

The



OBSERVER

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See Blonde With Enemy

25TH INF DIV - Anyone who has ever been in the field will tell you that he's seen some mighty strange things. But 25th Division infantrymen from Company A, 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry, may have seen the strangest thing in recent combat history - a blonde caucasian among the members of an enemy patrol near FSB Lynch.

As the point element of Company C, a scout dog and handler from the 66th Scout Dog Team, approached a small clearing the animal alerted to the presence of the enemy. The team moved to the edge of the clearing and spotted two enemy soldiers moving away from them and slightly across their path.

The handler opened fire and wounded one of them, causing him to drop his AK-47 and run into the woods.

Following heavy blood trails and numerous visual signs, the "Wolfhounds" spotted another group of six to eight NVA soldiers, but this time with an unusual difference.

One of the men was a blonde caucasian.

"I was ready to fire," said Staff Sergeant Joseph Burnett of Tryon, N.C., who was near the front of the Wolfhound element, "but I saw this blonde guy in the middle.

"They were in line and heading away from us, about to go into the woods," continued

Burnett. "I figured the guy must be a prisoner, and I didn't want to shoot him, so I engaged those behind him. He didn't seem to try to escape, but ran with the rest of them into the woodline where we lost them."

Along with the one enemy rifle, the enemy left behind five rucksacks containing medical supplies and clothing.

The identity of the stranger remains a mystery, but you can be sure the Wolfhounds will be watching for him.



Montagnard refugees carry belongings on the backs of elephants while fleeing the enemy in Cambodia. (USA PHOTO By: Sp4 Jim DeGraci)

Seek Refuge In The RVN

A 'Sticky' Situation Here

IFFV - Specialist 4 William D. Dawson took a short cut recently at 4th Battalion, 60th Artillery at An Khe - a reroute that probably will "stick" in his mind for a long time.

Dawson was crossing behind the mess hall after guard duty when he took a detour around a parked truck. In the process of rerouting, he had to walk over the grease trap.

As he stepped on the trap, a supporting rod broke. A dull splash followed and Dawson was shoulder deep in "gray, slimy stuff."

"It was like falling into a drum of thick, heavy axle grease," he described after crawling out of the true life "grease trap."

The pit was almost 10 feet deep but Dawson, from Nashville, Tenn., had grabbed hold of a supporting rod on the way down, keeping him from slipping all the way to the bottom.

You can bet that Dawson, a light vehicle driver for Battery E, 41st Artillery (4/60th's attached Quad 50 unit), will think twice when he detours around another truck that's anywhere near a mess hall.

5TH SFGA - Silently the huge animals moved thru the jungle carrying the burden of goods and materials packed on their backs in huge towering stacks by their Montagnard owners. Back and forth the elephant caravan had plied the jungled forests and grassy hills of

Chang Duc Province until, with this final load, the last of the supplies had been ferried from

caches near the Cambodian border.

FLEE COMMUNISTS

This was not a clandestine guerrilla convoy carrying weapons of war, but a peaceful caravan of Montagnard refugees fleeing encroaching pressures of Communist troops near their former home in Cambodia. They had come to find sanctuary under the guarding eye of New Bu Prang, a Special Forces

advised CIDG camp near the Cambodian border in the highlands of the RVN.

Sergeant First Class Charles Bishop, team sergeant of New Bu Prang, explained that, "About a month ago some refugees asked if they could move into our area. We took a truck out and picked up the first group of about 30 people. Since then there has been a steady flow of people each day from an area in Cambodia just north of us."

Normally a nomadic group following a loose life style of slash-and-burn agriculture and expressing a rather nonchalant attitude toward international borders, these fiercely independent and proud Montagnards had come to stay.

DISMANTLED HOMES

Earlier they had dismantled their homes and huts in Cambodia and carefully tucked away their belongings in caches just across the border in the RVN. At times they were forced to work under the cover of darkness lest their actions be discovered and their materials confiscated by Communist guerrillas. Then, they moved in mass across the border, whole families pitching in to drive the livestock. Once settled near the CIDG camp it was easy for them to move back and retrieve their cache.

Making Friends Pays Big Dividends

36TH ENGR BN - "Operation Friendship" does pay off. The Second Platoon of Company C, 36th Engineer Battalion, 20th Engineer Brigade, found this out recently when they were warned of an enemy mine field by children they had recently befriended.

During a typically hot delta day, the platoon had stopped work for chow near a bridge site that was under construction. One of the many kids that always seem to materialize at chow time began yelling, "Sergeant Ski! Sergeant Ski! VC! VC!" and was pointing toward the bridge.

Sergeant First Class Stanislaus

Orzechowski of Holly Hill, Fla., known as "Sergeant Ski" to GIs and kids alike, followed the child to the bridge. A maze of varied colored wires was discovered attached to some field expedient mines.

The Vinh Long Emergency Ordnance Disposal team was called in and, after checking the site, decided to blow the mines in place. The area was cleared and the mines blown, filling the entire area where the men had been eating chow with shrapnel and debris. For their good deed, Orzechowski saw that his little friends got all the candy they wanted.

Escape Well Planned

In the peace and relative security of their new home a village of some 300 huts quickly took shape. They gave it the name of Hoa Binh (Peace Village). Everything from straw panels to tin sheets went into the new homes, including some old Army tents supplied by the A Team at New Bu Prang.

The A Team is attempting to assist them as much as possible, although they themselves are busy completing the construction of their new camp.

Formerly, the camp had been located some two kilometers away, but the new camp is being built on more suitable terrain to permit the construction of an adjacent airstrip.

NO PROGRAM YET

At this time the A Team has no coordinated program for assisting the refugees aside from

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Pavlov Method Used In Training

FLC - A Marine rifleman knows what it is like to patrol the bush. He knows the sound of enemy AK-47 rifle fire, and the familiar shadow of a VC sniper hiding in the treeline. But the one danger that he cannot see is enemy mines and booby traps.

To counteract this hidden threat the Marine Corps has introduced mine and booby trap dogs to the RVN. The results have certainly been demoralizing to the VC.

The Force Logistic Command's (FLC) 3rd Military Police Battalion is the home for all Marine Corps mine and booby trap dogs in the RVN. The battalion also handles Leatherneck scout and sentry dogs.

Mine and booby trap dogs are purchased from a civilian enterprise in Raleigh, North Carolina.

The dogs, all German Shepherds, undergo 18 weeks of training conducted by practicing psychologists and college psychology students. Using the same reasoning as Pavlov used in his conditioned response experiments, the dogs are rewarded with food or praise after finding a dummy mine or booby trap.

Although it is not certain what a dog actually senses when he discovers a mine or booby trap, the theory is that he detects one or more of three different things, the smell of the mine or booby trap, the scent of the human who planted it, or the visual disturbance in the terrain.

The dogs have been trained to sit down within two feet of a mine or booby trap. During training or "maintenance" sessions, the dogs are rewarded if they sit down within two feet of the dummy device. A bad response is when the dog sits down from two to 10 feet away, and any distance over 10 feet is counted as a miss.

Partly responsible for the success of the dogs is Marine Captain David A. Lucero, commanding officer of the 3rd MP Battalion's Headquarters and Service Company, and project officer in charge of the mine and booby trap dogs.

Lucero spent three days in

Raleigh familiarizing himself with the dogs before reporting to the RVN. Like most of his dog handlers, he had no previous experience working with dogs.

He explained that it is difficult for a scout dog handler to adopt to the handling or training techniques used for mine and booby trap dogs.

Mine and booby trap dogs do not usually share the same vicious nature that is common in scout and sentry dogs.

