

AF Measures Plane Repair Against U.S. Gold Outflow

SAIGON (AP) — The U.S. gold outflow is one of the factors military men must consider in deciding where to send a battle-damaged airplane for repairs.

U.S. Air Force officers, reporting this, said some planes are sent to civilian repair plants in Asia, while others are shipped back to their manufacturers in the United States.

"We have to determine how much capability the facility has, what it can do," said Col. Clyde L. Bellows, of San Antonio, Tex., the logistics command liaison officer to the 7th Air Force in Vietnam. "The gold flow has to be taken into consideration. We can spend only so much money in this area

(Asia)."

"The bulk of major crash or battle-damage work is done by civilians because they have the capabilities," Bellows said.

The determination of where to send the aircraft for repair is made by the Air Force logistics command in consultation with Air Force depots in the United States that support the systems for each type aircraft and with the Air Force procurement officer for the Far East region.

When an airplane is damaged in Vietnam, it is turned over to what is called a Rapid Air Maintenance team-RAM-under the direction of Bellows. The team will repair it completely right at the base for flight; repair it for a single

flight to one of the contractors in Asia, or repair it for a flight to the United States.

Many of the aircraft returned to the United States for repair are flown back in big cargo planes. The damaged aircraft are disassembled and placed in prefabricated crates which are made to fit each component.

Aircraft shipped to foreign countries for repair are stripped of classified equipment.

If an aircraft is beyond repair, the Air Force has what it calls a "save list" which specifies items to be salvaged.

The Air Force here said it does not have complete data on the number of contracts let out, to whom they are let or other financial information.

Crippled Youth Gets New Start

SAIGON (IO) — An amputee from the Da Nang area without a job or skill has found both in the Army's largest motor pool.

Nguyen Nhieu lived and worked on a farm just outside of Da Nang most of his life. During a battle between the Americans and Viet Cong last summer, shrapnel from an exploding mortar round shattered his left leg.

The Americans helped the 19-year-old youth to a hospital in the city where his leg was amputated below the knee and was replaced with an artificial wooden leg. Last August he was sent to a Saigon hospital for recuperation. While there, a representative of the Saigon Area Civilian Personnel Office became interested in him and tried to find a job for him.

The personnel office five months ago approached Maj. Orlando D. Alexander, transportation officer of U.S. Army Headquarters Area Command's motor pool, with the idea of hiring Nguyen and giving him on the job training.

Alexander placed him in the maintenance section where he soon went to work as an assistant carburetor repairman.

"He is doing a very good job and is working hard," said Alexander. "I am thinking about hiring two or three more handicapped workers for clerical work."

Through an interpreter, Nguyen said, "I like my job very much. I am learning a trade that will always be useful no matter where I go."



Gen. William C. Westmoreland, commanding general, U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, prepares to place the silver blue streamer of the U.S. Presidential Citation above the banner of the 8th Airborne Bn., Vietnamese Airborne Div. (USA)

Viet Airborne Unit Wins U.S. Citation

LONG BINH, Vietnam (IO) — The 8th Airborne Bn., Vietnamese Airborne Div., received the U.S. Presidential Unit Citation (Army) from General William C. Westmoreland, commanding general U. S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, during ceremonies on the parade grounds of the battalion's Tan Son Nhut compound.

Westmoreland placed the silver blue streamer above the

battalion's banner in recognition of the unit's achievements during the period February 25 to 28, 1966, when the unit repeatedly staged successful assaults against strongly fortified enemy positions which had previously repulsed two Vietnamese Army battalions.

Division commander, Maj. Gen. Du Quoc Dong, accepted the citation which was presented by Westmoreland on behalf of the president of the United States.

Vietnamese Secretary of Defense, Gen. Cao Van Vien, reviewed the troops during the morning ceremonies.

Col. Leroy S. Stanley, senior advisor of the Airborne Division Advisory Detachment, emphasized, "All detachment advisors have excellent relationships with the members of the division. The unit is patterned after U. S. airborne divisions; all the men are volunteers and because of their heroic efforts, they have made this the finest battalion in the Vietnamese Army. The citation proves this and was well earned."

By Corky Trinidad

