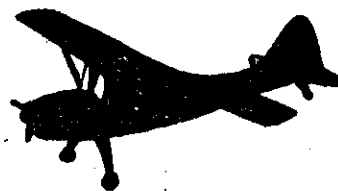
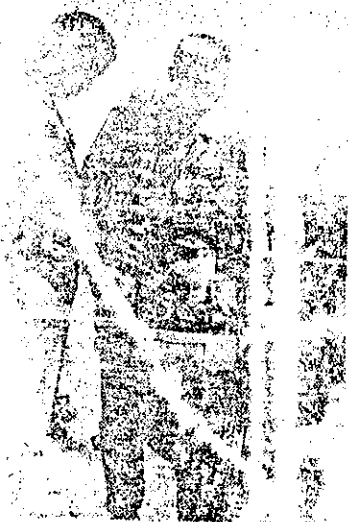


19-*mm* DATE: 17 June 1987**HAWK****TALK****NGUY - HIEM**

1ST AVIATION BRIGADE

DEC 66

MERRY CHRISTMAS

TOWER--SP5 George F. ...
Sgt. Richard C. Patton
Aviation Co., load the ...
40mm grenade ...
Hou, Vietnam.

"Peace on earth among men of good will".

That message from God, as proclaimed by the angelic chorus, is still the desire of men everywhere. It is an especial hope and aspiration for men, such as we, who are engaged in a hostile action. It is my prayer for you during this season, holy to Jew and Christian.

I need not remind you that the Hannukah-Christmas season is traditionally a family festival and that you and I should much rather be with our loved ones. I shall point out, however, that the Hebrew word "Hannukah" means "Dedication". So, let us make this season for dedication of ourselves anew to our mission of helping to bring that God-promised peace to all men who join us in a love of freedom. This cause, I sincerely believe is worth all the loneliness, hardship, and danger which we are sharing. May God bless you - with peace.

Signatures
G. P. SINEFF, JR.
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding

A BIG JOB

U.S. Army armed helicopter action killed more than 9,500 enemy troops in South Vietnam during an eight-month period this year flying 66,694 sorties supporting allied forces' operations.

February-September contributions came from reliable sources including South Korean troops, who credited two "gunships" with wiping out a 30-man Viet Cong platoon in one engagement.

April's "kills" was his best with a confirmed count of 1,383 enemy dead.

145TH AVN GETS DUC

LONG BINH (12th Gp IO)---
On 11 Dec 1966 the 145th Combat Aviation Battalion was presented the Distinguished Unit Citation by Gen William C. Westmoreland, COMUSMACV, in dedication ceremonies at Long Binh.

The battalion was honored for its heroic actions displayed in the battle of Dong Xoai in June 1965, a vicious 3-day struggle against the VC, when the

145th sustained intense enemy fire in flying 2700 combat sorties and transporting 3500 troops in defense of Dong Xoai.

(continued page 2, col 1)



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HAWK TALK

Dec 66

145TH DUC -

Other high military officials present at the ceremony were LTG Jonothan O. Seaman, CG, II Field Force Vietnam, and BG G. P. Seneff, Jr., CG, 1st Avn Bde.

On 10 June 1965, the beginning of the memorable battle, the besieged defenders of Dong Xoai requested assistance in repelling a vicious VC attack. The 145th Combat Aviation Battalion with its Army Aviation firepower responded with immediate support. Upon learning that a group of the defenders of Dong Xoai were wounded, needed medical attention, and were exposed to the VC, the crews of three US Army helicopters volunteered to try a rescue. Although the insurgents had all approaches covered by .50 caliber machine guns and were pouring a murderous barrage of bullets into Dong Xoai, the helicopters of the 145th flew through the hail of fire, landed in the open, and evacuated the injured defenders without sustaining loss to any of the crew. However, in a later engagement, the VC shot down a "Huey" of the 145th with automatic weapons fire, killing 4 Americans and 10 Vietnamese.

Lasting for 3 days, the fighting continued with other armed helicopters sustaining hits during the period. The vital gun ships of the 145th proved to be the deciding factor in the battle, as the helicopters saturated the VC positions, driving them slowly into submission. The 145th Combat Aviation Battalion provided fire support in performing combat assaults and gave critical medical evac-

TUUNLABOUT?