After the training in Raleigh is completed, the dogs fly to Okinawa for six weeks of familiarization training with their new Leatherneck handlers. There is also a one week training period upon arrival in the RVN before either the dog or handler actually goes into the field on an operation.

Now the dogs alternate every six days between the field and the 3rd MP Battalion rear. When not on operations, they undergo training daily.

Training charts are compiled on each dog on his percentage of practice discoveries, and what type of weather conditions the dogs work under best. The dogs, which weigh between 60 and 83 pounds, are both male and female, and have been serving in the RVN attached to infantry units since March 1970.

Sergeant Frank Casanova, a doghandler from Mexico City,

and his dog Pandora have made three combat detections while on patrols. Casanova says, "You can tell when my dog is on the trail of something hot. She starts acting peculiar, and you know something is wrong. If she fails to sit down it usually means there is something else in the area besides mines or booby traps, like an enemy weapons cache."

Under ideal conditions, the dogs work best with a combat engineer mine detection team. With their keen sense of smell the dogs can detect non-metallic exploding devices that a mine detector would pass over. The dogs' acute hearing also enables them to pick up the silent sound of the wind whistling past a trip wire.

Somewhere, sitting around a lonely campfire, an angry VC soldier is probably complaining to his comrades about the "Devil Dogs" on four legs who found all the booby traps he had carefully laid out the previous night, the same dogs who are slowly becoming a legend in the RVN in their own time.



Marine Sgt Kenneth Casanova rewards his mine and booby trap dog, Pandora, with a handful of food after finding a training booby trap. The dogs are rewarded every time they detect a hidden mine or booby trap. (USMC PHOTO)

Checks Are Given To Support Hospitals In Kontum, Pleiku

4TH INF DIV - Two checks totaling \$1828.90, from the 4th Infantry Division's Chaplain's Fund, were presented recently by Major General Glenn D. Walker, former division commander, to two individuals who have dedicated years of their lives to helping the people of the Central Highlands.

The voluntary fund, set up for the relief of pain and suffering, gave \$851 to Doctor Patt Smith for her hospitals in the Kontum area, north of Pleiku.

Doctor Smith has spent the last 11 years in this area of the RVN. Her hospital, a short distance outside Kontum, was destroyed by the enemy during the 1968 Tet Offensive. This hospital has since been rebuilt and a new facility has been erected in Kontum itself.

The invaluable services given by Dr. Smith are often aided by 4th Division doctors sent to her on a short term basis to both lend another helping hand and do research on communicable and contagious diseases.

Major General Walker presented the second check totaling \$977.90 to Miss Olive Kingsbury, a nurse with the Christian Missionary Alliance (CMA). The check contained \$851 from the Chaplain's Fund and \$126.90 received by the division from individuals in the U.S. requesting that it be earmarked as a gift for the nondenominational CMA.

Miss Kingsbury has been in the RVN 14 years and is with the CMA's leprosarium near Camp Enari outside Pleiku. They care for all leper cases in the province and presently have about 1,000 patients.

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PF's Shoulder Security

Elections Go Smoothly

25TH INF DIV - Elements of the 25th Division's 3rd Battalion, 22nd Infantry, combined with local force units recently to help provide security for elections held in villages and ARVN compounds near FSB Kien.

For two weeks prior to the elections, Companies A and B worked closely with Vietnamese Regional Forces (RFs). The resulting stability enabled the people to vote without fear of enemy harassment or intimidation. Local units of Xom Dua, Co Trach and Ben Chua took part in the combined operation.

The American soldiers worked with the groups as part of the Vietnamization program in this area. The objective is to improve

the local units' ability to provide their own security and consequently, security for the elections.

One of the major goals is to inspire confidence in the RF's abilities by working with them at greater distances from the compounds and villages.

"They're the best RFs I've ever worked with," said Company A Staff Sergeant Joe Ganster of West Reading, Pa., whose unit worked at Ben Chua. "When the VC ran into one of their night positions, the RFs reacted quickly. About twenty of them followed up their own mortar attack, searching the area thoroughly for enemy casualties."

Six enemy bodies were found. In working with the RF

forces, "Close cooperation is vital, enabling the operation to be successful," pointed out Captain Julius Keller of Philadelphia, Company A commander.

Largely as a result of the joint effort, the elections went smoothly.

'Sniffer' Snuffs 17 VC

1ST AVN BDE - A "Sniffer" mission employed by the 16th Air Cavalry, 13th Combat Aviation Battalion, played a major role in enabling the Cav to kill 17 VC in An Xuyen Province recently.

The "Sniffer", which detects human movements, located a substantial gathering of enemy approximately 20 miles southwest of Ca Mau, resulting in twelve being killed.

"They were going every which way", emphasized Captain Michael J. Wilton of Eugene, Ore., commander of the mission. "As soon as we located one there would be two more running somewhere else."

"The area seemed to be a re-supply area rather than hard-core VC."

In the afternoon the Dark Horses killed five more enemy in the same general area, including three attempting to hide in a deep fish trap.

ARVN Infantrymen Counter And Repulse Enemy Attack

The following information is provided by the Press and Information Office, General Political Warfare Department, RVNAF, Saigon, for the period of August 16 - 22.

1ST INFANTRY DIVISION

Elements of the 1st Infantry Division engaged enemy forces several times in northern provinces of the RVN. With the support of artillery and tactical air strikes ARVN infantrymen killed 118 enemy soldiers and captured 13 crew-served weapons.

During one engagement, an unknown size enemy force

conducted a ground attack against an ARVN unit near Bu



Long. The ARVN infantrymen counterattacked, repulsing the

enemy onslaught. Thirty-eight of the enemy were killed and three crew-served weapons captured.

RF/PF

During the reporting period, RF/PF units conducted a three day operation against enemy strongholds in the Quang Tin sector. The militiamen accounted for 157 enemy killed and captured two crew-served weapons.

In other action throughout the Republic, RF/PF elements killed 83 enemy soldiers and captured nine crew-served weapons.



Cindy's plaque: "Presented to Hoa 'Cindy' Ruoni - a good friend, sidewalk superintendent, translator and Medcap assistant." Group Information Specialist Monroe Sherrow of West Hartford, Conn., made the special award presentation to show appreciation for the little nine year old girl's moral support of the 27th Engineer Battalion projects in the Phu Thu-Thuy Thu area just south of Hue.

(USA PHOTO By: Sp5-William J. Ostrow)

Cindy's Award

27TH ENGR BN -- For as long as anyone on the Medical Civilian Assistance Program (MEDCAP) team of the 27th Engr Bn, 18th Engr Bde, can remember, Hoa "Cindy" Ruoni has been coming to help weekly MEDCAPs at the Phu Tu Red Cross Hospital.

Every Monday and Thursday morning Cindy spent her time helping the team talk to the patients and ask the villagers what was wrong and then explain it to the doctor.

All the engineers involved thought Cindy deserved some type of reward. The people from the Public Information Offices of the 27th and 45th Engr Gps had a "Special Service" plaque engraved to thank her for her service to the MEDCAP and purchased a transistor radio to add something of tangible value. They then planned a presentation ceremony and invited photographers.

On the morning of the presentation everyone was present--MEDCAP staff, Cindy's friends, information specialists and photographers--everyone except Cindy. For the first time she didn't come to the hospital.

Things looked bad for all concerned. Here friends

discovered that Cindy was out in the fields helping her parents with their farming.

They found her big brother who owned a motorcycle and asked him to pick her up. Half an hour later he returned with Cindy hanging on.

Specialist Five Monroe Sherrow of Hartford, Conn., made the presentation as all Cindy's friends looked on. Her enormous smile was enhanced by the tears in her eyes. It is doubtful that Cindy will ever miss another MEDCAP visit -- at least not for a long time.

