



Marines waiting to board an Air Force C-123 Provider transport at Khe Sanh take cover behind an off-loading ramp and metal box.

(USAF Photo)



Leathernecks race to board a C-123 transport plane at Khe Sanh.

(USAF PHOTO)

## Providers Provide

### C-123 Crews Brave Mortars

PHAN RANG (USAF) — Air Force C-123 Provider transport crews of the 315th Air Commando Wing, here are defying enemy mortar barrages directed at their aircraft every day as they deliver troops and vital cargo, including food and mail, to the Marine installation at Khe Sanh.

A Marine at Khe Sanh said that C-123s landing on the small air strip attract an average of six enemy mortar rounds each.

He noted that as many as 26 Providers have landed on the strip in one day.

To avoid being hit, the C-123 pilots keep their aircraft on the ground for only one to two minutes, during which the engines are kept running. The aircraft remain in motion except for the few seconds it takes to shove pallets of cargo off the aircraft and take on passengers.

The air strip and off-loading ramp has been zeroed in by

enemy gunners. People getting on and off the aircraft do so on the double. Marines boarding the planes remain in nearby bunkers until almost the last moment, and then dash for the C-123s a split second after the cargo is off-loaded.

Battle casualties and refugees are among those airlifted out of Khe Sanh by the airmen.

During a widespread enemy offensive, C-123 crews of the 311th ACS airlifted 650 Vietnamese refugees from Khe Sanh to Da Nang, and then delivered them to Quang Tri City.

Like the Marines stationed at Khe Sanh, the air commando crews wear flak vests and helmets whenever their aircraft approach the air strip.

"I think the men of the 315th have done a tremendous job at Khe Sanh," said Colonel Robert D. Brown, wing commander. "Khe Sanh has been a major target of enemy action, and the isolation and type of airfield represents one of the toughest resupply jobs that we have faced."

SAIGON (MACV) — Air Force tactical air power and combined ground forces have been credited with 1,533 enemy killed in a recent 19-day battle at Phan Thiet.

The 3rd Tactical Fighter Wing from Bien Hoa air base and three other Air Force tactical fighter-bomber wings, flew 114 combat sorties in support of the Army's 3rd Battalion, 506th Infantry. The sorties accounted for the destruction of 293 military fortifications and substantial damage to 152 others.

High praise was heaped upon the strike pilots by the 3rd Battalion's air liaison officer and forward air controller, Air Force Major James A. Pratz. In a letter to Colonel George W. McLaughlin, 3rd TFW commander, he said: "I would like to extend my sincere gratitude for a close air support job well done by a group of professional fighter pilots, under trying conditions of

heavy automatic weapons fire, from an enemy in extremely close contact with friendly troops."

While 3rd TFW pilots were being praised for their role in the 19-day battle of Phan Thiet, another major operation in Quang Tri province was being terminated.

The name of the operation was Scotland, a reinforced regiment size surveillance and spoiling action which began last Oct. 31.

Controlled by the 3rd Marine Division, Scotland was conducted by the U.S. 26th Regiment, 5th Marine Division. This unit was reinforced by elements of the 9th Regiment, 3rd Marine Division.

An ARVN Ranger Battalion also operated in close coordination with the Marines, and participated in the defense of the Khe Sanh combat base.

Cumulative results of Opera-

(Continued on Back Page)

### II FF Donates \$18,000

LONG BINH (II FF) — More than \$18,000 has been contributed to the Tet Aggression Relief Project (TARP) by units assigned, attached, and under operational control of II Field Force Vietnam. The figure includes contributions through March 21.

TARP is a program initiated by General W. C. Westmoreland to allow American servicemen to donate money to aid Vietnamese civilians who suffered losses of their

homes and belongings during the Tet aggression.

