nearby US Army units.

The MATs accomplish their mission in a variety of ways, adapting as necessary to the local situation and differences in unit capabilities and problems. A great deal of latitude is given to the commander as to how he will employ his team. Initially, upon arriving in the district, the team will generally make short visits to the units to evaluate defenses, to advise, and to take beginning steps toward up-grading effectiveness.

Those units which prove to be particularly responsive — such as making immediate use of new barrier materials — are given all possible supplies and assistance so that the example is rapidly set. While they are with a particular unit — say a popular force platoon in their area — the team members live with the platoon. Needless to say, some living conditions are pretty austere.

Logistical support for the Mobile Advisory Teams is provided through two different sources. Vehicles, ammunition, and POL are provided the team by RVNAF. Weapons, housekeeping

articles, communication equipment and food are provided the team through US Army logistical channels. Basically, the team is equipped with only those items that are absolutely essential for its mission and existence. It must be remembered that these are mobile teams which are authorized only two ¼ ton trucks and one trailer; therefore, the amount of equipment issued to the teams must be the minimum essential required for their mission, health and comfort.

It is fundamental MACV policy that territorial security forces will be upgraded and given adequate support. With this as policy, the Mobile Advisory Teams have been fielded and have proved to be the best single, specific effort that the US makes to enhance the growing effectiveness of the RVNAF and the overall security of the Republic of Vietnam.

The introduction of the Mobile Advisory Team concept is hastening the day that President Thieu recently spoke of: “The regional and popular forces can replace the Vietnamese Army regular units in their territorial missions and the regular army would be able thereby to gradually replace US troops.”

Foe Blends Into Populace

Peasants By Day, Guerrillas By Night

Who is the Viet Cong?

He is a farmer in a rice paddy, an old woman in the market place, a teenager on a bicycle, a fisherman in a sampan. He is Vietnamese, indistinguishable from loyal Vietnamese except by his actions.

He is also a tough fighter wherever he elects to fight.

The VC includes hard core political cadre, main force local troops, part-time guerrillas and men, women and children terrorized or deluded into helping.

Whether he is a South Vietnamese trained in the North and then sent South, or someone recruited locally, the VC is told that he is fighting to liberate Vietnam from Vietnamese traitors, from American “aggressors” and “imperialists” and from colonialism.

VC Accepts Hardship

The average VC is a peasant, accustomed to hardship and a bare existence. He is subjected to continuous communist indoctrination and surveillance by political cadre and fellow cell members.

Behind the VC is an organization controlled and supported from Hanoi with the objective of subjugating all of Vietnam to the tyranny of communism.

All direction ultimately comes from the Central committee of North Vietnam’s Lao Dong (Communist) Party. From its headquarters in Hanoi, the lines of control run to committees and cells in South Vietnam’s districts, villages and hamlets within enemy controlled or influenced areas.

The Central Office, South Vietnam (COSVN), operating under Hanoi, is the highest VC headquarters in the South. Under COSVN are six VC military regions directing political and military actions.

Basic Elements

Viet Cong forces, as separate from the North Vietnamese Army, consist of the two basic elements of paramilitary and full military.

The paramilitary VC generally is a local civilian, a part-time soldier whose duties do not take him far from home.

He may be used in village de-

fense or to support regular forces in local operations.

These are forces which are generally identified as guerrillas. Like classic guerrillas, they may live near their homes, appearing to be peasants by day, but taking up arms at night.

Local Forces

Viet Cong local forces are full-time soldiers but not always uniformed. They rely mainly on guerrilla tactics and depend on the local area for logistical support.

The elite troops are the VC main force battalions. They may wear uniforms such as khaki

shorts and shirts. The black pajamas are their fatigue uniforms. They are also full-time soldiers.

NVA Regulars

North Vietnamese Army units are regular forces, distinctively uniformed. However, much of the distinction between VC and NVA units is disappearing as VC units are reequipped with standard CHICOM weapons and are receiving NVA replacements to make up combat losses which can no longer be replaced by local recruiting.

The Viet Cong use terror as a calculated weapon. Bombings, kidnappings, assassinations,

sabotage, harassing actions — all are planned and executed with the goal of destroying government control and coercing people into cooperation with the VC.

Vital Distinction

It is vitally important to the U.S. serviceman to make the distinction between the VC and the loyal Vietnamese who make up the overwhelming majority of the people.

Careless acts that hurt the people who are innocent civilians endanger the support and loyalty of this group to the legal government and to our military effort.



VC show great variety in their dress as these detainees illustrate.

CORDS Assists GVN Pacification Effort

The Civil Operations and Revolutionary Development Support (CORDS) element of the United States Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, is an integral part of the total American effort to assist the Government of Vietnam in resisting and ending communist aggression and providing a better life for its people.

CORDS advises and supports the GVN on pacification programs that span the broad spectrum from establishing security to initiating modest economic development projects.

Two Wars

Informed observers of the Vietnam scene realize that this is more than just a military war. It is not only a war of opposing military forces, but a war for the allegiance of the people of South Vietnam.

Hence it is not enough to defeat the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army main forces every time they attack a town, military base, bridge, or hamlet. It is also essential, in this kind of war, to provide protection to the people of the countryside, to help meet their aspirations for a better life. That is what the GVN's pacification program is all about. Thus every American in Vietnam has a stake and a role in the GVN's pacification program.

Developed By GVN

There have been many pacification efforts in the past, but none on the scale that is being demonstrated in South Vietnam today. And it is almost entirely a GVN effort. In the so-called "big battalion" war, Free World Forces make a substantial troop contribution, but all the various pacification programs are developed and directed by the GVN.

To sharpen the U.S. advisory and support services in the pacification program, CORDS was organized in May 1967, with a joint staff section under the assistant chief of staff for CORDS (MACCORDS). This organization advises the GVN on all paci-

fication activities and is headed by an American ambassador as deputy (DEP/CORDS).

CORDS today is directed by Ambassador William E. Colby, deputy to General Creighton W. Abrams, the COMUSMACV.

CORDS Organization

The team consists of more than 7,000 American advisors and technicians, 25 per cent of whom are civilians. The military members of the team are drawn from the U.S. Armed Forces. Civilian members are foreign service officers selected from the State Department, the Agency for International Development (AID) and the U.S. Information Agency, the majority of whom are spread throughout the 44 provinces of South Vietnam.

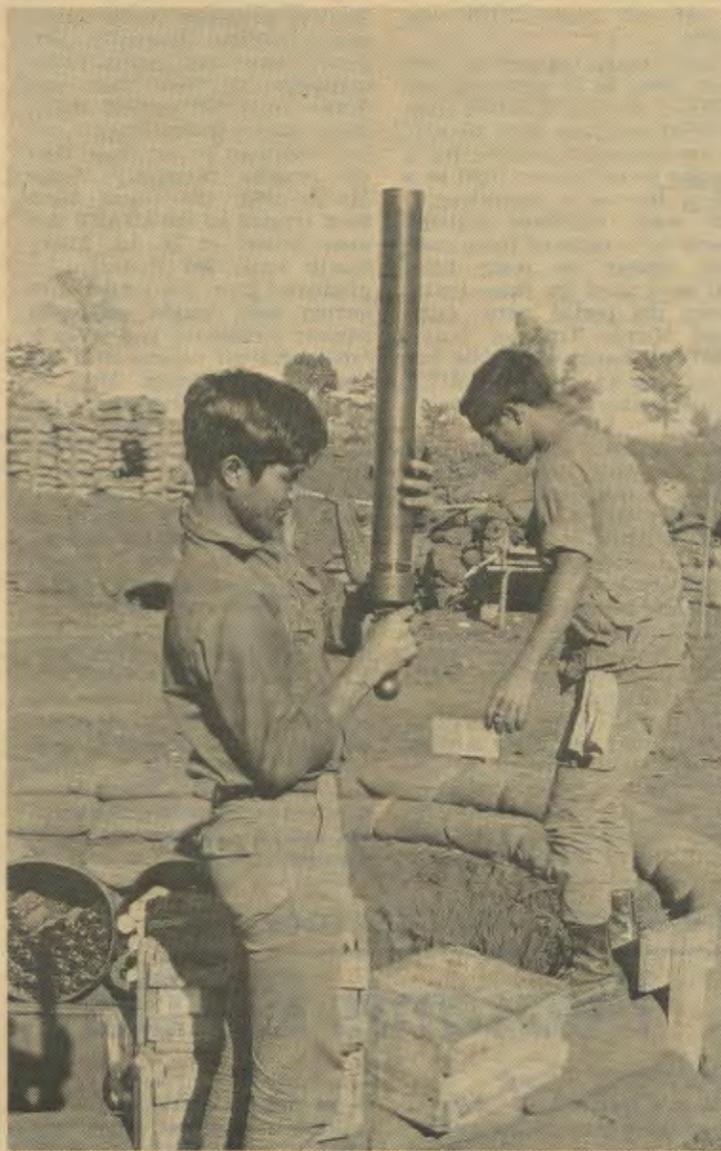
By way of history, pacification in South Vietnam was making steady progress until the communists launched their Tet and mini-Tet offensives in February and May 1968. Although the pacification program suffered a serious temporary setback, the program did not cease. Actually it became more important as it had to cope with recovery in the cities as well as development of rural hamlets.

Operation Recovery

After Tet, the Government of Vietnam focussed a portion of its pacification resources on "Operation Recovery." In about eight months, the GVN had accomplished the massive task of re-housing almost a million South Vietnamese evacuees whose homes had been destroyed or damaged during the two offensives. During this same period, of course, other efforts focussed on re-establishing GVN control over portions of the countryside that had fallen under communist influence during Tet, including the important task of reopening essential lines of communications — roads, highways, waterways, railroads and bridges. By October, recovery was largely complete.