Hatchery

196TH INF BDE -- Inhabitants of this pacification outpost have noticed something fishy in their area, but they don't mind a bit. Civil affairs workers from 4th Bn, 31st Inf, are helping their Vietnamese allies build a fish hatchery here.

"We decided on the hatchery because it would add a good, high-protein food to the diet and provide a highly marketable product," said First Lieutenant Michael D. Donohoe of Alamo, California.

Staff Sergeant Malcolm Johnson of Tillar, Ark., is in charge of setting up the American Division project and showing the people how to operate and maintain it.

"My father owns a fish hatchery, so I have been raising fish all my life," said Johnson.

The first problem to be faced is building a pond and securing it.

"We plan to dig a dual purpose ditch from a nearby creek to fill the pond and irrigate the rice paddies in the area," said Donohoe.

The people of Son Hoa now buy their fish at the Que Son market about five miles away.

The hatchery will be stocked with Tilapia, a rapid reproducing, high-protein food fish common all over Asia.

"Initially the fish they raise will be used as a food supply, but once a surplus is established, they can be sold at the Que Son market," said Johnson.

Hurricane Celia Hits Hard In Texas

WASHINGTON, D. C. -- Celia may become the third most costly hurricane, in terms of disaster relief expenditures, in the history of the United States, the American Red Cross reports.

On August 4, the Red Cross sent out a nationwide emergency appeal for a minimum of \$6 million to provide relief and recovery assistance for victims of the storm that smashed into the Central Texas coast the preceding afternoon.

The \$6 million projected figure is topped only by Hurricane Camille (1969), in which Red Cross disaster relief costs exceeded \$21 million, and Betsy (1965), with expenditures of \$17.5 million, officials said.

The American Red Cross in Southeast Asia is now accepting voluntary contributions for the relief of these hurricane victims. U.S. servicemen and civilians may make their contributions at any Red Cross Field Office.

The officials pointed out that Red Cross budgets \$10 million a year for disaster relief which, under ordinary circumstances, is sufficient to meet the emergency and recovery needs resulting from an average year's

calamities. But ARC disaster expenditures during the past five years have totaled \$88,000,000, far above the annual average.

This was due to a series of major natural calamities such as Hurricane Betsy, Beulah, Camille and numerous large flood and tornado relief operations. These excessive costs not only wiped out the annual disaster budgets and the ARC disaster reserve funds, but also cut deeply into the national organizations general operation fund.

This fund drain, plus the greatly increased cost of serving members of the armed forces during the past six years, made it necessary for the organization to initiate a special nationwide fund campaign for victims of Hurricane Celia.

It is very possible, officials said, that the costs of Celia may well exceed the \$6 million estimate. The figure was projected after a survey made of the devastated areas only a day after the storm blew through.

As Red Cross caseworkers began to plan with thousands of individual families for the rebuilding or repairing and refurbishing of their homes, the cost may go higher than the

August 4 estimate.

Red Cross disaster assistance, it was pointed out, is an outright gift with no obligation for repayment and is financed solely through funds donated by the American public.

The money is used to give emergency relief to the distressed and later to provide them the means to bridge the gap between what they are able

to do for themselves and what yet remains to be done before they can resume their normal family life in the home and community.

The Celia emergency campaign is the fourteenth nationwide disaster fund appeal the Red Cross has found it necessary to conduct since the Japanese earthquake relief operation in 1923.

Canvas to Medal

7TH AF -- The village of Hoa Vang once was a maze of stalls and shops with roofs made of bits of cloth and canvas. Floors were hard packed dirt. For years it had been the only place the villagers had to display their goods...mostly food and locally made items.

Now, however, the village boasts a new, large, modern marketplace complete with concrete floors and metal roof, the result of a joint effort by the Republic of Vietnam Government, local villagers, the Republic of Vietnam Air Force's 41st Tactical Wing here, Military Assistance Command Civil Operations for Rural Development Support and the Da Nang Afd civic action office, assisted by members of the 366th Civil Engineering Squadron.

U.S. Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Cabell J. Fearn of Pocatello, Idaho, commander of the 366th CES, commented at recent ceremonies marking completion of the project, "The new structure will help the villagers display their products. It is about 2,800 square feet larger than the old place, and you can sense the pride of the village people because they helped build it themselves."

The marketplace was made by erecting 12 telephone poles, a line of six on each side. A heavy wooden frame supports the galvanized roof. The concrete floor makes the marketplace cooler in hot weather and keeps the rain from running through

during the monsoon season.

Civil engineering personnel who worked with Vietnamese laborers included Sergeants Carl A. Yates of Kono, Hawaii, Ralph L. Lanehart of Odenton, Md., Thomas M. Bond of Ashland, Ky., and Airman 1st Class Eddy R. Butler of Liberty, Tex.



A Vietnamese worker levels a section of concrete as work on the floor of a new marketplace for the village of Hoa Vang progresses. Airmen from the 366th Civil Engineering Squadron assisted the Vietnamese in the project.

(USAF PHOTO By: A1C Howard J. Scheuren)

Firefighter Classes

FLC -- The Vietnamese warehouse workers here at Force Logistic Command (FLC) have been getting the afternoon hours off lately and getting paid for it in two ways!

It all started when a small fire ignited in one of the vast warehouse buildings, quickly growing and destroying supplies valued at an estimated \$16,000.

To prevent the possibility of such a catastrophe again, Force Logistic Command's Vietnamese Chief-Firefighter-Instructor Nguyen Van Son managed to set up classes on the use of various types of fire extinguishers.

"The idea is to stop the fires when they're still small," stated Son. "The extinguishers aren't big enough to combat big fires."

The laborers, mostly women, appeared at the fire station shortly after their noon meal.

They were escorted to a classroom, where Son described the water, gas and powder-type extinguishers found in the storage areas and how to use them.

After a one-half hour film on their use, the group moved to an open area where huge pans of gasoline awaited.

A quick review preceded the practical application of the extinguishers. At first, the women were afraid to approach the flaming pans. But after prompting by Son and his firemen, they moved forward, smiling nervously.

Confidence replaced their nervousness as they saw the effectiveness of the extinguishers.

"The women will remember this instruction," Son said, "We hope that it will be influential in preventing big fires."

TAN RIGHT!

How do we tan? Well, there are two ways. The first, dispersal of pigment already in skin, starts within minutes of initial exposure to ultraviolet light. The second is production of new melanin, the pigment of tanning. This doesn't start until 48 hours after your first session in the sun and it peaks about two weeks later.

If you get sunburned to start with, damage is done before production of new tan reaches its optimum effect. That's why dermatologists recommend gradual daily exposure rather than weekend-to-weekend exposure. In this way the early dispersal process will continue long enough for full production of new melanin to take effect. This is particularly important for lighter-skinned persons who are capable of tanning.

Although it only takes a few hours for you to get an acute sunburn, major irreversible skin damage is produced by chronic exposure to ultraviolet light and accumulation of chemical changes over the years. The extent of damage to your skin depends on who you are and where you are. Darkskinned people have more protection against ultraviolet rays than light-skinned people. Ultraviolet

light is strongest at the equator and decreases as you go north or south. And no matter where you are, outdoor occupations increase exposure time.

All our lives we've heard that water reflects the sun's ultraviolet light and that's why a fisherman gets more sunburn in an open boat. Not so, say doctors these days. Water is quite transparent to ultraviolet light and you can get sunburned legs even when wading around. The bait-dangler in an open boat gets more sunburn for two simple reasons: He stays out longer because the breeze keeps him cool and comfortable, and intense radiation comes from all sides from a sky unobstructed by buildings, trees or mountains.