Contributing to the \$18,000 are personnel from Headquarters, II Field Force Vietnam, 53rd Signal Battalion, CORDS III CTZ, U.S. Army Advisory Group III CTZ, 1st, 9th and 25th Infantry Division, 101st Airborne Division, 199th Light Infantry Brigade, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 12th Aviation Group, and the 23rd and 54th Artillery Groups.

engines and we opened fire on them." Three Viet Cong were killed instantly.

The fire quickly emptied the sampans, which were carried by the current to the opposite bank, 30 feet away.

Lieutenant Lowke and Sergeant Francis Murphy swam unarmed across the canal's strong current to recover and search the boats. Their platoon covered them with machinegun

### Excess R&R Money Helps Aussie Cause

SAIGON (MACV) — Vietnam bound American servicemen returning from R & R in Australia, now have a worthy cause to which they can donate their leftover small change in local coin.

They are dropping it into strategically placed collection

boxes at the R & R Center for a volunteer organization called "Legacy", which cares for widows and children of deceased Australian servicemen.

The currency rate of exchange is \$1 Australian to \$1.12 U.S., and amounts which would convert to less than one American dollar, are not reconvertible to military payment certificates or U.S. green.

"Legacy" chairmen, R.C.H. Mason, expressed the organization's gratitude to American servicemen for their contributions in a letter received at U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam headquarters.

"Our sincere thanks to all those men who supported our cause after a brief leave in Australia," the letter read.

It said the donations were a "magnificent gesture" on the part of U.S. servicemen.

### Lt. Clobbers 'Charlie' With Right Hook

CAMP FRENZELL-JONES (USA) — An unarmed 199th Light Infantry Brigade lieutenant recently charged from where he swam in a canal to flatten a Viet Cong, using the unique weapon....a right-hook to the jaw.

First Lieutenant Joe Lowke was leading a reconnaissance platoon of Company E, 2d Battalion, 3rd Infantry, when it ambushed a group of several motorized Viet Cong sampans

four miles south of Saigon. After the ambush, the U.S. patrol found 23 Communist AK-47 assault rifles, 10,000 rounds of ammunition, 82mm mortar equipment and grenades.

The patrol had been in position along the Kinh Song canal for about two hours. "We heard motorized sampans, and got ready for the Viet Cong," said Sergeant Charles Sandberg. "As they entered our killing zone, the VC shut off their

fire as close as three feet from where they were swimming.

"I had just looked into one of the boats, when I saw a VC jump up from the canal bank," said Sergeant Murphy. "I yelled to the Lieutenant, and he charged after the Viet Cong and belted him."

Supporting light fire teams and artillery blasted the area where the other enemy had fled.

## Editorial

# Let's All Vote

We're only a few weeks into the year and the 1968 elections are already a major topic of conversation. There is little doubt that this is a political year and courses of action of national and international importance will be decided at the polls.

Your right to vote is one of the strongest pillars of our free society. Throughout the course of history, men have given their lives in order to have a voice in the affairs of their government.

Unfortunately, many of our citizens fail to realize the importance of voting. They neglect this all-important privilege and obligation and attempt to justify their



neglect by saying, "My one vote wouldn't make any difference anyway."

When one uncast ballot is multiplied by the hundreds, or thousands, of eligible voters who stay at home, the total reaches staggering proportions and could make the difference in the outcome of an election.

It's obvious then, that every vote does count. But how do you, the man on military duty, ensure that your vote is counted?

The first and most important step is to make sure that you are properly registered to vote in your home state. With state primary elections beginning as early as April, right now is the time to register and begin compiling all the information you will need to vote intelligently when the time comes.

Remember, the time factor is extremely important in registration and voting. Requirements vary from state to state as to when to apply for registration, when to request your ballot and when you must return your ballot.

Don't let the time slip by so that you will not be able to exercise one of your most valuable and important privileges and responsibilities as an American citizen. See your Voting Officer right away and find out what you must do to vote in the 1968 elections.

The liberty we enjoy and for which thousands of Americans have given their lives can be lost if every citizen does not express his opinion through our system of free elections.