Campaign '69

The 1969 Government of Vietnam Pacification Campaign is founded on one all-important principle: community spirit. Development of a national commu-



Regional Forces troops prepare for a night ambush.

nity spirit is based on cooperation among the Vietnamese people, cooperation between the people and the Government of Vietnam and cooperation among Government agencies. In other words, Pacification places special emphasis on the role of all the people as participants in the military, political, economic, social and educational effort. These efforts aim at shattering the VC organization, restoring public security, and ultimately, in establishing a stable and viable Republic of Vietnam.

Under the concept of "Community Spirit," the eight Pacifi-

cation objectives for 1969 are:

- **Bring territorial security to the population:** This is done by the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN), who sweep the VC from hamlets and villages; the Regional and Popular Forces (RF/PF), who keep the VC from returning; the People's Self Defense Force (PSDF), which provides civil defense for the hamlets and villages; the National Police, who maintain law and order and protect life and property; and the U.S. and Free World Military Forces (US/FMWWAF), who destroy VC/NVA main forces and bases. The result is security so that other pacification objectives can be successful.

- **"Phung Hoang" (Phoenix):** This program gets rid of the VC political control over the hamlets and villages. District and Province intelligence centers expose the hidden members of the VC infrastructure (VCI), while the National Police Field Force finds them and eliminates them. Imprisoned VCI are given the chance to think and defect — to help, rather than destroy Vietnam.

- **Chieu Hoi (Open Arms):** This is a VC defector program. The VC, hard-trained and effective, soon finds he is outgunned and outclassed and fighting for a lost cause. He gets a chance to quit. As a "Hoi Chanh," or returnee, he gives valuable information about enemy units, weapons caches and ammunition and food caches. Since the program began, more than 115,000 VC/NVA have rallied to the side of the GVN. Another important facet of the program is that it saves the lives of Allied troops. For example, assuming a kill ratio of five to one in favor of the Allies, this would mean that for every five enemy soldiers rallying to the GVN, the life of one Allied soldier would be saved.

- **Establish a strong local government in villages:** This allows free elections without fear, effective community management, and through self-help projects, improves public health, education, agricultural services and public works.

- **Organize people's self defense:** The PSDF is trained to protect its hamlet or village, and to alert and warn the people of VC attacks. The force becomes ready and capable of defending friends, families and homes.

- **Stimulate the rural economy:** This is to increase rice production, cultivate better crops, breed better livestock and improve irrigation and market-ways. This program also helps the farmers get low interest loans.

- **Reduce the number of refugees:** Refugees are part of pacification and they can help a developing nation, but they need relief and asylum and resettlement or return to their villages.

- **Intensify information and propaganda efforts:** Through radio, television and the press, village and hamlet information cadre and mobile information teams, the people are told and shown how the GVN will benefit them. Propaganda is needed to encourage support of the population and thus counteract efforts by the VC.

Large Job

Thus, pacification is not one, but many programs which Americans are proud to support.

A great deal remains to be done, however. Through the overall trend in pacification — as in other aspects of the struggle in Vietnam — is encouraging, US CORDS advisors are under no illusions as to how many problems still must be overcome. Nor is the present farsighted leadership of South Vietnam.

Results of Efforts

Based on the Hamlet Evaluation System (HES) which measures trends in population control, the percentage of the population living under GVN control in the ABC categories rose steadily from 69.8 per cent at the end of the October 1968 to 84.2 at the end of May. Simultaneously throughout this period which included the Accelerated Pacification Campaign and Tet, population categorized as VC-controlled dropped steadily from 15.3 per cent to the present 7.8 per cent. This latter group and the remaining 8.0 per cent in a category DE provide the major areas of concentration of efforts to reach the Pacification Goal of 90 per cent of the population in category ABC by the end of 1969. Continued cooperation and efforts between U.S. personnel and the Vietnamese should make this goal a reality.

They Have To Win

In 1963, President John F. Kennedy said of the Vietnam conflict, "In the final analysis it's their war — we can help them — but they have to win it."

This is especially true when applied to the achievements of the Pacification objectives. And Pacification is a plan to end a long and complex war on a note which will offer the South Vietnamese people and their children a free, peaceful and prosperous future.

Pacification can be successful. And succeed it must. For all Americans serving in Vietnam, successful Pacification is the one-way ticket home.



A mobile dispensary operated by GVN visits Hoa Vang to provide medical care.

AFVN Radio And TV Span RVN

Some of America's top television shows, newscasts of world and national events, music for all tastes, and major sporting contests are enjoyed daily by about 95 per cent of American and allied forces serving in the Republic of Vietnam.

This information and entertainment package is made possible through the efforts of more than 200 Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force personnel assigned to the American Forces Vietnam Network (AFVN), headquartered in Saigon.

Besides the key Saigon station, the network includes seven detachments located throughout the Republic. Five detachments broadcast both radio and television programming, while the other two transmit television only.

Radio broadcasts are heard 24 hours a day. Television broadcasting averages 13 hours a day of on-air programming.

The American Forces Vietnam Network is the largest American Forces Radio and TV Network in the world today.

American Forces Radio in Vietnam commenced operation Aug. 15, 1962, from studios located in the Rex Hotel, Saigon. In the beginning, almost all broadcasting equipment was borrowed from U.S. and Vietnam military and civilian agencies. The station was operated by a five-man crew and several volunteer announcers and newsmen.

In 1964, Armed Forces Radio Vietnam moved into larger and better equipped studios in the Brinks Hotel. American Forces Radio Vietnam programs, originating from the studio facilities in Saigon, were rebroadcast by 11 relay outlets throughout the Republic of Vietnam. At this



TV news shows are broadcast three times daily from the AFVN key station located in Saigon.

time the station's staff numbered 17.

In 1965, radio programming was expanded from 18 to 24 hours a day, and FM equipment was installed. In 1966, a direct cable communications link was established between Washington and Saigon.

Television made its debut in Vietnam Feb. 7, 1966. Three "Blue Eagle" aircraft were used to provide the initial service. These C-121 Super Constellation

aircraft contained both television and radio broadcast capabilities. At this time, construction began for permanent ground station facilities and the first of seven television broadcast vans arrived in Vietnam. The seven vans were spread throughout the country to provide the widest possible television transmission.

A great deal was accomplished in a relatively short period of time. Growing pains and adjustments were a daily way of life, but the passage of time carried with it an increasing stability of operations.

Departing from the past, here is what AFVN is currently doing and its plans for the future.

AFVN now operates two 50,000-watt AM transmitters located in Cat Lo (540KC) and Pleiku (560KC) providing service to Saigon, the Delta areas and the Central Highlands. Another 50KW transmitter is scheduled for the Nha Trang-Cam Ranh Bay area in 1969. 10,000-watt AM stations are operating in Qui Nhon (770KC), Da Nang (850KC) and Nha Trang-CamRanh Bay (900KC). A 1,000-watt station serves the Quang Tri area.

Four FM stations currently serve Vietnam. There is a 100,000-watt station in Saigon, and 35,000-watt stations in Pleiku, Da Nang and the Cam Ranh Bay area. Qui Nhon is scheduled for FM service in 1969. All FM transmitters are on the 99.9MC frequency. FM stereo was programmed for Saigon and Da Nang in mid-1969.

Saigon is the key station of the AM radio network. As such, it provides the majority of programming heard throughout the country. However, each station in the network broadcasts three hours of local programming every day. The AM network provides a variety of musical programs, information features and news presentations.

The music format for AM radio is contemporary. However, each program day has music devoted to particular audiences — soul, country and western, popular standards and jazz are but a few of the music categories. Programming over AFVN-AM will continue to be dictated by results of current and future taste surveys.

AFVN-FM features an "easy listening" format of standard, classical and down-tempo music.

The AM radio signal covers the entire Republic of Vietnam and can be received on most pocket-sized radios. FM radio signals can be received within a radius of about 50 miles from the broadcast sites, depending on regional topography.

The American Forces Vietnam Television Network has VHF-TV stations operating on channel 11 in Saigon (Network key station), Qui Nhon, Da Nang, Pleiku, Nha Trang-Cam Ranh Bay, Tuy Hoa, Quang Tri and on channel 13 in Chu Lai.

A variety of television programming, both locally produced and obtained from the United States through the Armed Forces Radio-Television Service (AFRTS), Los Angeles, is presented by the network. Most of the program material consists of film and video tape programs presented by major American networks. After playing in Saigon, the programs are shipped to the detachments in a package that provides an entire week of information and entertainment material.

This circuit is supplemented by another direct priority shipment from AFRTS that provides each station with current film coverage of important news and sports events from around the world. Also, the stations broadcast locally produced daily newscasts, interviews, special information and entertainment programs featuring nationally acclaimed personalities visiting Vietnam.

The AFVN news branch, located in Saigon, provides comprehensive coverage of Stateside, international, Vietnam and sports news for both radio and television. At its disposal are the combined services of the Associated Press and United Press International wire services and the programming support of AFRTS, Washington, D.C. Direct teletype and audio communications with AFRTS, Washington, permits the immediate broadcast of major newscasts and special events on the radio network throughout the Republic of Vietnam.

Three television news programs are broadcast daily on the key television station in Saigon. ABC-TV and CBS-TV news-film services help support this effort. Affiliated stations receive copies of the newsfilm and other visual material along with teletype copy from the major wire press services to assist them in preparing their TV newscasts.

Twist a radio or television dial and tune in. The AFVN mission is to serve the serviceman.



Entertainment and information features are taped at AFVN.

Support Group Supplies Vietnam

SAIGON (USA) — The 34th General Support Group, with units as far north as Da Nang and as far south as Vinh Long in the Mekong Delta, is the largest aircraft maintenance and supply organization in Vietnam.

One subordinate unit, the U.S. Army Aviation Materiel Management Center, operates a vast supply system responsible for the initial distribution of all Army aircraft and aircraft parts arriving in Vietnam. In addition, the maintenance support battalions of the 34th Group render direct, general and depot maintenance support to the nearly 4,000 aircraft operated by the United States Army, Vietnam.

The 34th Group is headquar-

tered in Saigon. Subordinate battalions include the 14th Transportation Battalion at Nha Trang; 58th Transportation Battalion at Da Nang; 520th Transportation Battalion at Phu Loi; and the 765th Transportation Battalion at Vung Tau.

