

**HAWK****TALK**

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Number 4

1st Aviation Brigade

April 15, 1967

**52d BATTALION  
SETS RECORDS**

**PLEIKU, (17th Avn Gp 0)---**Flying more than 5,000 hours in 52 consecutive accident-free days, the four helicopter companies of the Army's 2nd Combat Aviation attalion shattered all safety records of the 1st Aviation Brigade. Flying combat and support missions from their central highlands bases in January, February and March, in and ground crews fought enemy ground fire, treacherous weather, hazards, on Page 4, Col. 1)

**NCO CONVERTS  
C-1 TO "DRAGON"**

**DA NANG (220th Avn IO)---**Army sergeant hero with a flair for improvising has been credited with 50 VC kills.

Staff Sergeant Robert Putnam flies as an observer in an O-1 Bird Dog for the 220th Reconnaissance Airplane Company. As an observer, he often fights small groups of enemy who usually seek cover on being spotted. A quick radio call usually brings artillery aircraft to blast the enemy. on Page 4, Col. 3)

**AIDE GETS DSC**

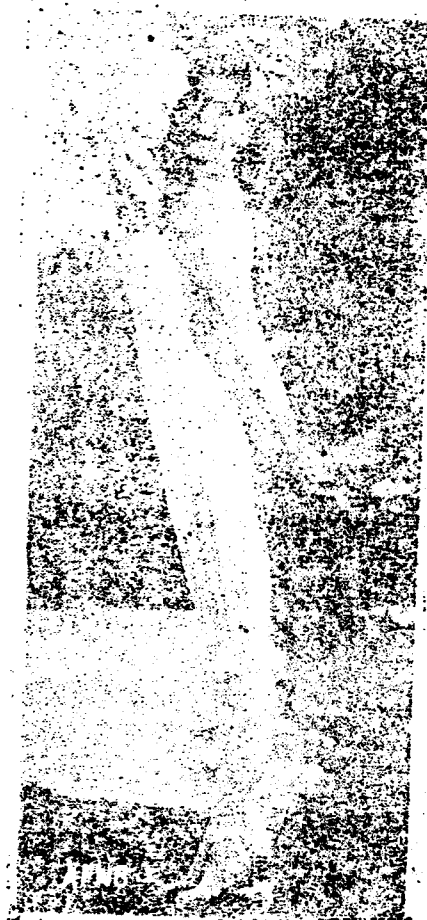
**TAN SON NHUT---**The nation's second highest award, the Distinguished Service Cross, was presented to a brigade member on March 30.

General William C. West-Moreland, commanding general, U.S. Army Vietnam, made the presentation to First Lieutenant John R. Johnston.

Johnston was cited for heroism while serving with the 1st Infantry Division on a search and destroy mission near Lai Khe, Aug. 25, 1966.

While an armored cavalry platoon leader, he was dispatched to reinforce another armored platoon under attack by a large Viet Cong force.

Loading his platoon into the battle, Johnston's armored personnel carrier (Cont. on Page 4, Col. 1)



"Just tickled pink," was TV personality Patricia Blair's response when told that HAWK TALK will be published twice monthly.

**SIX WARRANTS  
EXCHANGE BARS**

**PHU LOI (11 CA Bn IO)---**Six 11th Combat Aviation Battalion aviators recently received direct commissions as second lieutenants. The former warrant officers are: Joe T. Stroud Jr.; William R. Garrison; Robert D. Torrey; Anthony V. Eutson; James T. Jackson; and Bruce A. Terrell.

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## VUNG TAU INSPECTIONS

If you intend to take in-country R&R at Vung Tau, you should know about approved eating establishments there.

Currently, 12 restaurants are inspected monthly for general cleanliness. Kitchens are inspected for fly-proofing, food storage, food handling and preparation, and cleaning of utensils.

Two Medical Corps officers and two preventive medicine representatives are the inspecting team.

The team rates acceptable restaurants with an "A" or "B" rating. An "A" denotes the best restaurants, approximating standards in the U.S. A "B" denotes minimum acceptable standards.