## New G. I. Bill Serves All Veterans With 181 Days' Duty After Jan. '55

**WASHINGTON (AFPS)** — Benefits of the new G.I. Bill are not limited to Vietnam Veterans, but apply equally to veterans who served in the Armed Forces anytime after Jan. 31, 1955.

The Veterans Administration explained that veterans who had at least 181 days' active duty service, any part of which occurred after Jan. 31, 1955, are eligible for these G.I. Bill benefits:

### Educational Assistance

Full-time payments for college type training range from \$130 a month for a single veteran to \$175 for a veteran with two dependents, with \$10 extra for each additional dependent.

### High School

The same payments are available to a veteran while he completes high school without losing any G.I. Bill eligibility for advanced educational benefits.

### Apprentice Or Other OJT

Payments (based on six month period) begin at \$80 per month in the first period for a single veteran with added payments for veterans with dependents.

### Farm Cooperative Training

Includes institutional courses. Payments range upwards from \$105 a month.

### Vocational Flight Training

Payments cover 90 per cent of

the established charge for flight training for veterans who have the equivalent of a valid private pilot license.

### G.I. Loans

VA guarantees a portion of loans made through commercial lenders. On home loans the VA will guarantee up to \$7,500 of the loan; on farm real estate loans up to \$4,000 and on non-farm real estate loans up to \$2,000. VA will make direct loans for homes in certain cases.

### Medical Care

VA provides hospital care for all veterans who served in the Armed Forces after Jan. 31,

## Just In Case You Have Not Heard

### Conn. Bonus For Vietnam Era Veterans

**WASHINGTON** — For each month of military service (no matter where) since Jan. 1, 1964, the State of Connecticut will pay a \$10 bonus to its veterans — up to a \$300 maximum. To be eligible, honorably discharged veterans must have at least 90 days service and military personnel need a minimum of 30 months in service. One year's domicile in Connecticut immediately prior to active duty is a must.

Eligible next-of-kin of servicemen who die on duty of service-connected causes may collect the \$300 maximum.

Survivors of honorably discharged veterans will be paid according to the span of countable service.

The bonus will be financed by an \$18 million dollar bond issue.

Claim forms are available from: Office of the Treasurer, Vietnam Bonus Division, 15 Lewis St., Hartford, Conn. 06115. (VNL)

### AF Enlisted Promotions

Promotions in the Air Force's top six enlisted grades continue to show improvement, according to statistics released by Personnel officials.

"Promotion opportunities," officials said, are now the best since the Korean War.

Statistically, top six promotion allocations planned for FY68 will reach more than 167,000.



**CINDY, CINDY**—Seventeen-year-old Cynthia Ferrare came to Hollywood and earned herself a movie contract. She also has made photo album covers for "The Challengers" and "Frankie Randall" and is currently co-starring in "The Impossible Years." (Photo Courtesy of 20th Century Fox)

## Language Barrier?

A trooper brand new to Vietnam was in a hurry to visit one of the villages and talk with the people.

"How bad's the language barrier?" he asked a buddy who had been in-country several months.

"There isn't a language barrier," he was told. "We communicate perfectly."

The new GI and his buddy visited a local village and went into a small shop to look around. The girl who ran the shop knew the second soldier.

"Allo, Joe," she greeted him. "I go Saigon. You gimme go, okay?"

"Sorry 'bout that, no can do, coe," said the soldier.

"Papasan have bike. He no here. You gimme go."

"No. Same-same me," replied the GI. "Jeep for honcho bac-si!"

"No sweat, GI," she coaxed him.

"Ah, no — beaucoup sweat. Now you souvenir me cigarette, okay?"

"Neva hoppen. You numba ten, beaucoup dinky dow."

"I no dinky dow. I numba one soldier. Look. I deede now, come back later."