Also attached to the 34th Group for operational control is the 1st Transportation Battalion — a floating maintenance shop housed in a converted seaplane tender and anchored in the Vung Tau harbor. The unit is made up entirely of Army personnel who are experts at depot level maintenance and repair of Army aircraft components. The ship itself is maintained by a civilian Military Sea Transport Service crew.



AFVN radio programs music, news and sports 24 hours a day.

Two Leaves Authorized

One seven-day leave is authorized during a 12-month tour of duty in Vietnam. An additional seven-day ordinary leave is authorized for each six-month extension. The leave can be taken at Guam, Okinawa, Korea and countries hosting R&R sites. Travel can be by military aircraft on a space-available basis or commercial air at the individual's expense. Leave to Bangkok, Thailand, only can be authorized on a space-available basis on R&R aircraft.

Personnel who travel on a space-available basis should have sufficient funds to purchase a commercial airline tick-

et for return trip, if space available transportation cannot be obtained. However, if travel is made on a space-available basis on R&R aircraft, personnel are guaranteed return transportation provided they return with the same group that went on R&R.

A 30-day special leave not chargeable to leave is granted for each six-month extension. Emergency leave is also authorized in accordance with service regulations upon verification by the Red Cross.

7th Air Force Fights Foe, Helps Troops On Ground

The whistling roar of an attacking supersonic jet is a sound of impending doom to enemy soldiers, but to the U.S. fighting men in the Republic of Vietnam, it has often been the sound of salvation.

Tactical airpower has spelled the difference between victory and defeat for Allied forces in countless battles throughout the Republic. Providing that airpower is the responsibility of Seventh Air Force, headquartered at Tan Son Nhut Air Base on the outskirts of Saigon.

All the missions — the deadly close air support strikes of the fighters, the shattering storm of firepower from the miniguns of AC-47 and AC-119 gunships, the massive airlift of men and materiel by huge transports, reconnaissance, psychological warfare and others — have a single purpose: Help the man on the ground. Make his job easier, his operations safer.

Close air support of ground forces fighting the enemy is Seventh Air Force's most important task. At the Tactical Air Control Center at Tan Son Nhut, lines of communication converge from Allied ground units in the field and reach out to fighters poised on alert pads at bases throughout the country. A patrol makes contact with an enemy unit, a request for air strikes flashes out. Minutes later, the fighters, with their bullets and bombs, have joined the battle.

Interdiction of enemy men and supplies is a second method of

achieving the same aim — helping the ground soldier. Slashing attacks from the air stop bullets before they reach enemy guns, slow the replacement of vital men and supplies to enemy fighting units. Air strikes smash base camps and supply caches; stop the enemy from concentrating his forces, deny him sanctuary.

A marriage of the old and the new has resulted in one of the most devastating defensive weapons of the war. Mated with side-firing, 6,000-round-per-minute miniguns, old C-47 and C-119 transports have been rejuvenated as aerial gunships.

According to captured enemy documents, the weapon enemy soldiers fear most in the Vietnam war is the Strategic Air Command's B-52 Stratofortress. Because of the altitude at which they fly, the Air Force Stratofortresses are undetectable until the hapless enemy hears the rolling thunder of the B-52s' bombs marching his way.

Airlift in Vietnam is a modern miracle, unprecedented in its scope. Under the direction of the 834th Air Division at Tan Son Nhut, transport crews fly tons of men and supplies to destinations within the Republic each day.

The movement of troops and materiel by air is literally a matter of life or death for the many Allied soldiers whose outposts and base camps are inaccessible to ground transportation. Air Force C-130 Hercules, C-123 Providers and C-7

Caribou settle down onto landing strips carved out of the jungle to deliver ammunition, food and other supplies. For the outposts without airfields, the supplies are dropped by parachute.

American soldiers wounded in Vietnam have the greatest chance of surviving their wounds of any soldiers ever to fight in a war. The reason? The speed with which wounded men reach proper medical care — by air.

Air Force C-130 "Flying Ambulances" fly circuits throughout the country daily, moving battle casualties from the field to sophisticated medical facilities at major bases. From there, the seriously wounded are loaded aboard C-141 Starlifter jet transports for transportation to hospitals throughout the Western Pacific and the United States.

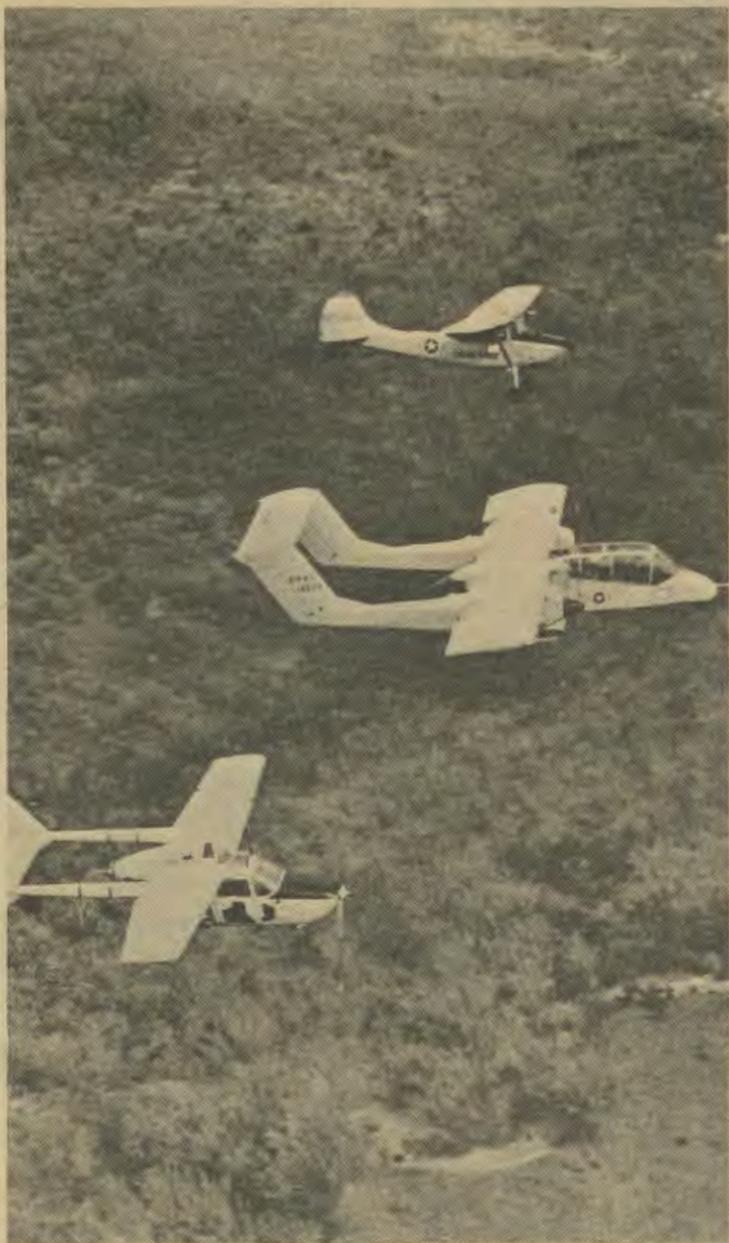
Airmen, sailors and soldiers in the Republic of Vietnam owe their lives to the efforts of Air Force rescue crews. Flying HH-43 "Pedros" and HH-153 "Jolly Green Giant" helicopters, the rescuers are often called on to brave intense enemy fire to pluck downed pilots, surrounded patrols and others in desperate trouble out of the enemy's grasp.

Much of the intelligence information on which Allied commanders depend comes from aerial reconnaissance. Sophisticated electronic sensing equipment and high-speed cameras enable the pilots of tactical reconnaissance wings to pinpoint the enemy's movements in virtually any kind of weather.

Fighting with words rather than bombs and bullets, Air Force psychological warfare crews have dropped billions of leaflets and broadcasted thousands of hours of messages over enemy forces, urging them to rally to the side of the Republic of Vietnam government. By taking enemy soldiers off the battlefield without a fight, the psywar crews are, in still another way, fulfilling the Seventh Air Force mission — help the ground soldier.



A-1 Skyraider pilot releases his bombs on enemy supply route.



Forward air controllers direct air strikes against enemy positions. An OV-10 Bronco is flanked by an O-1 Bird Dog (r.) and an O-2 Super Skymaster (l.)



An Air Force pilot fires a deadly volley of rockets at an enemy position. The F-100 Super Sabres are used for close air support in the Republic of Vietnam.

Navymen Patrol Coast, Waterways

For more than 35,000 Navymen, duty in Vietnam is a great deal different from what they had been accustomed to.

Operating in two major task forces and several smaller commands, they have handled successfully the job of interdicting enemy troops and supply lines along the coast and myriad of waterways in the Republic of Vietnam.

This means using M-16s and M-60s rather than the familiar eight-inch guns, helicopters and light turbo-prop aircraft instead of jets, and face-to-face encounters with the enemy instead of distant detection on a radar scope.

Nearly all in-country components come under the operational control of Commander U.S. Naval Forces, Vietnam, Vice Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt Jr., with headquarters in Saigon.

The two main task forces are Operation Market Time (Task Force 115) and Operation Game Warden (Task Force 116).

Plans called for a third task force, River Assault Flotilla One (Task Force 117), the Navy's portion of the Mobile Riverine Force in the Mekong Delta, to be gradually phased out as part of the summer's 25,000-man redeployment of U.S. Forces in Vietnam.

Operation Market Time

Operation Market Time operates along the Republic's 1,000-mile coastline to halt enemy infiltration by sea. Market Time craft check cargo and passengers aboard thousands of small craft as they come and go along the coast.

Craft used in these coastal surveillance operations are "Swift" boats (PCFs), U.S. Coast Guard cutters and patrol boats, Navy destroyers and ocean and coastal minesweepers (MSOs and MSCs).