The idea that a beach umbrella will counteract a sunburn problem has also been demolished. There have always been a few fair-skinned folks who complain they get sunburned even under an umbrella. Now medics can prove they are right. Ultraviolet light bouncing off sand can burn skin. (The same principle explains sunburn as you scoot down the ski slope.) Under a beach umbrella you are much more comfortable because you are shielded to a degree from the sun's infrared or heating rays.

On open beach these rays would heat you up and alert you to impending overexposure.

So what do you if you are a towhead aboard an aircraft carrier in the tropics or at a base in the Republic of Vietnam? Wear a suncreening cream or lotion, don't work without a shirt and generally use common sense about the sun. If sunburn is a problem for you, see your medical department or flight surgeon. The medical department will probably recommend or furnish you with an effective suncreening cream or lotion. (Don't ever use engine oil or lubricating oil for a sunburn lotion. Toxic ingredients in such oils can be absorbed through the skin.)

If you set out to acquire a suntan on the beach, at poolside or just sprawled in a sunny corner somewhere, take it easy and do it gradually. Ten or 15 minutes on a side is enough for the first day. If you must bake longer, do it before 10:00 a.m. or after 2:00 p.m. - the sun's rays are strongest during the four hours in between. Increase your daily dose of sun by about five minutes each successive day. And don't forget that you can still burn on a cloudy day or under a hazy sky. (AFPS)

Let's Stop Cranks

About 60,000 abusive phone calls are reported to telephone companies each month. They range from unsolicited business calls to threats of death, kidnapping or property destruction. Families of servicemen on oversea tour probably receive the bulk of crank calls concerning U. S. involvement in Vietnam and their loved ones' service there.

Are recipients of abusive or threatening phone calls at the mercy of these calls? Absolutely not, says the American Telephone and Telegraph Company which, through its subsidiary companies, maintains about 84 percent of the Nation's telephone communications.

In fact, since 1966 when abusive phone calls began increasing, telephone companies have developed some very sophisticated techniques to track down the unsupervised youngsters or misguided, frustrated or mentally ill persons who place such calls. The telephone no longer offers the mask of anonymity.

Telephone companies categorize annoying calls as (1) excessive "sales" or "survey" calls, (2) nuisance calls designed to irritate, or (3) abusive, harassing or obscene calls.

Here are some general tips which should be used in the event one is bothered by annoying phone calls:

- ... Use your telephone on your own terms, not those of the caller. In short, don't talk to anyone unless you want to.
- ... Ask the caller to identify himself. When the voice asks, "Who is this?" don't tell him; instead, ask "What number did you call?" or "Whom do you want?" If the call isn't legitimate, that very likely will end it.
- ... Tell your children and their baby-sitters never to talk on the telephone to anyone they don't positively recognize. An innocent comment like "Daddy's in Vietnam" could be helpful to a burglar.
- ... If it's the kind of caller who remains silent after you answer, hang up immediately. Some want to listen just to hear what you'll say - particularly to learn if you'll be angry or frightened. It's no fun to listen to a dead line.
- ... Don't list military rank in the telephone book.
- ... Avoid excessive publicity about a family member who is going overseas without his family.
- ... Get an unlisted telephone, and give the number only to members of your family and close friends.
- ... Train your children not to talk with strangers on the telephone, and under no circumstances to tell unidentified callers that their father is overseas.

But if annoying calls are received, follow these four simple rules:
DON'T TALK
HANG UP
NOTIFY THE PHONE COMPANY IF CALLS PERSIST
CALL THE POLICE IMMEDIATELY IF A CALL IS THREATENING

For more information about the do's and don'ts of crank telephone calls, ask your local phone company for a pamphlet on the subject. It will include an "Annoyance Call Log" to keep near the telephone to record vital information authorities would need about anonymous callers.



FIRST IN VIETNAM

OBSERVER

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"Are you suggesting I destroy my geranium?"

ARMY DIGEST

It's A No-No

The illegal shipment of contraband home or anywhere can cost you one to five years in prison and/or fines ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000. The risk is greater than the reward, as you can see!

What is contraband? To many, the only items that come to mind are weapons and marijuana. But actually the list is endless.

The leading items are ponchos, combat boots, mosquito nets, jungle fatigues, collapsible canteens, AK-47 rifle rounds, 7mm rounds, pornography, flight fatigues and books relating to military matters.

Try It, Make Gold

Headquarters, US Army, Pacific, wants to hear it like it is. And the serviceman or woman who tells it is best stands a chance to make some gold on the deal.

USARPAC is running a poster competition, and fifteen people will split up \$675 in prizes for the most outstanding entries answering the question "Why Re-Up?"

To enter, prepare a poster on plain white paper or poster board - not less than 8 x 10 1/2 inches in size - telling why you did or why you intend to re-up. The posters can be submitted in black-and-white or a maximum of five colors if black-and-white are included as two of them.

Mail the poster directly to:
 USARPAC Poster Contest
 APO 96558

That's all there is to it...no chain of command, and no red tape. All military personnel assigned to the Pacific Command are eligible, except those whose primary duties are recruiting or career counseling.

Contestants don't have to be professional artists - it's the idea that counts to the judges. A person may enter as many times as he or she wishes, but each entry must carry his name, rank, SSAN, and return address. All entries become the property of USARPAC, and will be used at its discretion.

Ideas must be original, and photographs are not acceptable as part of the poster. Models as part of the poster however, are acceptable. The contest runs through 30 November 1970, and all entries must be postmarked on or earlier than that date. Winners will be announced by 15 December 1970.

Awards will be given as follows:

- First Prize \$100 Savings Bond
- Second through Tenth Prizes \$50 Savings Bonds
- Eleventh through Fifteenth Prizes \$25 Savings Bonds

Story:
SP5 Don
Ellzey

Photos:
PFC Ed
Cielesz

Tri-Service ATCO

Freedom Bird's Roost

MACV -- You have reservations on a Freedom Bird, compliments of the Tri-Service Air Traffic Coordinating Office (ATCO) Located at Tan Son Nhut Air Base. When it comes your turn to DEROS, PCS, go TDY or on emergency or ordinary leave, Tri-Service ATCO will see to it that you have a seat on an aircraft.

Commercial aircraft utilized by the Military Airlift Command (MAC) are contracted by bid. "The aircraft are assigned to MAC by the 22nd Air Force at Travis Air Force Base, Calif., 30 to 40 days prior to the month of travel," said Major Stevan R. Gallegos of Castroville, Tex., OIC of Tri-Service ATCO.

After the aircraft are assigned to MAC, the user services, which are the Army, Navy and Air Force, submit their seating requirements for that month. Seats are then allocated according to those requirements. Notification is then sent to the passengers who will be on that particular flight approximately 30 days before they are to leave.

"Personnel going to Japan, Korea, Guam, Okinawa, the Republic of the Philippines and Taiwan in other than R&R status are also

processed by Tri-Service ATCO," continued Gallegos. All civilian personnel must depart at Tan Son Nhut Air Base.

There are presently five MAC channels out of the RVN: Tan Son Nhut and Bien Hoa Air Bases to Travis; Bien Hoa AB to McGuire AB; Cam Ranh to McCord AB; and Da Nang to Norton Air Base.

The Tri-Service ATCO section processes approximately 45 to 50,000 people each month, scheduling them on one of 250 to 300 flights leaving the RVN. An average of 90 emergency leaves are scheduled each day, with 20 of these departing Tan Son Nhut Air Base. "The local ATCO channels handle personnel going on emergency leave or TDY from places other than Saigon," added Gallegos.

"Each flight costs approximately \$66,000 round trip," said Lieutenant (Junior Grade) James J. Russello of Brooklyn, New York. "It is therefore imperative that each seat on each flight be filled."