As the two soldiers left the

shop the amazed newcomer asked his buddy, "Man, where'd you ever learn to speak Vietnamese?" (AD)

## Stable Tour For Army

**WASHINGTON** — A 12-month stabilized tour at station of choice in the Continental United States (CONUS) is being offered as a reenlistment option for overseas returnees. Requirements: completion of normal overseas tour; minimum 4-years reenlistment prior to return; request for option 90 days before departure; and available slot at desired station.

Exceptions: soldiers returned through hospital channels 90 days before normal completion of overseas tour may elect the same option when available for duty; soldiers with four years or less service returning to CONUS for separation may use reenlistment option upon return or within three months of separation. Full details may be obtained in Department of the Army message 837370. (AD)



**The OBSERVER** is an authorized newspaper published weekly by the Command Information Division, Office of Information, Military Assistance Command Vietnam for United States Forces in Vietnam. Opinions expressed here do not necessarily reflect policies or positions of the Department of Defense or any of the Armed Forces. The OBSERVER, printed at Pacific Stars and Stripes in Tokyo, uses material from the Armed Forces Press File, Armed Forces News Bureau and other Department of Defense agencies. Direct mail to: Editor, The OBSERVER, Hq MACV, APO 96222.

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# Fem. Stevedore? Well Why Not...

DA NANG (USN) — The Naval Support Activity here has introduced a new element into the business of cargo handling in Vietnam . . . it's spelled W-O-M-E-N!

The support activity's Vietnamese Administrative Training branch is sponsoring a program to turn out qualified women cargo handlers, an art normally not associated with the distaff side of Vietnamese life. Some of them will drive fork-

lifts capable of handling 4,000-pounds. They will also be taught to operate winches and act as signalmen who direct cargo loading on the docks.

One of the Navy coordinators, Boatswain's Mate First Class Eugene West, said the ladies will complete their course in three weeks. "The first week of the course is spent on forklift operations, and the last two weeks are spent on cargo handling procedures," he explained.

According to Petty Officer West, the women are often better workers than men. But he gave one other distinct advantage of hiring women.

"We were losing two or three men a week to the Vietnamese Army. We don't have that problem with women," he said.

Petty Officer West planned the course of instruction for all of the stevedores trained by the support activity's Freight Terminal Section.

A Vietnamese, Phan Tan Thieu, teaches most of the classes.

Originally, the idea of hiring women to do stevedoring work came from the Industrial Relations Department in Saigon, according to Boatswain's Mate West.

"If our pilot program is a success," he added, "we'll probably be hiring more women."

## Chopper Engages Big Tree

TAY NINH (USA) — There is an old saying that has made the rounds for years about people "going out on a limb" for one reason or another.

To the crew of one LOH-6A Observation Helicopter of Troop C, 3rd Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry, this is no longer just a figure of speech. They not only went out on a limb but went through the tree and brought back the limbs as well.

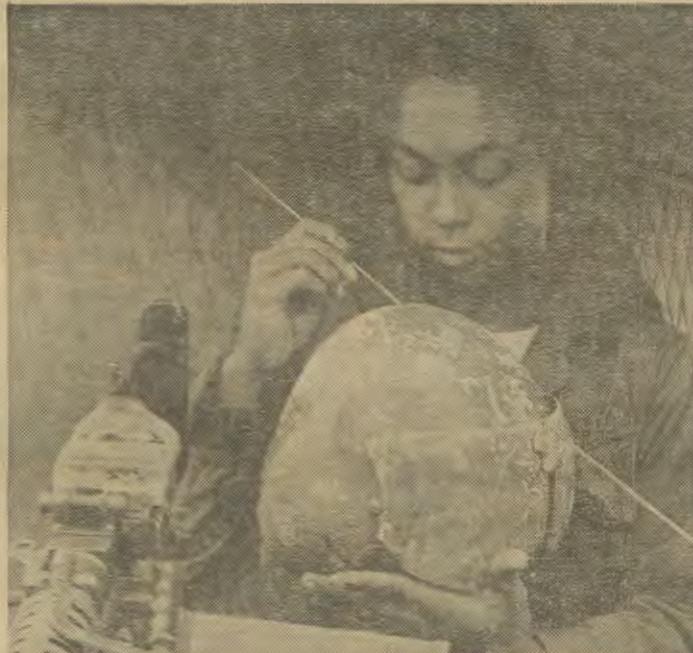
The craft, piloted by Warrant Officer G.A. Loyd Lamonte was on a visual reconnaissance mission approximately 20 miles northeast of their base camp when they suddenly spotted 15 Viet Cong. They were sitting in a small clearing apparently taking a break.