Air patrols of the coast are conducted by Navy P-3 Orion aircraft flying from the Naval Air Facility at Cam Ranh Bay.

During the past year, a large number of these patrol boats have been turned over to the Vietnamese Navy along with the

responsibility for patrolling 18 of 56 coastal zones.

The Market Time interdiction effort has been highly successful. Since its beginning, Market Time crewmen have turned back, destroyed or captured 12 enemy trawlers, halting the enemy's major infiltration efforts.

Market Time Swift boats now find themselves on the inland waterways of Vietnam conducting raider operations in support of the Navy's Operation Seas Lords interdiction efforts.

Operation Game Warden

The task of patrolling Vietnam's rivers and canals is primarily the mission of Operation Game Warden. They use the 31-foot, fiberglass river patrol boats (PBRs), small minesweepers, "Seawolf" helicopter gunships and OV-10 "Bronco" fixed-wing aircraft. SEALs, the Navy's commando warfare specialists, also operate as part of Operation Game Warden.

These units are charged with cutting off movement of enemy supplies and men. In the Rung Sat Special Zone, they are responsible for keeping open the vital shipping channel to Saigon.

Like Market Time units, Game Warden forces play a key role in Operation Sea Lords patrols and missions.

Operation Sea Lords

Operation Sea Lords, an acronym for "Southeast Asia Lake-Ocean-River-Delta-Strategy," has four major objectives:

- To establish a permanent naval presence astride known



"Swift" boats of the "brown water Navy" conduct coastal surveillance operations.

enemy infiltration routes, both in and near the Mekong Delta;

- To clear and open trans-Delta waterways;

- To clear and pacify islands in enemy river crossing areas;

- To penetrate enemy sanctuaries with small river operations.

Market Time and Game Warden units, frequently operating with Vietnamese and other American armed forces, regularly carry out special missions to meet these objectives.

Operation Sea Lords is the parent and continuing effort from which other interdiction operations emerged.

On Nov. 21, 1968, Swift boats and PBRs began regular interdiction patrols on the Giang

Thanh River-Vinh Te Canal complex, which parallels the Cambodian border along the southwestern edge of the Republic of Vietnam. Vietnamese Navy junks and river assault group boats later joined the patrols.

Operation Giant Slingshot

On Dec. 6, 1968, the Navy commenced the new interdiction operation called Operation Giant Slingshot. It was named after its location, a Y-shaped pattern of meandering rivers which snake west-ward from a point 15 miles below Saigon to bracket the "Parrot's Beak" area of the Cambodian border. In that same month a joint force of more than 40 Navy PBRs and riverine assault craft began their first per-

manent patrols on the rivers, the Vam Co Tay and Vam Co Dong, to interdict enemy movement across the western approaches to Saigon. Within a week the patrols were doubled as enemy resistance mounted.

Less than a month later, another task force of PBRs and heavily armored riverine assault craft moved into the 56-mile-long La Grange-Ong Lon canal complex west of the capital city. Establishment of this new patrol zone, named "Barrier Reef," locked into place the final link in a naval interdiction effort extending 225 miles from the Gulf of Thailand, across the entire western Mekong Delta, to the city of Tay Ninh in the III Corps Tactical Zone.

"Synergistic Effect"

Many of the Navy's most successful Sea Lords operations have been with or in support of Army and Air Force efforts. These team efforts have paid off in what Vice Admiral Zumwalt calls the "synergistic effect" — the combination of dissimilar yet compatible elements to form a larger and better whole. Two working together can accomplish far more than either could working separately, he said.

Other areas of responsibility for COMNAVFORV include the Naval Advisory Group, logistical commands, and the Navy's builders, Seabees of the Third Construction Brigade.

The Naval Support Activities at Saigon and Da Nang are major military suppliers. The Da Nang activity handles all common item logistical requirements for Free World military forces in I Corps, the northernmost tactical zone. Approximately 185,000 men are supported by the Da Nang activity.

U.S. Naval Support Activity, Saigon, supplies all naval activities in the II, III and IV Corps areas.

The Third Naval Construction Brigade is in charge of approximately one-third of all military construction in Vietnam.

One other major Navy command, this one not under the direct control of COMNAVFORV, plays a major role in the war effort. This is the Military Sea Transportation Service, which hauls 96 per cent of all military goods coming into the Republic of Vietnam.

Seventh Fleet's Task Force 77: 35,000-Man Offshore Watchdog

Long before Vietnam became a household word in most American homes, the U.S. Navy maintained one of the mightiest arrays of seapower ever assembled by a single nation in the western Pacific or anywhere else on the globe for that matter.

Its vital statistics: more than 190 ships, approximately 650 aircraft and some 35,000 Navy personnel.

The chief component of this awesome sea giant known as the U.S. Seventh Fleet is Task Force 77, a unit that distinguished itself in the Korean War and now operates in the waters off the Republic of Vietnam.

Task Force 77 is an armada of four aircraft carriers (two of which are normally on station), more than 300 aircraft, 25 supporting ships and more than 25,000 men.

Here are some examples of how the Seventh Fleet carries out its multi-mission role in the Vietnam area:

Cruisers and destroyers on gunfire support missions range

up and down the coast of the Republic to the Mekong Delta, supporting land forces with their seaborne batteries.

Farther offshore, at a spot code-named "Yankee Station," a giant attack aircraft carrier

turns into the wind and begins the intense drama that is part of every carrier launch.

Navy pilots were first to fly attack missions over North Vietnam in August 1964, after President Johnson ordered air strikes

against selected military targets.

Since then, Navy pilots flew more than 100,000 sorties over the North before the bombing halt. Carrier planes are now flying in support of in-country operations.



Steam blasts from the catapult as an F-4 is launched from the deck of the USS Enterprise.

A Helping Hand: American Red Cross

The American Red Cross has been on the job in Vietnam giving service to the Armed Forces since the arrival of the first contingent of U.S. advisors. Today, there are more than 400 Red Cross men and women in the Republic of Vietnam helping able-bodied and sick and injured American servicemen from Can Tho to Dong Ha.

Able-bodied men in the field of Vietnam know Red Cross through field directors and assistant field directors who live and work with assigned units at more than 65 major installations in country. Red Cross men are on call 24 hours a day to handle nearly 30,000 requests for help from servicemen every month.

The most needed and used service of the Red Cross in Vietnam is emergency communications between the serviceman and his family. By early 1969, emergency communications between the U.S. and the Republic of Vietnam regarding serious personal and family problems of servicemen reached an average of 1,075 daily.

In any situation where the serviceman may be needed back home, the Red Cross field director obtains information about the situation which the serviceman and his commanding officer need to make a decision about leave. Sometimes the request for emergency leave begins at home when the family contacts the local Red Cross chapter asking them to relay certain information to their serviceman and to ask him to apply for leave. At other times, the serviceman, in talking with the field director about a family problem, may decide that the situation is so serious, he should go home. In either case, the Red Cross is the communications link between the serviceman and his family and the source of reports which the commanding officer needs to act on the request for emergency leave.

Financial aid to cover transportation and other expenses involved in an emergency situation is available from the Red Cross. Depending on the circumstances, the assistance is usually an interest-free loan payable by allotment in small monthly payments over an extended time. Funds can be made available as an outright grant if repayment will result in additional problems or hardship. Financial assistance is available to military wives and children for basic maintenance when family allotments are interrupted. Normally, the family requests and receives aid directly from their local Red Cross chapter, but the serviceman also can apply for such assistance from the field director.

Counseling on personal and family problems is another valuable resource of the Red Cross in Vietnam. Frequently, the counsel and sympathetic ear of a third party brings the serviceman's problem into better perspective so that it can be resolved through normal communications and without an emergency leave.

Injured and hospitalized service personnel can receive the same services offered to the able-bodied through the Red Cross staff assigned to all major evacuation and field hospitals and the two hospital ships, Respose and Sanctuary, in Vietnam.

Regular services in communication, counseling and financial aid are available through the hospital field director. A Red Cross recreation worker is also assigned to most hospitals to conduct group and individual recreation activities. The recreation is medically approved and is a form of therapy and good time-spender for patients on the mend. Patients evacuated to hospitals outside of Vietnam receive comfort items and any emergency services they may

need before evacuation. Once leaving Vietnam, MedEvac patients are met and assisted by Red Cross volunteers at every stop on the way to the States regardless of the hour.

A popular Red Cross service in Vietnam is the recreation center and clubmobile program staffed by over 100 young women recently graduated from college. Operating in units of four to six members from a fixed location, these young women travel some 30,000 miles a month

reaching small units of servicemen stationed at remote firebases and landing zones from the DMZ to the Delta. The women average 2,700 visits and reach some 114,000 U.S. soldiers per month. The visits are brief — about an hour — time to chat, stage a quiz game or other type of program in which the men participate, serve chow or refreshments and move on to the next base. It is an hour away from the war. Some Red Cross units also operate fixed recrea-

tion centers at the base location offering servicemen a place to relax, talk, write a letter, read, listen to records or take part in planned programs.

A Red Cross safety director assists military commands through teaching and instructor training courses in first aid and water safety.

Military personnel in Vietnam receive many expressions of appreciation from people back home through the Red Cross. For example, community groups and individuals across the United States participate in "Operation Shop Early" through local Red Cross chapters. The project aims to provide a Christmas "ditty bag" filled with a variety of gifts that are useful and sometimes hard to find for every American military person in Vietnam. Many of the items are contributed by groups and businesses in the U.S., and volunteers spend weeks sewing and filling the bags during the summer months to insure delivery to Red Cross field staff in Vietnam for distribution by Christmas.

"Voices from Home" is conducted by volunteers in many Red Cross chapters in the United States offering families an opportunity to send taped messages of love to their men at special times of the year. Hospitals and some field stations offer the same service in Vietnam.

Since 1966, the American Red Cross has been operating camps and resettlement hamlets for Vietnamese civilian refugees in cooperation with the Republic of Vietnam Red Cross and United States Agency for International Development. Red Cross teams are caring for approximately 100,000 refugees in Quang Ngai and Quang Tin Provinces.