So no sweat fellows. When your time comes, Tri-Service ATCO will see to it that you have a place on a Freedom Bird.



Reservations



Checkpoint



Boarding



Away!



An ARVN squad leader and his men head for a quick exit as their helicopter is hoisted by a VNAF helicopter at Tho.

ARVN soldiers board helicopters of a VNAF squadron for an air assault. The units operating in the Mekong Delta.

VNAF-ARVN AIRMOBILITY

PHOTOS BY VIETNAM PRESS SERVICE



VNAF mechanics continually check their aircraft's rotor-drive assemblies. Both the 211th and the 217th squadrons recently switched over to new turbine-powered rotor craft from their older piston-engined types.

During the pre-flight check, Vietnamese pilots monitor their instruments carefully as the aircraft's engine warms up to its operating speed.



...oman prepare
approaches Can



217th
enemy

A helicopter of the 217th VNAF Squadron hovers and is guided to its berth at the Binh Thuy airbase.

Y K.O.'s V C



"Choppers" of the 217th VNAF squadron race across the Delta's rice paddies, carrying their cargo of ARVN infantrymen to a landing zone just west of Can Tho City.

Language School; A Step To Improvement

7TH AF -- Command of the English language is a difficult matter. Few Americans who speak it fully understand its workings. It can be one of the most difficult languages in the world to learn and yet it is one of the keys to the improvement and modernization of the Republic of Vietnam Air Force (VNAF).

For the men of the VNAF to be able to learn how to maintain and operate U.S. aircraft and weapons systems, they will have to learn English to understand many technical terms which cannot be translated into Vietnamese.

Teaching English is the mission of the members of U.S. Air Force Advisory Team at the English Language School (ELS) in the VNAF Air Training Center here.

Established at the Air Training Center in 1959, the ELS has grown from 18 VNAF instructors, five USAF advisers and 124 language laboratory positions in 1968 to 20 VNAF instructors, 102 USAF advisers and 226 language laboratory positions.

Last year there were 418 students graduated from the school. This year a record 1,100 are expected to completed the course.

"When the students come here to the school, they speak nothing but English," Major Gordon T. O'Brien of Grand Junction, Colo., emphasized. "It takes anywhere from six to seven months to make them proficient.

Like most modern high schools, the ELS has a three-track system to recognize individual capability. Fast, average and slow students are grouped with those of their own learning rate.

The instructors use what the Defense Language Institute terms the audio-aural approach. The instructors act as models of pronunciation for the students from the beginning. The students then mimic the instructor's sounds in a process which involves repetition and more repetition.

"For beginning students you normally go over the dialog and let them see the words in context as you pronounce them," explained Airman 1st Class Floyd G. Champagne of Worcester, Mass. "Then you take the words out of context and have them say them and then explain them. Then you use the word in a new sentence so that they understand them."

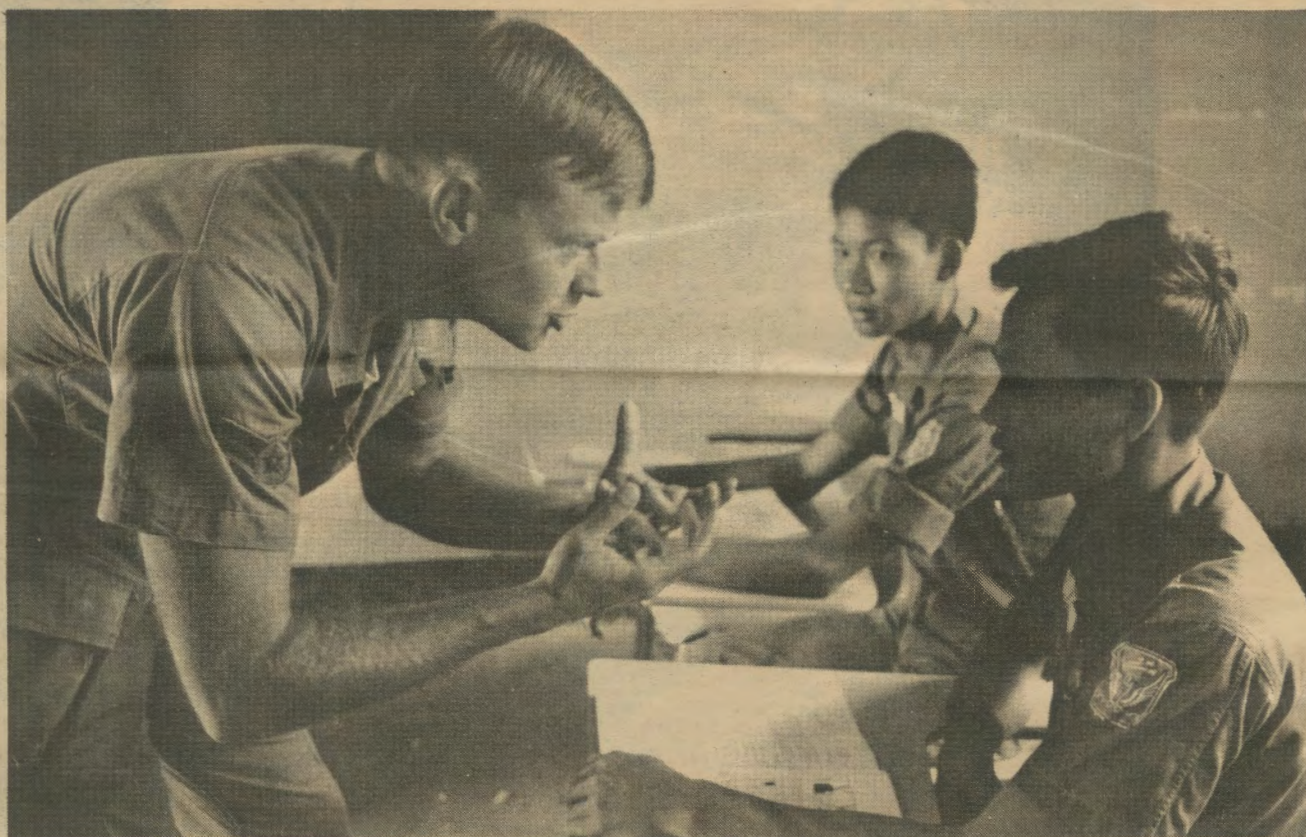
The classroom instruction for beginning students is a patient ordeal of explanation and repetition. But over the course of time the instruction becomes more specialized and the level of conversation rises.

"When a student graduates from this school, he should be able to normally communicate with people in his job. He should be able to talk and be understood by normal English-speaking natives and have a 2,000-word vocabulary.

Many of the instructors teach extra classes at night to help slow students or those who want to learn more, the major added.

The satisfaction the instructors receive from their job is hard to put into words.

"I get a feeling of satisfaction from teaching the elementary sections," Airman 1st Class Philip W. Orr of Meridian, Miss., said. "You establish a relationship with them as a friend. And after you are finished teaching them they may come around



Airman 1st Class Jeffrey M. Bowen prompts a student on how to say the word "belief" during one of his class periods.

and say 'Thank you, Mr. Orr.' That makes you feel good because you know they appreciate what you are doing for them.

"We try to get the students to practice English as much as possible outside the class room," he added. "It's best for them to learn by doing."

"One of the side effects of our teaching besides their learning English is that we inculcate American customs into the students," added Airman 1st Class Jeffrey M. Bowen of Laconia, New Hampshire.

On the walls of one of the language labs are maps of different states along with their flags.

"Back in October I wrote up a form letter and had them copy it and address it to each of the 50 states and ask for materials on each one," explained Sergeant Rodger E. Poole Jr. of Mobile, Ala. "Each state responded, and we put the materials on the walls of the lab."