Quickly circling the area, the ship prepared to mark the target with smoke for nearby gunships. As they swooped down at tree-top level, automatic weapons fire engaged the ship. As the pilot fought to keep control of the aircraft, he found himself confronted by a large tree. Unable to avoid the tree, the ship crashed through it, losing the right landing skid and most of the plexiglass cockpit cover. As it emerged the chopper had several large tree limbs in the cockpit.

"I would like to know what the Viet Cong thought when they saw us going through the tree," said Specialist 4 Larry Nowlin, the ship's observer.

Miraculously uninjured, the crew was then faced with getting the heavily damaged plane to a safe landing area. Flying at low altitude WO Lamonte piloted the ship to the 25th Infantry Division's First Brigade base camp at Katum, some 15 miles to the west, and landed safely by resting the skidless right side of the chopper on a large mound of dirt.

## Enemy Parts Corporal's Hair



Cpl. Harris shows path of bullet which parted his hair. (USA PHOTO)

## Army Officer Praises Pilots

PHU CAT (USAF) — Words of high praise have been heaped upon two pilots of the 416th Tactical Fighter Wing at Phu Cat air base here.

The pilots are Captains William R. Hockensmith and Howard H. Jones, II, who recently were diverted from their preplanned target to support a reconnaissance platoon in heavy contact with an enemy force southwest of Hoi An. The plaudits came from Lieutenant Col-

nel Dean F. Skinner, air liaison officer with the Americal Division.

"The aerial skill and professional competence displayed by these pilots was a classic example of airpower," the colonel remarked. "Their air strikes routed and discouraged the enemy, allowing the Army unit to move to a more favorable position for extraction."

A low overcast and mountain peaks hidden by the clouds were two of the hazards the pilots met as they streaked in to hit

the enemy's ridge line position. The first bomb landed about 150 meters in front of the friendly unit, exactly where a forward air controller aircraft had marked the strike zone.

A ground commander then directed the two pilots to move their ordnance toward the friendlies until at one point, bombs were falling within 50 meters of their lines.

"Such a precision bombing performance," declared Colonel Skinner, "deserves the heartiest 'well done'."



BM1 Eugene West explains the controls of a forklift to a woman student.

(USN PHOTO)

PHU BAI (USMC) — Corporal William H. Harris of Marine Observation Squadron-3 claims to be the only man in his squadron who no longer has to part his hair.

While returning from a mission near Phu Loc, the UH-1E Huey helicopter in which he was an aerial gunner was diverted to an emergency medical evacuation of three wounded Marines.

Within one minute of the call for help, Corporal Harris heard on the radio, that instead of the original three casualties, there were now nine. He said, "I knew right then we were going to be in for a world of trouble when we set down."

"As we touched down, I swung my door gun back and leaned out to signal for the infantrymen to bring the casualties in on my side of the chopper," stated the gunner. "About that time I heard a loud thundering sound and my ears started ringing. My first thought was that I'd been hit, but I felt no pain, not even a burning sensation, which I thought would surely come from a bullet wound."

Once back in the air, the corporal leaned over to look at one of the wounded marines on the floor of the chopper. "I had my sun visor down and I yelled over to the crew chief, 'My God, look at the blood on that guy.' I felt kind of foolish afterward though, for I realized that what I saw was my own blood on the inside of my visor," he explained.