Red Cross workers average 2,700 visits to firebases and landing zones each month.

Two Kinds Of Money Authorized

MPC Control Curbs Economic Inflation

American servicemen may possess only two kinds of money instruments while in the Republic of Vietnam — Military Payment Certificates (MPC) and Vietnamese piasters.

Upon arrival in Vietnam, all American currency and dollar instruments (including travelers checks) must be declared and converted to MPC. This is the only type of currency used in American facilities except when payment is made to maids or to local national personnel. . . then payment must be made in Vietnamese piasters.

Piasters may be purchased only at official exchange offices and only at the officially established rate. Inflation is a ghost that haunts the Vietnamese economy. Americans can unwittingly do much to create inflation here.

Finance experts recommend that the serviceman in Vietnam put his extra pay into U.S. Savings Bonds, the Uniformed Services Savings Deposit Program (USSDP) paying 10 per cent interest, a personal checking account in a military banking facility or in his own savings plan.

Another way to combat inflation is to avoid overspending. A 10 piaster taxi ride should not be paid for with 20 piasters. When we pay more than the asking price, the seller is likely to up his charges. We can afford this but the Vietnamese who needs the same thing cannot.

In effect, we are putting our own spending power in direct competition with the much lower

Vietnamese income scale when we buy on the local economy. The rule to follow is to buy at Post Exchanges, clubs and messes and not aggravate local supply problems.

Never deal on the black-market nor engage in illegal money exchanges. Penalties for such activities may include confinement at hard labor, total forfeiture of pay and allowances and a dishonorable discharge from the military service.

Money is a weapon of war. Dollars or MPC that Americans exchange illegally find their way to the Communists who use them as foreign credits to purchase goods to continue the war.

A \$200 per month limit has been placed on the following transactions or any combination thereof:

1) Conversion of MPC cash to U.S. currency when a person departs Vietnam (TDY, PCS or leave).

2) Conversion of MPC cash to dollar instruments (money orders, travelers checks, treasury checks, etc.).

3) Deposit of MPC cash to Military Banking Accounts and in some cases to the Uniformed Services Savings Deposit Program. (It is emphasized that only cash deposits come under the \$200 limit. Deposits by check or allotment are NOT subject to the restraint.) If the deposit to the USSDP is made simultaneously with receipt of pay, allowances and bonuses, it will not be subject to the limitation.

A special \$500 limit for conversion of MPC cash to U.S. currency applies for personnel departing on R&R.

Exception to the \$200 monthly limit (\$500 for R&R) will be authorized only when:

1) An individual is departing Vietnam (PCS, TDY, leave, R&R, etc.).

2) A bona fide personal emergency arises that requires purchase of dollar instruments in excess of \$200.

When an exception is authorized for one of the above two reasons, the individual must obtain a certificate from his commander or supervisor stating that the MPC in excess of \$200 was legitimately acquired.

There is also a limitation on the amount of MPC cash which an individual may have in his possession. A person is not permitted to have more MPC cash in his possession than is needed for his legitimate requirements, and in no case may this amount exceed \$1,000 unless his last previous pay drawn in-country exceeded \$1,000. (In that case he may possess no more than he drew.)

While in Vietnam the serviceman may select from a number of different pay options with regard to the disposition of his unallotted pay and allowances:

1) All pay sent to a checking account with a local military banking facility; or sent to a bank or individual in the United States.

2) All pay received by check.

3) All pay accepted in MPC cash. (This may cause the serviceman considerable inconvenience because of the currency control requirements discussed above. Remember, the \$200 monthly limit applies only for purchase of dollar instruments or deposits of MPC cash — not for transactions with allotments or checks.

4) Pay carried forward in the pay account.

5) Combinations of the above are available in some cases. For example, part going to the U.S. or to a bank here in country and part received in cash.

Military members are encouraged to have their pay sent directly to bank accounts (either a local military banking facility or a Stateside bank), and to make use of allotments of pay to provide for their personal financial needs. This provides maximum convenience for the member. It also reduces the amount of pay drawn across the board and eliminates the problem of disposing of excess MPC cash.

Military banking facilities are operating in most troop areas of Vietnam with services available to all active duty U.S. military members and to direct-hire U.S. citizen civilian employees. In remote areas of Vietnam, military banking services may be obtained by using the bank-by-mailplan or by having the finance officer send your pay check to a bank of your choice. Personal checking accounts are available with no service charge, no minimum balance requirement and no limit on the number of checks that may be written. The personal checks are payable in U.S. currency when delivered to payees outside of Vietnam and payable in MPC when negotiated in Vietnam.

Interest at the rate of 5 per cent per annum is paid quarterly on the minimum balance for each checking account that does not fall below \$100 during the calendar quarter.

A military banking account provides a convenient method of saving for that R&R, leave, new automobile or for that rainy day we always talk about. The choice is yours.

You're An Ambassador In Vietnam

The mission of the United States forces in Vietnam is much more than defeating the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese forces in armed combat. U.S. personnel must at all times conduct themselves in such a manner as to reflect the highest credit upon the United States. The adverse public reaction to acts of misconduct seriously damages the U.S. image and hampers the attainment of our total objective.

Misconduct provides an excellent propaganda source for our enemies. Stringent regulations and controls have been instituted by MACV headquarters and the headquarters of all the component services to suppress those illegal activities which have a detrimental effect on the accomplishment of our mission in the Republic of Vietnam.

Regulations published in Vietnam are applicable to all U.S. forces personnel. U.S. forces personnel includes all members of the U.S. Armed Forces and U.S. civilians serving with or accompanying the armed forces as an employee of a contractor agency in Vietnam.

As a new arrival in Vietnam, you should quickly become familiar with these regulations to insure that you fully understand and strictly comply with them.

Traffic Safety

Traffic safety is one of the major problems facing U.S. forces in Vietnam. Excessive speed is a major cause of traffic accidents here. Personnel will find that driving at speeds which are considered safe on U.S. roads will be extremely hazardous in Vietnam. The roads and streets throughout the country are particularly slippery during the rainy season.

During the dry periods, the dirt and clay roads are covered with a fine powdered silt which, when disturbed by traffic, seriously reduces the visibility of the drivers. If you drive, always adjust your speed to the existing road and traffic conditions.

The greatest percentage of fatal traffic accidents involve the operators of two-wheeled vehicles. One reason is the Vietnamese traffic law which allows a two-wheeled vehicle to pass on the right.

There is a natural tendency for a driver of a large vehicle to swerve slightly to the left in order to gain sufficient turning radius for a right turn. In most accidents of this type, the driver of the two-wheeled vehicle, seeing the small opening on the right, will attempt to pass.

As the large vehicle turns right, the victim is hit and crushed by the right rear wheel. Many times the military driver is unaware that he has struck anyone. Use your assistant driver or your side mirrors to insure that no one is passing on the right prior to making a right turn.

Two-wheeled vehicles generally travel in the far right lane, two and three abreast. Be especially alert when attempting to pass these vehicles.

Before a member of the U.S. forces can operate a govern-

ment vehicle in Vietnam, he must possess a valid operator's permit (Standard Form 46) issued for Vietnam. To obtain this permit, the individual must successfully complete a written examination covering the Vietnamese Traffic Code and International Traffic Control Signs. Booklets containing this information are available at the various reception and in-processing stations in country.

Private Vehicles

Due to the excessive number of motor vehicles already on the roads and the extremely high accident rate, the ownership of private vehicles by U.S. forces personnel in Vietnam is prohibited, except in specially-approved cases. Permission to own and operate a three- or four-wheel vehicle must be obtained from Headquarters, MACV.

Component service commanders and CG, III MAF have the authority to grant permission to personnel of their command to own and operate a two-wheeled vehicle. Safety helmets are required for all personnel who operate or ride as passengers on a two-wheeled vehicle. U.S. forces personnel are prohibited from riding on a two-wheeled vehicle operated by a Vietnamese National.

Personnel are cautioned that they are subject to being issued citations for violations of traffic laws by both Vietnamese and U.S. forces police. Individuals receiving such citations should immediately notify their unit commander or supervisor.

Private Weapons and War Trophies

Privately-owned weapons are defined in MACV Directive 210-5, and include all types of firearms, knives with folding blades in excess of three inches, switchblades, brass knuckles, blackjacks, etc. The possible advantage of having a privately-owned weapon in Vietnam is offset by the known cases of accidental discharge, indiscriminate carrying and use of concealed weapons, and other dangers involved in permitting thousands of individuals to have private sidearms.

Assignment orders advise all personnel of the prohibition of

bringing privately-owned weapons to Vietnam. Personnel who bring these weapons to Vietnam are subject to disciplinary action and must immediately turn the weapons over to their commanding officers or supervisors for safekeeping, or return them to the United States by commercial means.

Bona-fide war trophy firearms, however, may be retained in the individual's possession, but only after being properly registered. To qualify as a war trophy, the weapon must be non-automatic, have no intelligence value and must be of enemy origin.

Information on the registration and other documentation necessary to take war trophies home may be obtained from either the Customs and Travel Unit at the American Embassy or from local area provost marshals or chiefs, Security Police.

Since the administrative processing of these requests is time-consuming, personnel interested in war trophy firearms are urged not to wait until the end of the tour to submit their application to transport a war trophy home with them. Hand grenades, mines, booby traps, ammunition, explosive devices of any type even though disarmed, and automatic weapons, although rendered inoperative, are not war trophies and will not under any circumstances be carried, mailed or shipped out of Vietnam.

Black Market

The black market operation in Vietnam adversely affects the stabilization of Vietnamese economy. Goods on the black market are normally obtained by theft or the illegal disposition of U.S. goods.

Many individuals contribute to the black market without realizing it. Small inexpensive items that are purchased in the Commissary or Post Exchange as gifts find their way to vendors' stalls and carts on the black market. U.S. forces personnel are cautioned that gifts purchased in the PX may be given to persons not authorized these privileges only if the items are not rationed and do not exceed \$10.