Results of inspections are published in the Vung Tau Sub-Area Command Daily Bulletin for three days and repeated in two weeks. Only the ratings for restaurants with acceptable facilities are published. Restaurants not listed are unacceptable.

## WARRANT STUDY RELEASED

As the result of a recent study made by the Warrant Officer Study Group, the Army's Chief of Staff has approved several new features to the Warrant Officer Program.

## HAWK TALK

HAWK TALK is published twice monthly by the Information Office, 1st Aviation Brigade, and is an authorized Army publication.

Opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army. HAWK TALK uses the facilities of the ARMED FORCES NEWS BUREAU and ARMY NEWS FEATURES. Contributions are welcome and should be sent to: HAWK TALK, 1st AVN BDE IO, APO 96307 or telephone Army 517.

BG G.E. Seneff.....  
Commanding General  
MAJ J.F. Foster.....  
Information Officer  
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Editor

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## IN MEMORIAM

With deep regret we note the death of Colonel Jack T. Dempsey, commanding officer of the 13th Aviation Battalion.

Chaplain's  
★ Corner +

## SOMETHING MISSING

Valux is a quality that each of us would like to have characterize ourselves. We would like to be in the category of "solid citizens," however unless we give attention to every part of our being, we become one-sided.

In the Gospels, a question of priority and loyalty arose. Our Lord answered by saying that we should "render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's and unto God the things that are God's." There is no conflict in serving our God and our nation at the same time.

Our presence here is indicative of rendering our nation the service due it. During the Civil War, President Lincoln stated, "...those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord." Our service is meaningful when we render the things due our nation and our God. Let us live lives of full value and determine for ourselves that NOTHING WILL BE MISSING.

FORGET SOMETHING?



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178<sup>TH</sup> BREAKS  
OWN RECORDS

PHU LOI (178th ASH Co IO)---Within a one week period two records have been set by the 178th Assault Support Helicopter Company here.

Flying an average of nearly four hours per day with eight CH-47 "Chinook" helicopters normally available, the 178th "Boxcars" recently logged their 9,170th combat flying hour in Vietnam bringing their total since activation a year and a half ago to a staggering 10,000 hours.

One week later they broke their own record of 386 tons for high tonnage hauled, lifting 515.6 tons of cargo in a single day. Normally flying in support of the 1st Infantry Division and the 173d Airborne Brigade, the "Boxcars" have air lifted 36,800 tons of cargo, 82,700 troops and recovered 236 downed aircraft. All this in little more than 10 months in Vietnam.

## CHAPEL DEDICATED

PHU LOI (11th Avn IO)---On Easter Sunday the 11th Combat Aviation Battalion held formal services here for the dedication of its new chapel.

Chaplain (Captain) Terry M. Woodberry offered the prayer of dedication and accepted a memorial dedicated to officers and men of the 11th Battalion killed in action in Vietnam.

## AMBUSH AMBUSHED

AN SON (174th AH Co)---Ten Viet Cong were killed and their automatic weapons position destroyed when their ambush backfired recently seven miles north of Qui Nhon.

NEW BATTALION  
JOINS BRIGADE

TAN SON NHUT (1st Avn Bde IO)---Army Aviation in Vietnam continues to expand with the addition of a new helicopter company to the 1st Aviation Brigade.

Advance elements of the 200th Assault Support Helicopter Company began arriving early in March. When fully operational, the CH-47 "Chinook" company will support II Field Force Vietnam from its base camp at Bear Cat, 25 miles northeast of Saigon.

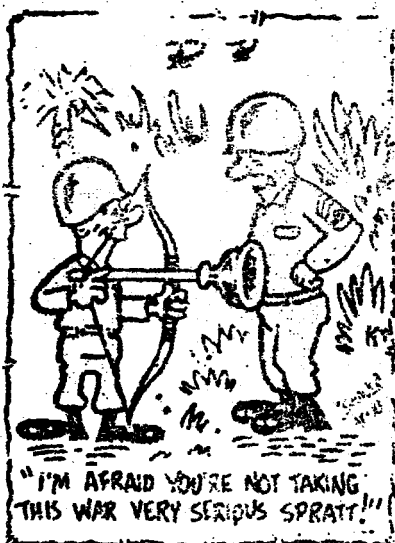
Versatile Chinooks provide troop and cargo lift support and air mobility for artillery throughout Vietnam.