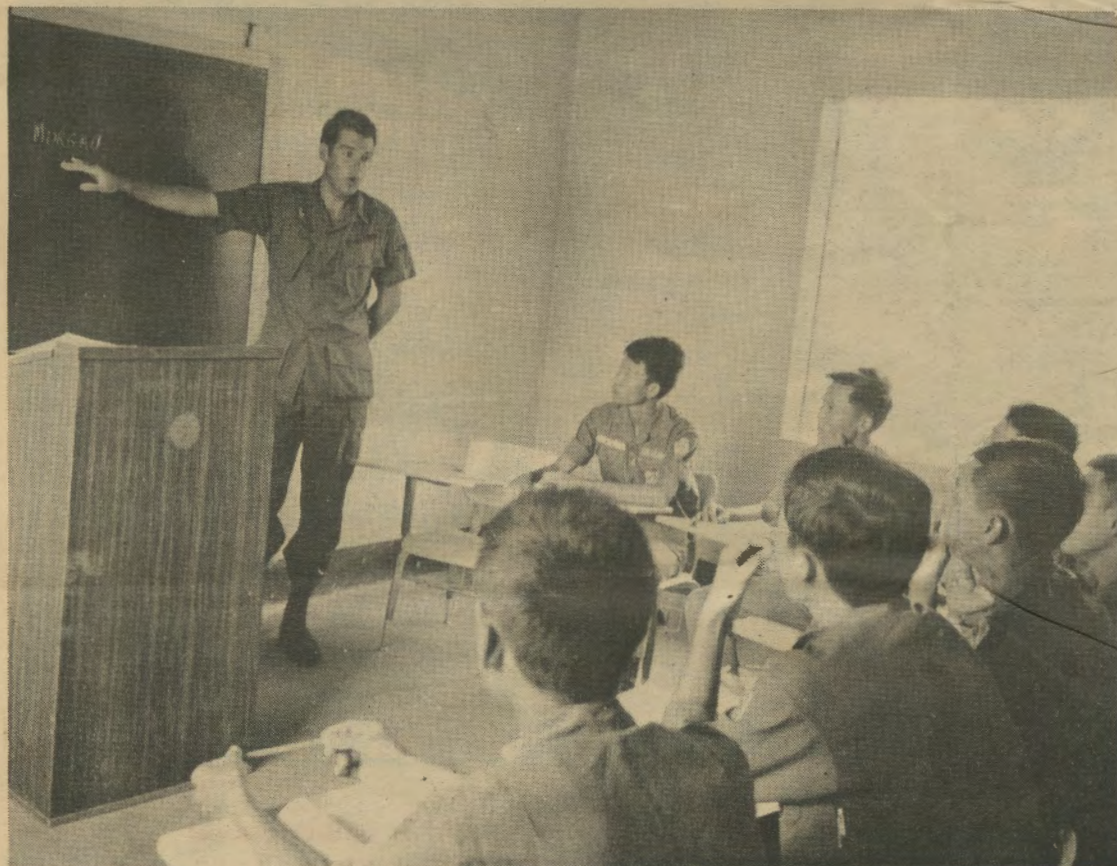
When the instructors are not teaching, filling out reports or on details, they are engaged in self-help projects at the school.

The major is optimistic about the future of the school. "We hope to be completely out of here in the next two fiscal years. We are training VNAF instructors so that they can assume this capability."

What began with an English Language School may end with an improved and modernized VNAF.

Story By: SGT Mueller

Photos By: SGT Diebold



An instructor points out that his last name has two syllables, a factor his new class will need to remember in the coming weeks.



Students spend two hours per day listening to tape recordings of English pronunciation.

Center Reopened

CORDS -- The International Rescue Committee's Children's Day Care Center reopened in Nha Trang recently, giving low income families an opportunity to have their daily work roles to support their family.

The center was originally built and opened last year but structural defects were soon noticed which precluded the use of the building to its best possible advantage.

With the aid of materials, labor and funds donated by various humanitarian agencies, the center is now capable of safely caring for a maximum group of one hundred children.

The initial enrollment of sixty children will soon be expanded to the total capacity, as worthy families are interviewed and screened to determine their eligibility.

Only the most needy are chosen since it is these families which need most the care for their young children while both mother and father earn a livelihood for the family. Low income families in the Nha Trang area can greatly benefit from this service.

Attendance at the school is at no cost to parents. The pre-school children in the 3-5 year age group are cared for from early morning to late in the afternoon.

They are given a chance to learn hygiene, good manners and

speech, as well as group games which stimulate their interest and start them in the basics of learning.

Beginning in the morning with exercise, the group rotates in three general groups to use all the educational and recreational facilities. They receive instruction in hygiene and tooth care.

Elementary teaching in reading will fit them for their new role in the first years of school as they become old enough to attend. Counseling with parents affords the school as well as the parents an opportunity to learn more of the capabilities of each individual child.

A noon meal, followed by a nap and later a shower, keeps the child in good physical condition to carry out the day's activities at the center. The physical and mental welfare of the children is enhanced and assures them of a well-rounded day of activity away from home.

The IRC looks forward to expanding these day care centers in the future. Nha Trang was the pilot project and its success turns on the hope as well as need for more centers to follow.

With increased funds and more trained personnel, the coming year is anticipated with great hopes for the future of Vietnam, and its greatest heritage; the youth of its nation.



Young pre-school children at the Nha Trang Day Care Center climb aboard a see-saw as a visitor lends his weight for their ride. These young children of low-income families attend the nursery activity while their parents work at their livelihood.

(USA PHOTO)

Marine Gives Helping Hand

1ST MAR DIV -- Lan Phiet is a woman of 57, who until a few weeks ago led a fairly normal life, tending her home and caring for her family. Then on a still summer night the Viet Cong struck her village with

unmerciful ferocity.

When the sun came up the next morning Lan's life had been drastically altered. Only she and her son's infant baby remained of the once contented, hardworking family.

Their home was completely demolished by the enemy mortar attack that left most of Thanh My Village 15 miles southwest of Da Nang, Vietnam, in shambles.

Salvageable materials from her old home were scarce, money non-existent. She was living with friends, wondering how she would continue.

Staff Sergeant Mitchell S. Merriman of Detroit, Mich., a member of the 1st Marine Div's Public Affairs Office, went to Thanh My the morning after the attack. While walking among the rubble, Merriman noticed Lan and the desolate, desperation on her face, and after a little inquiring learned of her plight.

Her family losses couldn't be rectified by Merriman, but her material loss, her home, was

replaceable. Returning to LZ Baldy, 21 miles southwest of Da Nang, where he heads the press center, Merriman borrowed a truck which he loaded with surplus lumber, nails, and paint.

Taking a Vietnamese interpreter with him, Stoney returned to Thanh My to find the woman whose misfortunes had touched him.

Locating the village chief, the Marine staff sergeant related what he proposed to do: donate his extra materials for the construction of a new home for Lan.

The needy woman was located and told of the help that had arrived. She burst into tears of joy, embracing Merriman. Village workmen unloaded the supplies; they would aid their neighbor in the start of a new life in hopes it will remain.

For Lan Phiet, Vietnamization is not an intangible, political concept, but a smile, an embrace, and a helping hand from a warm hearted Marine.

Shop Hits 10 Million Mark

FLC -- Brigadier General M. J. Patalino, commanding general of Force Logistic Command (FLC), and a Marine Private First Class Lars Blomgren from Stockholm, Sweden, recently shared the 10 millionth donut made by FLC's donut shop at Camp Books.

The general walked into the donut shop July 9th and smiled broadly as he saw a chocolate covered donut with a cherry in the center mounted atop a huge cake.