One of the tragic aspects of the black market is that some commodities are being counterfeited and sold as U.S. merchandise. Inferior whiskey which has been locally produced, and is sold in bottles bearing American labels, may cause serious illness, blindness, or even death. Empty bottles, boxes and other containers which can be reused aid the black marketeer

in his operation and should be destroyed. All labels should be obliterated to prevent their further use.

Narcotics and Marihuana

In recent months, the press at home has given wide coverage to what has been labelled a serious marihuana problem among U.S. forces in Vietnam. Marihuana, although forbidden by the Government of Vietnam, is grown locally and is available through many illegal outlets.

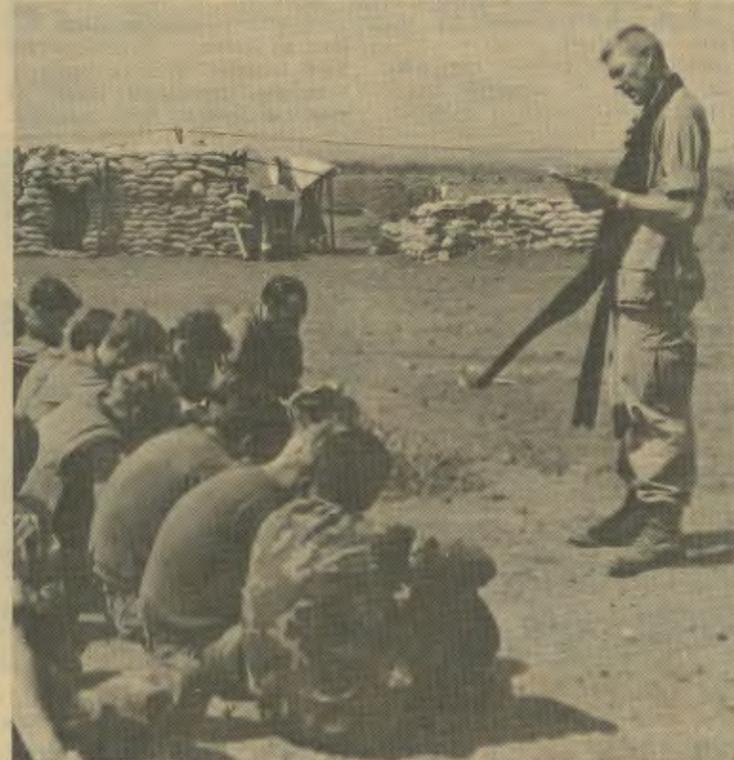
Despite this fact, the known rate of marihuana usage among our men is considerably less than newspaper articles would have us believe.

Don't be misled by any public controversy over the right or wrong of using marihuana. The simple fact is that the possession or use of marihuana in the military is a serious punishable offense. In addition to long term imprisonment and heavy fines, a federal conviction for the possession or use of narcotics, marihuana or other dangerous drugs can have a tragic far-reaching impact on future military or civilian careers.

Although only an extremely small percentage of our personnel use marihuana, it is still a very serious matter and one of deep concern to commanders at all levels. Marihuana is a dangerous drug which impairs the visual and muscular coordination of the user.

Anyone having knowledge of the possession or use of marihuana, narcotics or other dangerous drugs by members of the U.S. forces should report it to his commanding officer, local provost marshal or chief of Security Police.

Chaplains Are With You



Chaplain at Gio Linh leads Marines in prayer at edge of DMZ.

The "Go Team" for the spiritual needs of U.S. servicemen in Vietnam is composed of more than 600 chaplains of the U.S. Armed Forces. In order to be "where the action is" they have to go where the men are. In this war without a front, the chaplains are required to travel farther and faster than ever before.

The fighting man finds his chaplain at a lonely lookout post, in the jungles of Kontum or the mountains of Quang Tri. He will meet him on Swift Boats of the river patrols, in the rice paddies of the Mekong Delta, and in the jungles of the Central Highlands. The serviceman encounters the chaplain at the base camps, in the cities and villages, counseling the troubled, visiting the sick and wounded in hospitals, giving aid to Vietnamese schools, orphanages, hospitals, and religious groups.

The motto of the chaplains of the U.S. Armed Forces is "Bring God to man and man to God." Through the daily ministry of the Army, Navy and Air Force chaplains in Vietnam, this motto becomes a living reality.



Time For Solemnity, Gaiety

'Tet' Is Vietnamese New Year

The Vietnamese holiday of Tet, celebrated during the beginning of the lunar new year, is a national festival in which all of the people participate.

Meaning many things to the Vietnamese, it is a time for family reunions, the beginning of the

You May Sob If In A Mob

"Birds of a feather flock together" and that's when "Hunt-in' Charlie" brings down the whole flock.

American "military birds" lounging around bus stops and other public places in "flocks" offer the ideal target for terrorist grenadiers, bomb tossers and marksmen. The number of incidents in downtown Saigon is ample proof of the enemy's fondness for groups.

As Occidentals we are conspicuous enough without underlining the fact by bunching up out on the streets. Congregations are fine for churches, but you are inviting death, disability or a variety of wounds when you mob up at an exposed location.

Practicing supply economy with his weapons and ammo, the VC likes the odds you offer in tight-sidewalk formations and time and time again has scored in these circumstances. Remember — "Two's company and three's a crowd," and crowds mean casualties in Vietnam.

14 MACV Orientation

Oriental New Year — and it is everyone's birthday.

The American serviceman finds there is nothing like it in the United States.

Tet traditionally is a time to be solemn and a time to remember, a time to pay homage to one's ancestors and a time to look to the future. It is a time to visit family and friends, to observe ancient customs, to forgive others for their trespasses and to pay back all debts.

The event is rooted in the legends of the past. Understanding these legends can help make the celebration more meaningful to the guest from abroad.

As legend would have it, the good spirits leave earth in the closing days of the old year to report to the Heavenly Jade Emperor on the events of the past year. This temporary absence affords the evil spirits the run of the earth and the people of the land must protect themselves against them.

This legend explains many of the customs of the Tet holiday.

A clean bamboo pole, or "cay neu," is erected in front of the Vietnamese house to ward off the evil spirits. A small basket of nuts, attached to the top of the 30-foot pole, is offered to the good spirits. The poles are usually brightly decorated and also bear rice and containers of water.

Lime powder sprinkled outside a house also serves to ward off evil spirits.

Years ago, during an outbreak of the plague, the reigning emperor instructed his people to sprinkle lime outside their doors to keep away the evil spirit. The plague vanished and the rite was made a part of the Tet observance.

A branch from an apricot tree, hung in front of a house, is another way to banish evil, for the tree is a strong symbol of good.

There are but a few of the many symbolic references made throughout the holidays.

This is an important holiday of the year for the Vietnamese and the American serviceman should remember that his personal behavior will be closely observed. The Vietnamese believe that what a man does during Tet forecasts his actions for the rest of the year.

If a gift is given, a bouquet of red flowers is proper for the wife of a Vietnamese friend. A small sum of money, presented in a small red envelope, has a special significance to children.

Exchanges In Vietnam Serve All Of Country

The Vietnam Regional Exchange (VRE) is a full-time combat Exchange system that strives to provide servicemen in all parts of the country with essential health and comfort items for their daily use — and a few luxury items.

Operating out of more than 300 retail outlets, 150 food facilities and 1,500 Exchange-supervised concessions, VRE has spanned the length of Vietnam from Dong Ha near the DMZ to Bac Lieu on the Delta's southern tip. It serves all of the Free World Forces though its stores and Exchange depots give support to numerous U.S. military clubs and messes in-country.

The Exchange retail stores, ranging in size from modern department stores to small unit facilities, offer such necessary items as clothing, razor blades, cigarettes, small radios, cameras, stationery and toiletries. Many outlets offer as complete a line of goods as do Stateside facilities.

VRE food branches include familiar snack bars, featuring both hot and cold snacks and drinks, and larger dining halls that specialize in full-course meals. In addition, a number of convenient pizza parlors and quick-service cafeterias, have recently been opened in larger troop areas.

The Exchange concession program offers a variety of extra services to soldiers. Barber shops, custom tailoring and engraving shops, laundry pick-ups, photo processing outlets, watch and camera repair facilities and even steam and sauna bath houses are among the Exchange concessions for servicemen in Vietnam.

Other VRE special services allow a serviceman to order merchandise from the Far East for delivery in either Vietnam or the United States and to order U.S. goods from a mail order catalog for delivery to the States.

In 1968, Exchange officials in Vietnam began a massive operation designed to move more popular Exchange items from stores in support areas to forward areas where it could serve combat troops. The operation proved successful in reaching many more servicemen.

To extend the operation further, in the early months of 1969 VRE initiated its first regularly scheduled helicopter airlift of goods to isolated field outposts.

The "Flying PX" now serves firebases, Special Forces camps, landing zones and observation points across the vast Central Highlands region, the most isolated area of Vietnam.

Mobile Exchanges also reach the more remote troop areas with service. Near the DMZ, for instance, a truck loaded with Exchange goods regularly joins convoys that travel the hazardous distance between Dong Ha and Con Thien. The mobile PX dispenses food, drinks, smokes and comfort items to soldiers, Marines and Seabees along the 12½-mile road.

Pact Decides Legal Status Of Military

Under the terms of the Pentilateral Agreement between the United States and the Republic of Vietnam, members of the United States Mission enjoy immunity from criminal and civil jurisdiction of the Vietnamese courts. Members of the United States Armed Forces are considered to be Mission personnel and are accorded this protection.

Immunity from action by Vietnamese authorities does not mean that United States servicemen may disobey Vietnamese laws. Most conduct which would violate Vietnamese law is also a violation of the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Where this is the case, a service member may be subject to non-judicial punishment or trial by courts-martial.

Vietnamese laws and MACV directives concerning currency regulation, traffic control, and curfew hours, are particularly important. Each service member should have a thorough working knowledge of all regulations in these areas.