For several days prior to the action, resupply helicopters of the Army's 174th Assault Helicopter Company had been fired on as they flew missions to Republic of Korea (ROK) Capitol Infantry Division outpost. Armed helicopters sent to the scene each time could find no one.

So a decision was made to ambush the ambushers. Three volunteers, Major Bennard R. Cobb, Staff Sergeant Herman J. Grey, and Sergeant Dexter Frisby were selected. They were lifted into the area with rations, weapons and binoculars. Two days later their vigil was rewarded.

They spotted a VC patrol getting into position to ambush that day's resupply run. Major Cobb radioed the company and armed helicopters were sent to positions just out of sight of the VC.

True to form, the VC began to fire as soon as they spotted the supply ship. But this time they were surprised. Before they had a chance to hide the gunships turned the tables and annihilated the Cong---ambushed their ambush.



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25C  
(Cont. from Page 1)

(APC) was struck by two recoilless rifle rounds. Several crew members were wounded and the vehicle was immobilized.

After aiding the wounded and supervising their evacuation, Johnston ran through the heavy small arms and mortar fire to another APC. Discovering its radio inoperable he left the vehicle to direct the defense.

His citation reads: "Contemptuous of the devastating hostile fire which claimed casualties all around him, he darted among the Tracks shouting orders and encouragement. Throughout the...eighteen hours, his unimpeachable valor and dynamic leadership inspired his men to resist every hostile attack, finally forcing the insurgents to retreat into the jungle."

Johnston, 23, is now aide-de-camp to Brigadier General G.P. Seneff, commanding general, 1st Aviation Brigade.

## BUILDINGS ADDED

PHU LOI (128th Avn Co IO)---The 128th Assault Helicopter Company here is having growing pains.

With an increase in personnel, the Tomahawks have devised a program to provide new billets and recreational facilities.

In addition to new billets, the company members will have an improved mess hall and new clubs for the officers and EM.



I SHOULD HAVE FIGURED OUT WHY THEY LET ME COME ALONG!

52d (Cont from Page 1) arduous nighttime flying conditions and fatigue in producing their record-breaking performance.

Lieutenant Colonel Paul C. Smithoy (Treasure Island, Fla.) Commanding Officer of the 52nd, praised the professionalism of aviators, unit safety officers and maintenance teams in setting their enviable record.

During the 52 day period, the four companies had an average of 85 "Hueys" and 12 CH-47 "Chinook" helicopters flying daily requiring maximum performance by both air and ground crews. The 119th and 170th, as well as the 179th CH-47 Assault Support Helicopter Company stationed at Fleiku and the 155th Assault Helicopter Company based at Ban Me Thuot.

CUT "P" SPENDING

## BROTHERS SERVE IN SAME BATTALION

QUI NHON (14 CA Bn IO)-Would you believe? Two sets of brothers in the same battalion.

Although brothers don't have to serve simultaneously in a combat zone, two sets of brothers are serving their full tours voluntarily with the 14th Combat Aviation Battalion near Qui Nhon.

Lieutenant Errol F. Lanier and Warrant Officer Carroll V. Lanier are assigned to the 161st Assault Helicopter Company. Specialists Four Jerry Head and Billy Head are assigned to the battalion headquarters.

NCO

(Cont. from Page 1)

VC. Occasionally, though, none are available.

Left with only target-marking rockets for offensive capability, the small plane would do little damage to the Cong. With this in mind, the sergeant mounted a standard M-60 machine gun in the side window of the Bird Dog.

Proof of the effectiveness of his system is his score to date--50 confirmed VC dead in four months, with five in one day during his most recent encounter with the elusive Cong.

## WARRANTS

(Cont. from Page 2)

tional specialty (MOS) will also be modified to provide more accurate identification of skills and better management and use of personnel.

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