Then, in walked Blomgren who had stopped by for an afternoon snack. The general motioned for Blomgren to come stand beside him. They shook hands, the general carefully lifted the donut off the cake and

handed it to Blomgren, who took a big bite and said, "outstanding".

It was the 10 millionth donut made by the shop since "we started counting donuts 1 July '69," said Marine Warrant Officer Louis G. Troutman, officer in charge of the Bakery Platoon and donut shop.

The donut shop, open from 6 a.m. - 11 a.m. and from 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. daily, produces an average of 2200 dozen donuts a day. Eleven hundred dozen are distributed to mess halls throughout the I Corps area and the others are served in the donut shop.

"We start from scratch when we make our donuts," Troutman remarked. "We make our own

batter and buy nothing pre-made."

After the batter is made it is poured into a receptacle in the automatic donut-making machine. Here the donuts are formed into their familiar shape and dropped into a trough of hot cooking oil.

The oil flows along like a river, carrying the donuts with it, frying them first on one side and then the other. They are automatically flipped over halfway through their journey to the end of the trough.

At the end of the trough the donuts drop into a large sheetpan where they are iced, glazed, or sprinkled with sugar, then channeled to their various destinations.



This Vietnamese woman has just taken a pan full of donuts from the donut machine at FLC's donut shop, and is preparing to slide them into a receptacle where they await various kinds of icings.

(USMC PHOTO By: SSgt R. D. Lucas)

Hungry Refugees

1ST CAV DIV -- The overloaded two-and-a-half ton truck pulled into the yard and was immediately surrounded by curious children. The cargo was fruit for displaced refugees.

Apples from Washington State, grapefruit from Arizona and bananas from Guatemala have come a long way to feed hungry Cambodians.

"They can't get the food, and we have it left over, so we give it to them, it's just that simple," said Specialist 4 Horace Mitchell of McMoresville, Tenn., of the 1st Air Cav's 3rd Brigade Civil Affairs Office.

With the truck provided by the MACV civil affairs team in An Loc, Mitchell picks up the surplus perishables from the Class I yard daily and takes them over to the Cambodian refugees still living in the refugee center there.

The center, organized by the Vietnamese Welfare Department with the help of the 1st Cav, feeds, clothes, houses and attempts to find work for the Cambodians who fled their country at the beginning of the Cambodian operation. The Cav

airlifted the initial 500 refugees from Memot at the beginning of the campaign and provided transportation and advisory assistance since.

"When they started bringing in the refugees we were there on a hospital visit. We saw they needed food and converted our once a week visit into a daily thing. Someone mentioned that we might be able to get a jeep from the MACV people and sure enough, we could. The other day we had enough crates of apples, grapefruit, bananas and bread to fill that truck to overflowing. We drove behind it all the way to the center to make sure it made it there."

Sergeant First Class Mac Bullock of Spokane, Wash., NCOIC of the Class I yard also had a hand in the distribution of the excess food. "It's here to be eaten, and once the men have been fed, most of the leftovers would have to be thrown away. Wherever there's hungry people, that's where it should go."



BUNKER BUNNY SEZ,

"Sure, we all know there are ways and means of making a "fast buck" on the Vietnamese economy, just like we all know that getting caught in that sort of profiteering can really cramp a guy's style...like, who needs a stretch in the stockade? So be cool and make your bucks grow the legal way. Put your money in the Uniformed Services Savings Deposit Program, and withdraw it when you go home. Or buy bonds and invest in the country. Or put it in a checking-savings account. Or make out a Class E allotment to get it deposited in your stateside bank. But don't black market it, OK?" (Photo by Mirror Newspapers)



At one time or another we are all faced with bills. Sometimes they may seem more insurmountable than may really be the case. The question then is: What course of action may a debtor avail himself of in order to liquidate his bills, or at least eliminate the pressure of creditors in waiting?

One course of action is to pay the bills. This is not always as easy as it may sound and in most cases just not feasible without help. Other means include refinancing, which extends the payments but at the same time increases the cost of the loan with additional interest; debt consolidation by means of one loan to pay off existing debts, which creates a situation of paying interest on interest; and seeking the help of a credit counselor. It is this latter course of action which a debtor should be cautioned about.

The function of a debt-adjusting agency is to help financially distressed debtors to settle their obligations. This is done by modification of the indebtedness through services of an intermediary known as a debt adjuster or credit counselor who collects certain sums of money

from the debtor and distributes the same among his various creditors according to an agreed plan of modification or extension entered into between the adjuster and creditors.

While some debt counselors perform a valuable service, others commit frauds and abuses and add little to the attempts to liquidate pre-existing obligations of a debtor. It should further be noted that not all creditors will accept partial payments which the credit counselor sets up. Unless the creditor agrees, he is not obligated to accept anything less than the full agreed payments.

Furthermore, a creditor is not likely to accept a partial payment where he knows that the intermediary credit counselor is making a profit by distributing partial payments. Without proper agreement between a debtor and creditor to make and receive partial payments, the creditor may rightfully refuse the partial payment causing the debtor to be in default. This may then give rise to a repossession, foreclosure, or other legal action taken against the debtor without regard to the credit counselor.

VETERANS ASK

MPS

Q - I was discharge from service in June. How much time do I have to use my educational benefit?

A - You have eight years after your separation to use your educational benefit, provided you have served at least 180 days, any part of which occurred after Jan. 31, 1955.

Q - Will the VA tell me which is the best option to select when preparing a beneficiary and option for my G.I. insurance?

A - No. The tables of installments are cited among the policy provisions. This is intended not only as a provision of the contract, but as a reference from which the insured must make a judgement.

Q - My husband, a World War I veteran, died recently. Will the VA allow any reimbursement on his burial expenses?

A - Yes, up to and including \$250. The VA also reimburses for transportation of a veteran's body to place of burial, if he was properly hospitalized or domiciled at a VA facility.

Q - I have \$10,000 National Service Life term insurance which I obtained during World War II, and plan to convert to Modified Life. Is there a deadline for converting my insurance?

A - No, except that it must be converted to the Modified Life plan before you reach insurance age 61 (insurance age extends from six months before to six months after insured's birthday).

Q - I am eligible for training under the Dependent's

Educational Assistance Program. Will I be allowed to enter training with less than half-time training load?

A - No. the law will not permit training under this program at less than half time.

Q - I am confined to a nursing home because of disabilities that qualify me for social security disability insurance. Is the cost of the nursing home excluded from social security payments in computing amount due for pension?

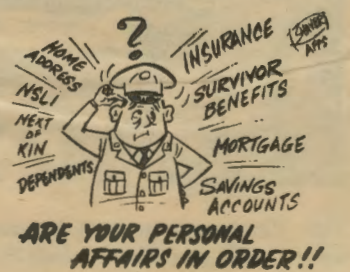
A - Yes.

Q - Is there a final date for conversion of a National Service Life Insurance policy?

A - It can usually be converted at any time the policy is current. However, There are some policies prefixed by "W" that cannot be converted if the renewal date comes after the insured's 50th birthday. In this case, the conversion right must be exercised before the term runs out.

Q - I returned from Vietnam recently, and was separated from active duty after serving 21 months. As I plan to apply to the VA for educational assistance to attend college, could you tell me how many months of entitlement I will have?

A - You will have 36 calendar months of entitlement. Any veteran with an other than dishonorable discharge who has served at least 18 months on active duty is entitled to the maximum entitlement.



Goats Do The Job

7TH AF - Air Force Airman 1st Class Kenneth D. Knight of the 303rd Munitions Maintenance Squadron (MMS) at Bien Hoa AB is probably the only airman in the RVN who works part time as an Air Force goat herder.