A serviceman apprehended by Vietnamese police must comply with their orders. He should cooperate with them in a courteous and respectable manner. He should request, however, that United States military police or his unit commander be notified.

A Vietnamese traffic citation or other legal summons must be reported immediately to the unit commander. The individual should then contact a staff judge advocate for advice as to correct procedures.



HEADQUARTERS SITE—The USMACV headquarters building, completed in the latter part of the summer of 1967, is located on a 23-acre site at Tan Son Nhut. In a sense, it is a small city. It has its own electric power plant, communications, water wells and sewage system. The two-story building contains the offices of COMUSMACV and his major staff officers.

USO Is 'Home Away From Home'

USO in Vietnam is as familiar to a serviceman as MPC and the malaria pill. It is a little touch of home and a break from the military world he lives in from day to day. USO's staff is civilian and over the past 28 years they have maintained in their facilities an atmosphere of warm hospitality. That same Stateside atmosphere exists in the USO Clubs in the Republic of Vietnam today.

The USO means different things to different people. To some servicemen, it means a Stateside hamburger and milk shake, a couple of the latest songs on the juke box, and a short game of pool before going back to his post. Some men in from the boondocks find that the free showers and shaves offered at some facilities are just what the doctor ordered. Or a man can pick up a free paperback

book, tape a letter home, or catch the floor show while he's passing through a USO Club. In fact, there are so many things going on in the USO facilities, that almost every serviceman will find a little diversion, relaxation, and maybe a laugh or two to remind him that the folks back in the "World" know he's here. . . and care.

Many clubs provide musical instruments that can be checked

out for those men who beat out their frustrations on the drums or blow those lonely feelings right through that trombone. Or for that man who may not be receiving too much mail (and when is there ever too much!) he may pick up a letter from the mail call basket from someone in the USA who wants to write to a serviceman in Vietnam.

The USO staff in Vietnam is a young, exuberant group. In addition to maintaining the club facilities, they are constantly searching for new and unique program ideas. Recently, one club staff featured Tom Sawyer Day, complete with a fence painting contest, greased pig chase and a barbeque. Another club held a volley ball tournament between military units stationed in their area and a Montagnard ARVN unit. For Father's Day, one club featured a diapering contest with 2-month-old baby pigs as the babies. Every holiday is a special day at the USO, with contests, shows and special programs.

A part of the USO operation that is known all over the world and one of the most popular areas of service is the US Shows that tour military bases and hospitals throughout the world. The USO-Hollywood Overseas Committee and USO National Headquarters work jointly arranging for visits by some of the nation's best entertainers and sports stars.

Some of the celebrities who have recently toured Vietnam include: Gypsy Rose Lee, Richard Montalban, Greg Morris (Mission Impossible), Joey Bishop, Sebastian Cabot, Jimmy Stewart, James Brown and the National Basketball Association All Stars. The scheduling of the appearances of the USO Shows is handled by the Special Services Office in Saigon.

Everyday on American Forces Vietnam Network, the USO presents a half-hour radio show, "USO Showtime". The show features the top 40 records, interviews with celebrities on USO Show tours in Vietnam, remote broadcasts from USO Clubs throughout Vietnam and from units and companies who are having special celebrations, contests and features for men who do not have access to USO Club

facilities and news of what's happening at the USOs throughout the country. The program is broadcast at 12:30 p.m., hosted by the Associate Director of Public Information, USO Vietnam.

In the Saigon USO, a jointly-operated (commercial-military) overseas telephone exchange functions daily from 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Additionally, branch lines feed through this main switchboard from several selected locations throughout Vietnam.

USO Vietnam currently operates facilities in every Corps in Da Nang to Can Tho. The Saigon USO opened in April 1963 and since that time 15 other facilities have come into existence: Da Nang (4), Nha Trang, Di An, Chu Lai, Qui Nhon, Cam Ranh Bay (3), An Khe, Can Tho, Tan Son Nhut and Vung Tau.

Duty Earns 2 Awards In Vietnam

Honorable service in the Republic of Vietnam wins for U.S. Servicemen the right to wear two service ribbons. These awards are the Vietnam Service Medal and the Vietnam Campaign Ribbon. The first is from the U.S. and the latter from the Vietnam.

The day a serviceman arrives in Vietnam, he is authorized to wear the Vietnam Service Medal (VSM). It indicates that he has served in Vietnam or its surrounding waters or air space supporting combat activities after Oct. 1, 1965. It is also awarded for certain periods of temporary duty in the combat zone.

The red stripes on the yellow background of the VSM are emblematic of the flag of the Republic of Vietnam.

Those who have served previously in Vietnam may be authorized to wear one or more small, bronze campaign stars on the VSM. Currently, the war here is in its ninth campaign.

Each serviceman assigned or attached in Vietnam is authorized to wear a campaign star on the VSM for each campaign period during which he served in Vietnam. Service regulations designate the campaign periods for each of the services.

At the end of six months service in Vietnam, U.S. servicemen are authorized to wear the green and white Vietnam campaign ribbon awarded by the Vietnamese government. It represents the gratitude of the Vietnamese people for those who have come to the assistance of their nation.

Since it is an award given by other than the U.S. government the ribbon is properly worn after all U.S. awards and decorations an individual is authorized to wear.

When worn, it must have a small metal device affixed. This device, silver in color, has "1960" inscribed on it to indicate the year in which hostilities began. The Vietnam campaign medal is not available for issue and must be purchased by the individual.

MACV Orientation 15



Servicemen enjoy gathering around the player piano at the China Beach USO near Da Nang.

Practice Personal Preventive Medicine

How To Keep Your Health In Vietnam

The chief means of staying healthy in Vietnam is by practicing personal preventive medicine, according to the MACV Command Surgeon. Diseases account for approximately 70 per cent of all admission to military medical facilities in Vietnam. Accordingly, a number of common sense rules for avoiding diseases and illnesses during a tour here have been set forth for all men and women with the U.S. Armed Forces.

To begin with, all U.S. military personnel must receive the following immunizations at the indicated intervals: plague, every six months; cholera, every six months; smallpox, every year; influenza, every year; typhoid, every three years; tetanus, every six years; and yellow fever, every ten years. Gamma globulin as a preventive measure against hepatitis is given in accordance with local regulations.

When going on R&R, leave, TDY, or returning to the U.S., all service members should

check through their unit dispensary at least a week prior to departure to be certain that their shot records are up to date.

Mosquitoes spread malaria, the most threatening single disease for the U.S. military in Vietnam, as well as spreading dengue fever and encephalitis. Some types of mosquitoes make no sound; and to make detection even more difficult, the bite of some cannot be felt. To prevent the mosquito-borne diseases, the following steps are recommended:

- Button up collars and roll down sleeves at dusk.
- Use insect repellent on all exposed skin surfaces.
- Sleep under a mosquito net and spray inclosed areas with an aerosol bomb.
- Take the orange anti-malaria pill every week and the white Depsone pill every day.

Most intestinal diseases may be avoided by following these rules:

-When in doubt about the condition of water, purify it with iodine water purification tablets or boil it for 20 minutes. Water is safe to drink only if it has been properly treated.

-Avoid all ice unless positive it was made at a U.S. military installation or other U.S. approved facility.

-Avoid Vietnamese brands of soft drinks except Coca Cola and the BGI brand with a picture of a tiger on the bottle.

-Avoid Vietnamese beers except Pierre Larue and Export 33.

-Buy no liquor on the economy, even if it has a U.S. or Canadian label.

-When eating on the economy, eat only well-cooked foods which are served hot or fruits which can be peeled immediately before consumption. Avoid salads and ice.

Skin diseases are common in tropical climates. Cuts and

abrasions of the skin should be thoroughly washed with soap and water and then bandaged in order to avoid infection. Those who have had athlete's foot in the past should sprinkle foot powder in their socks every day, and everyone should attempt to keep his feet dry at all times.

Rabies is prevalent in Vietnam and every animal bite should receive immediate medical attention. The animal should be impounded for 10 days for observation. All pets and mascots must be vaccinated for rabies as soon as they are acquired.

Heat injury can also be a problem in Vietnam. Personnel newly-arrived from the United States are encouraged to avoid unnecessary exposure to the sun until they become accustomed to it.

All personnel who find themselves frequently perspiring are encouraged to drink plenty of potable water and to use extra salt with their meals. If salt tablets are used, they should be washed down with at least a full glass of water.

R&R Is 'The Pause That Refreshes'

MACV Assists...

(Continued From Page 1)

with the CTC in Saigon is the MACV Training Directorate, which provides advice and assistance to the CTC staff and the 20 Training Centers and 25 military schools scattered from Thua Thien Province in the north to Bac Lieu Province in the Delta.

The training center advisory teams vary in size according to the training center, the largest having 18 advisors at Lam Son National Training Center and the smallest — four advisors at Tay Ninh Popular Forces Training Center. The training center advisor is intimately involved with his Vietnamese counterpart. He works with the programs of instruction, lesson plans and the presentation of classes. Through joint inspections, he and his counterpart seek to improve the quality and content of classes. He becomes involved in all aspects of Vietnamese military life. He assists in civic action projects, is present at ceremonies of his center and goes out in the field as he assists the center in the conduct of training tests and combat operations as required.

One such training center is located at Duc My in Khanh Hoa Province. The training is conducted by Vietnamese instructors with the help and assistance of U.S. advisors from the Training Directorate, Headquarters, MACV. One example is the Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol course. This course was initiated in May 1967. Its purpose is to train officer and NCO volunteers in the specialized skills needed to conduct effective patrols deep in enemy-controlled territory. The standards are high and the tests demanding. Only 50 per cent of the more than 800 students who have attended the course have been graduated.

During the course, students learn mountaineering and river crossing techniques. They are also taught how to call in artillery and air strikes, how to detect enemy routes and units and how to lead reaction forces to targets. Helicopter training is an important part of the instruction. It includes rappelling, use of the rope ladder, selection of landing zones and communications procedures. A graduation exercise includes all phases of training.