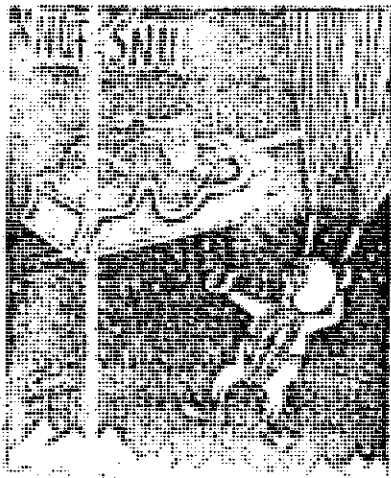
PHU LOI (11th Bn IO)---

PSG, E7, Lonnie Claiborne, L.A., Cal., a tough platoon sergeant at Fort Polk, La., who drove his men during AIT by continually reminding them, "You'd better learn what I'm teaching! You are going to Vietnam, not me." found himself reporting in for duty with the 11th Bn.

PFC Jerry F. Prater, Piedmont, Ala., looked up from his desk in Bn S1, disbelieving and apprehensive. It had to be a bad dream. The nemesis he had so thank fully left behind in Nov 65 just couldn't be facing him now. Building up courage though, he exclaimed, "I guess I've got the last laugh, Sarge!"

A short moment of contemplation returned the cold glint to the tough sergeant's eyes and a now cocky PFC abruptly stiffened as the all too familiar voice bellowed, "I thought I told you to shave that mustache off!"

On one point, however, they are in agreement. Neither needs to be reminded that it's a small world.



uations, to the injured until insuring that the village of Dong Xoai was secure from VC aggression.

CHAPLAINS CORNER

"What's it all about"

Suddenly - here in Viet Nam, in the midst of the heat, and all the loneliness, and the bloodshed - there is a flurry of new activity. Headquarters and living hootches, dining halls and clubs have become bright with new color. Special activities and parties are being planned. As one walks through the unit area more smiles are seen and many men walk with a lighter step. The mail clerk, although he's smiling too, has never been so busy. He's loaded down with packages. What's it all about? I'll tell you.

"And there were - shepherds - keeping watch over their flock - And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them - And the angel said to them, 'Fear not - For unto you is born a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord, --- Glory to God in the highest and on earth, peace to men of good will'."

HAWK TALK

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EDITORIAL --

UNCLASSIFIED

Page 2

HOOLIGANISM

Webster defines hooliganism as "the behavior or character of a hooligan or hoodlum". It manifests itself in many of the unthinking acts of our soldiers in public. While our record in the brigade is one of which we can all be justifiably proud, there is always room for improvement in our public conduct.

Remember, being overseas and away from the influence of home and family does not give us license to act any differently than we would at home. Our careless acts reflect on ourselves, our units, the Army and give our Vietnamese allies a false picture of the United States in general.

Think before you act unthinkingly!

DANGER!

"NGUY HIEM", the recently adopted motto of the 1st Aviation Brigade carries deep significance to the nearly 14,000 men of the brigade. Meaning "Danger", the Vietnamese expression "NGUY HIEM" (nwee-hem), is painted near the tail rotor of each of the brigade's more than 700 helicopters to warn of the sudden disaster that awaits anyone who approaches too closely.

It was on the tail boom of one of the brigade's famous "Hueys" that General Snodgrass first noticed the Vietnamese expression. After seeing the phrase many more times on succeeding days, he questioned its meaning. From there it was only a few short steps to the official adoption of "NGUY HIEM" as the brigade motto.

42 Sampans Sunk

BIEN HOA (145th Bn IO)-- Early morning Dec 5th armed helicopters of the Army's 334th Armed Helicopter Co., sunk 42 sampans and destroyed 3 structures along a network of canals in the RUNG SAT area 10 miles southwest of Saigon.

In addition to the standard armaments of M-60 machine guns, 40 mm grenades, 2.75 inch rockets and .50 caliber machine guns the "Hueys" were equipped with the "Firefly" lighting system. The "Firefly" system, developed earlier this year by Army helicopter units in the Delta region, enables the copters to light up large areas and then attack targets they have located.

Action that morning was so extensive it required several trips back to home base to re-arm and refuel the helicopter gun ships. No damage or injuries were suffered by the 334th during the engagement.

TWICE MONTHLY PAY BY 1969

WASHINGTON (ANF)---- The Office of the Chief of Finance reports that paychecks will be handed out twice a month to all Army personnel by the first of 1969.