The native of Dermott, Ark., spends most of his time as a munitions handler working with high explosives in the bomb storage yard. It is because of this potentially dangerous work area that Knight finds himself doing additional duty as a goat herder.

The munitions storage area is criss-crossed with high, earth revetments designed to minimize chain reaction explosions in the event of an enemy attack.

These grass covered revetments are just too steep for conventional lawnmowers, and that's where the goats come in.

The 10 goats assigned duty as grass cutters do a good job. But like any lawnmower, they require somebody to guide them.

"Goats are a little like some people," said Knight. "They'd rather do the easiest part and leave the harder things for somebody else. They'd rather eat the grass where it is level but our workmen can cut the grass there," he explained. "I have to keep after them to make sure the goats stay up on the steep slopes."

Voting - A Right And A Duty

MACV - Statistics of voting participation by absentee ballot do not reflect the efforts made to inform and encourage U.S. citizens to exercise their right to vote. U.S. citizens overseas (whether military or civilians) are specific benefactors of this information effort, but are seldom motivated to use the absentee process of voting.

One reason for reluctance in voting is the fear that the assertion of legal residence will subject the voter to tax collection efforts by the state concerned. Although the 24th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution prohibits a state from denying the right to vote "by reason of failure to pay any poll tax or other tax", the responsibilities of voting and paying tax are closely aligned in that they both demonstrate citizenship when executed and are vital to the fundamental operation of a representative government.

TAXATION

Intentional failure to pay state income tax is not only illegal but also raises serious question as to the true intention of an individual who claims to be a legal resident of a state having an income tax.

VOTING

Federal legislation recommending to the states that they allow their citizens to vote by absentee ballot has been met

with favorable action from the states insofar as servicemen and their dependents everywhere and federal employees and their dependents overseas are concerned. Efforts to extend the absentee voting process to all citizens should be equally successful if the absentee citizen demonstrates that he will fulfill all responsibilities of citizenship.

Voting is an act of choosing people and deciding those issues under which one is to be governed. Therefore, by voting, an absentee citizen can clearly demonstrate his intent. Acts speak louder than words.

Caught On The Run

1ST AVN BDE - Troop C light observation helicopters took on two VC ten miles south of Tan Tic recently.

Troop C had been working the area all day because there were plenty of fresh signs but they hadn't seen anyone. "About 1500 I saw one VC running into a bunker," said Sergeant Lawrence Oberlitner of Lebanon, South Dakota. "We made another pass, tossing a couple frags in to make the kill."

Later Troop C caught one more enemy in a bunker and headed home.

At present, the 303rd MMS has a force of 10 young goats. Within a short time, though, they hope to increase the herd to 20. This larger herd should be able to keep the grass on all of the revetments cut.

At night the goats are kept in a homemade stockade called the "GKM Ranch." The GKM Ranch gets its name from the initials of the man who originally suggested the use of goats as a possible solution for the grass-cutting problem. Colonel George K. Miller suggested it when he was here as deputy commander materiel for the 3rd Tactical Fighter Wing.

Unique problems sometimes call for unique solutions. At this air base a small goat ranch has neatly solved a large problem.

One small problem remains, though. Does anybody know where Knight can get a goat herder's crook?

Nomads...

Continued From Page 1

MEDCAPs or sending out items like shower shoes and soap to the people when possible. "We initially gave them some tents and plywood to fix up an area just on the other side of a hill away from our camp," said Bishop.

During this early construction period representatives from the province chief were on hand to welcome and work with the refugees and the GVN is readily accepting the new residents, now numbering 2,500.

The MEDCAP program run by the CIDG soldiers of New Bu



MG W.G. Dolvin, Chief of Staff, MACV, fills in his absentee ballot application card (SF 76). All persons wishing to vote in the forthcoming elections should follow his example and apply for their absentee ballot as soon as possible.

(USA PHOTO By: PFC Rich Volkmer)

Land Titles Given

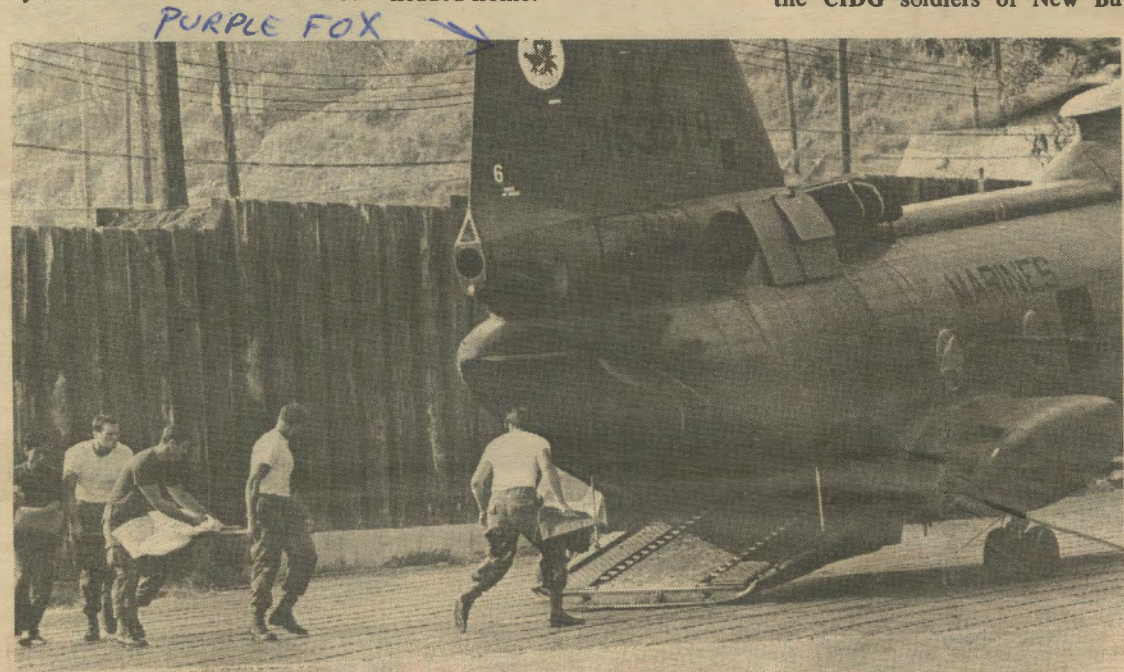
MACV - A new era in land reform for the Duc Trong district came about as 153 Montagnard families received land titles from the GVN.

Ceremonies were held at district headquarters in Tuyen Duc Province recently. The RVN Minister of Ethnic Affairs, Paul Nur, represented the Saigon government. Nur is the highest ranking Montagnard to hold a position in the government.

Nur presented each of the ten Montagnard families with titles to their land. The ten families represented the entire group. Additional land titles are expected to be granted to other Montagnard families in the near future.

Prang is manned by four Montagnard medics and advised by Sergeant John W. Williams, medic for the Special Forces detachment. During one morning MEDCAP to the village the medics treated 162 people. "We treated everything out there from minor cuts and bruises to diarrhea and a case of the yaws," said Williams. "If we came back out this afternoon we'd probably treat another 160 people;

One look over the green hillsides of the Bu Prang area will reveal any number of herds of water buffalo and cows grazing on the rich grass. Along with their families and personal belongings the Montagnards brought their cows, chickens, hogs, water buffalo, and dogs, not to mention the five lumbering elephants. "They'll start farming when the rainy season is over and stay as long as the area is secure," says Bishop.



Casualty

Hospital corpsmen at the 1st Medical Bn, 1st Marine Div hospital, rush to a medical evacuation helicopter to pick up a wounded Marine. (USMC PHOTO By: Sgt C.H. Gardner)

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