The advisory teams at the RVNAF military schools vary in size from more than 500 at the Armed Forces Language School to one officer advising both the Adjutant General and Administration and Finance Schools. Like the advisors at the training centers, the school advisors are involved in all phases of the schools' operations, from the preparation of programs of instruction to assistance in local security and perimeter defense. The importance of the RVNAF school system cannot be over-emphasized. This is where the specialist training for RVNAF is conducted. While the scope of instruction varies considerably from school to school, each has a similar mission: to provide ARVN with the specialty skills so vital to the efficient operation of a modern army. Whether he is attending a radio operator course at the Signal School, the Officer Candidate Course at the Infantry School or any of the other technical or leadership courses, the student of the RVNAF military school knows

that he is receiving the finest instruction in the most modern techniques available. In a comparison with the U.S. military school system, the RVNAF system stands in a very favorable position both as to the scope and quality of instruction.

An important aspect of the Training Directorate advisory effort is to provide advice to the Citizen Military Training Program. The program includes the student Military Training Program, similar to ROTC, which was implemented in January 1969 at the Universities of Saigon, Dalat, Hue and Can Tho. This program is conducted almost exclusively by the Vietnamese Ministry of Defense, War Veterans, and the Ministry of Education, Culture and Youth. Although U.S. advisors are not assigned to the various universities, the Training Directorate does provide advice on technical military curricula and training requirements.

The rapidly expanding program for improvement and modernization of RVNAF has taxed some service schools to the maximum as well as brought forth requirements for skills not compatible with in-country schools. This has caused increased emphasis to be placed on programs of on-the-job training with U.S. units. The Training Directorate is the coordinating and monitoring agency which supervises the overall conduct of the MACV OJT program. This program takes an RVNAF member with basic skills and places him with a U.S. unit to train by actually doing the job.

One of the more important schools in RVNAF is the Command and Staff College. Located at Dalat, the college trains senior company grade and field grade officers to assume the duties of commanders and staff officers at battalion through division level. Modeled after the U.S. Army Command & General Staff College, but modified to meet the local requirements of the Republic of Vietnam, the college provides instruction and practical work in such areas as military tactics, administration, logistics, political warfare and nation building.

Free World...

(Continued From Page 1)

tance projects in health, education, agriculture and public works.

New Zealand's commitment includes two rifle companies and an artillery battery with a logistic support group.

The New Zealand Forces are integrated within the Australian Task Force. A tri-service medical team operates in the northern provinces.

The Republic of the Philippines' contribution to the fight against Communist aggression is a 1,500-man Civic Action Group. This group has been active in the field since arriving in Vietnam in 1964.

Nationalist China has a political warfare group acting as advisors to various RVNAF headquarters and schools. Nationalist China also has a medical assistance team and an agricultural mission in country.

Spain has a military medical mission which operates in a Vietnamese provincial hospital devoted to the health and well-being of the civilian population in that area.

For the weary, worn-out serviceman who has been "humpin' it" for seven days a week since his arrival in Vietnam, a chance to change scenery during his tour comes on like a minty tonic on a hot afternoon.

Everyone gets this opportunity through the MACV Rest and Recuperation (R&R) program in which he may travel from Vietnam to one of nine of the foremost cities of the Far East and Pacific. In addition, he is offered in-country R&R for three-day periods, on a pass status, to one of several beach and resort areas.

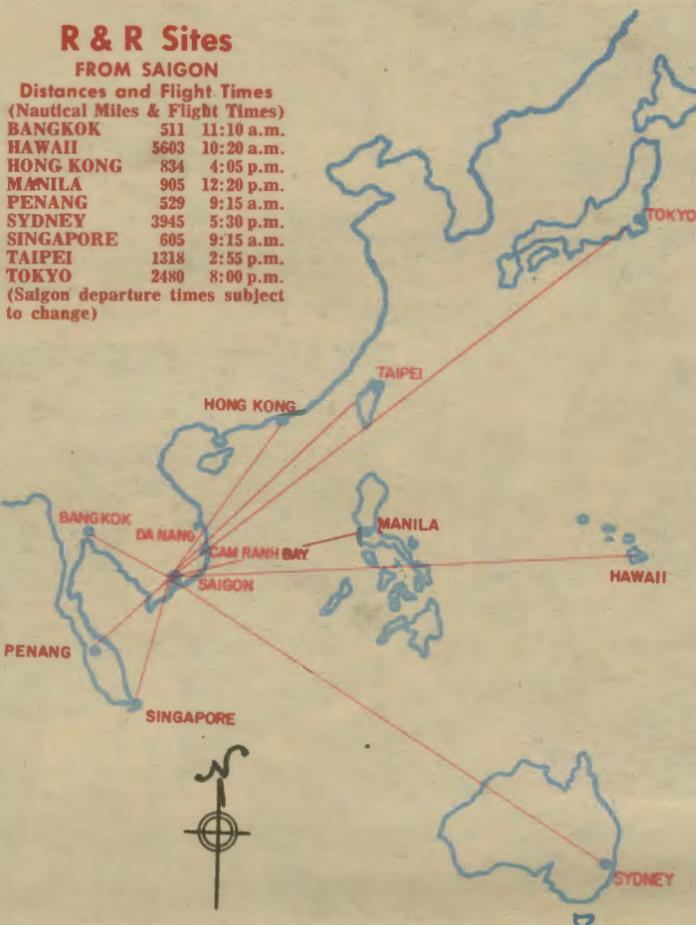
The R&R program is designated specifically to take servicemen out of their immediate environment and boost their morale by providing a refreshing break from the demands of their daily chores. R&R flights operate from Da Nang, Cam Ranh Bay and Saigon.

R & R Sites

FROM SAIGON

Distances and Flight Times (Nautical Miles & Flight Times)		
BANGKOK	511	11:10 a.m.
HAWAII	5603	10:20 a.m.
HONG KONG	834	4:05 p.m.
MANILA	905	12:20 p.m.
PENANG	529	9:15 a.m.
SYDNEY	3945	5:30 p.m.
SINGAPORE	605	9:15 a.m.
TAIPEI	1318	2:55 p.m.
TOKYO	2480	8:00 p.m.

(Saigon departure times subject to change)



MACV Leads...

(Continued From Page 1)

sive resupply capability for use by the widely dispersed group combat elements. This capability has also assisted the revolutionary development effort in providing a means for the rapid relocation of refugees and conduct of resettlement operations.

Marines Assist

The III Marine Amphibious Force (III MAF) provides both ground and air combat forces to conduct operations in the northernmost provinces of Vietnam. The Marines also engage in civil operations with Combined Action companies and platoons which work with Regional Forces and Popular Forces (RF/PF).

Advisory Effort

Included in the U.S. effort to defeat the enemy is the task of assisting the government of Vietnam in rebuilding and revitalizing its armed forces.

This has been done largely through the assignment of U.S. servicemen in the capacity of advisors and there are more than 8,000 personnel assigned to that type of job at present. Initially, their primary task was the training of the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces (RVNAF), but this emphasis has shifted to supplying and supporting the trained active duty forces with materials and fire support. Advisors are also able to devote a considerable amount of their attention to the paramilitary forces such as the Popular Forces (PF) and Regional Forces (RF). Those forces provide a large portion of the terri-

torial security for the pacification program.

Pacification Program

The purpose of the pacification program is to guarantee to the people in Vietnam the benefits of a free society. The security it provides has made the farmer and small villager more hopeful and more willing to resist the efforts of the Communists to recruit replacement troops from his family, extort food, and terrorize his community.

This resistance has been made possible by a new civic pride instilled in the people who are being shown by their government and MACV advisors how to help themselves to a better life. This assistance takes many forms: materials, food, agricultural advice, wells, buildings, roads, educational facilities and medical treatment. With the assistance of MACV, the people now have a better reason to support their government and a far greater hope for its success in the years to come.

U.S. Goal...

(Continued From Page 1)

then it can be defeated anywhere in the world," the Communists claim.

In answer to the Communist threat, and in support of our objective of insuring the independence of the Republic of Vietnam, we are doing everything necessary to reach that objective.

Despite years of war, political instability and division of their country since 1954, the people of the Republic of Vietnam fight on with courage and determination.

While essentially a morale program, R/R also provides an opportunity for each man to see a country other than Vietnam during his tour of duty. Offering a variety of settings and opportunities for sightseeing, relaxation and recreation, the R&R sites are located at:

Bangkok — where nightlife is festive and plentiful, a city in which exquisite jewels and the world's finest silks are sold.

Hawaii — one can meet his wife or family in a setting of swaying palms and inviting white beaches in these sun-splashed islands. Several free sightseeing tours are available through the R&R center.

Hong Kong — a free port, where the nightlife varies from plush restaurants to side-street cabarets, a city of oriental magic and mystery.

Georgetown on the island of Penang — a free port with quiet beaches and where the cost of living will match anyone's budget. The Malaysian girls are beautiful, friendly and most speak English.

Taipei — the capital of the island of Taiwan, a friendly, inexpensive city, surrounded by green, rolling countrysides and situated near sparkling white beaches.

Tokyo — the largest city in the world, a center of nightlife and activity, where some of the finest cameras and electronic equipment are sold.

Sydney — a modern cosmopolitan city of friendly English-speaking Australians with whom Americans have felt a special kinship. Recreational opportunities are inexhaustible. Bush barbecues, big game and deep-sea fishing, harbor cruises, and plenty of nightclubbing are the order of the day.

Manila — the capital of the Philippines has beautiful scenery abounding in recreation for the serviceman on R&R. Also found are excellent hotels and restaurants specializing in American, French and Spanish cuisine.

Singapore — the old, enchanting city of intrigue, featuring a host of cabarets and restaurants, a city in which goods from all over the world are sold free of duty.

Each serviceman is authorized one R&R trip outside Vietnam during his 12-month tour. Eligibility for R&R begins after completion of three months of the tour. Those who extend their tours beyond 90 days are eligible for another R&R during the extension.