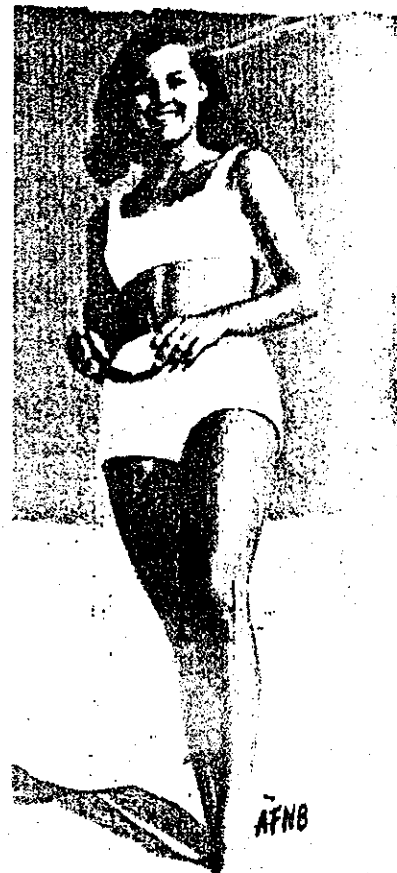
The announcement followed the release of a Department of Defense directive that all Armed Services adopt the twice-a-month pay policy by July 1, 1969. The DoD program, called the Joint Uniform Military Pay System (JUMPS), would establish equal pay periods ending on the 15th and on the last working day of each month.

The JUMPS program differs from the Army's experimental Centralized Automat-

ed Military Pay System (CAMPS), which authorizes pay twice a month but allows personnel to choose what portion of their monthly pay they want every two weeks.

Some 60,000 Army soldiers around the world who now receive pay under the CAMPS experiment will be incorporated under JUMPS on July 1, 1969. The remaining personnel receiving checks once a month will be phased into the JUMPS program by Dec. 31, 1968.

Other Armed Services currently have pay programs whereby personnel are paid equal amounts twice a month.



CHRISTMAS IN FLORIDA
Pensacola Beach on north
ida's "miracle strip" summer
mains the year-round. Just to
it Susan Price enjoys the
70-plus degree weather on
white sand dunes.

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TAN Defense RE-ENLISTMENT CHOICES

TAN SON NHUT (Bde IO)—Sixteen helicopter pilots and crew members were awarded the Air Medal with "V" for valorous action in ceremonies here recently.

The awards were presented by BG G. P. Seneff, Jr., CG of the Army's 1st Avn Bde. Gen Seneff praised the men for their gallantry and told them he was "proud and pleased to be on the same team" with them.

The award recipients were part of a ready alert force that was called into action early Dec 4th to repulse a VC attack against TAN SON NHUT airfield here. All are assigned to the 120th Assault Helicopter Company which responded to the threat by having four gunships airborne within 2 minutes of the alert. Within an hour of the alert two more ships from the 173d Assault Helicopter Co. joined the fray. The pilots and crews of these two ships will also receive Air Medals with "V" in ceremonies scheduled for later.

The initial task of the gunships was to find "Charlie". Although flare ships were lighting the area and the helicopters used search-

The Army is again offering a choice of stateside duty station and a guaranteed 12-month stabilized tour to Vietnam returnees who reenlist for four or more years.

This option, which was dropped last July because of the buildup, is extended to E-6s and below with less than seven years active service who complete a normal Vietnam tour.

Assignments will be handled by Army's Office of Personnel Operations with

three choices of station or geographical area offered.

Individuals not due for separation may be discharged and immediately reenlisted before they leave Vietnam.

Those eligible for separation because of enlistment expiration are given wider latitude. They may reenlist before leaving Vietnam; they may reenlist in the United States; or they may reenlist within three months after separation.



lights to attempt to locate the enemy it became necessary to fly "low and slow" and expose themselves to hostile fire before the VC were found.

Once the enemy was located along the northwest edge of the airfield and friendly ground forces had been identified the gunships went into action.

The six gunships expended more than 16,000 rounds of machine gun ammo, 300 rockets and 1,000 rounds of 40 mm shells leaving Charlie's attack completely disorganized and enemy dead and wounded scattered over the area.

Despite a total of more than 15 hours combined flying time and intense enemy automatic and small arms fire no injuries or damage was sustained by any of the gunships.

Strange Award

BINH LONG (12th Gp IO)—The 147th Helicopter Company in Lai Khe has recently acclaimed a hero. Major Thomas A. Rice was presented the "Purple and Green Heart with Leech Device" by his battalion commander, Lt Col Joseph B. Starker, for wounds received during an encounter with active VC leeches.

Maj Rice was praised during a recent operation when he force landed his helicopter in active VC territory, waist deep in paddy water. Leeches were abundant in the stagnant water but Maj Rice displayed extreme professionalism in simultaneously supervising the evacuation of the helicopter while aggressively encountering leeches crawling up his pants leg, inflicting many bites.

His advice on counter-leech techniques - burn hell out of them with cigarette butts and secure pants in your boots with shoe laces, prevented his commander and crew from sustaining like bites.