"I felt no pain, just got a little dizzy now and then, so figured I had accidentally scratched my head."

Arriving at the Phu Bai medical aid station, he assisted in unloading the wounded men and

was about to get back into the chopper when the pilot told him to turn himself in for treatment of his wound.

Corporal Harris was treated for a minor wound and returned to his unit for duty. Smiling, he remarked, "Besides having the distinction of being the only man in the squadron with a permanent part in his hair, I've also been tagged with the nickname, 'Ricochet.' The round that hit me entered the front of my hard hat, ricocheted off the top of my skull, and ripped out through the back of the helmet," he said.

## Gets Hair Cut With Punch

SAIGON (USA) — When Air Force Senior Master Sergeant Burton Phillips of Traffic Management Agency recently asked his barber for a short trim, he got a close shave as bonus.

While Sergeant Phillips was sitting in the barber chair getting the trim, a stray round from an M-14 rifle tore through the tin wall of the barber shop in the Saigon Port, struck him on his belt and fell to the floor. "Choi-oi! (wow) exclaimed the startled Vietnamese barber. Surprised, but unshaken, the sergeant picked up the slug and took it back to work with him.

The sergeant is the NCOIC of the Airlift Division of Traffic Management Agency.

Sergeant Phillips theorized that the round was nearly spent when it reached the barber shop because he never heard the shot fired and it caused so little damage.

# Downed Heli Crew Saved By Air Cav.

NHA TRANG (USA) — Elements of the 7/17th Air Cavalry Squadron, 1st Aviation Brigade, rescued a downed helicopter pilot and his wounded observer from the midst of North Vietnamese occupied bunkers near Kontum recently.

The rescue was effected despite dense jungle, a high concentration of enemy troops, and heavy automatic weapons fire.

The cavalrymen, called to the rescue from a search and destroy mission 10 miles south of Kontum, hacked through the jungle, guided by one of their squadron's Cayuse (OH-6) reconnaissance helicopters.

Heavy automatic weapons fire halted the rescue operation until its source could be located, and destroyed.

The pilot and observer, finding themselves in the middle of enemy occupied bunkers, jumped into an empty bunker, and waited.

The rescue team, after silencing the enemy fire, evacuated

the downed men to a makeshift landing zone where a medevac helicopter flew them to safety.

Air strikes were then called in on the enemy positions. Soon the positions were saturated with rockets, mini-guns and troops from the 4th Infantry Division.



Reconnaissance chopper.



Ground troops are dropped in to secure the area for medevac.

## Support Group Alpha

# Marines Assist Viets

PHU BAI (USMC) — Despite the fury of expanding war in northern I Corps, the Force Logistic Command's Support Group "Alpha" Civil Affairs team in the Hue-Phu Bai area is making steady progress.

Combined efforts are directed toward increasing public facilities and the opportunity for economic growth in Thuy Luong and Thuy Tan villages. Instilled with the principle of self-help, the villagers provide manpower for projects and the Marines advise and assist them in obtaining necessary materials.

"To build even as we fight," is the team's motto. "Whatever war has destroyed, we rebuild," said First Lieutenant Jim Uhl, the unit's civil affairs officer.

The team's MEDCAP (Medical Civic Action Program) is geared to train people in hygiene. Shower units, capped wells and concrete toilet facilities were among the first construction projects undertaken by the group. Preventive medicine instruction is given to approximately 600 villagers cared for weekly. Some 1,500 refugees were treated in Hue alone by the team.

Despite improvements in health standards, the 30,000 villagers of Thuy Luong and Thuy Tan are susceptible to tropical diseases. To counteract this problem, the team instituted a mass inoculation program. The first to receive the shots were the children. To prevent duplication, shot cards were issued and records kept of the child's age and weight. With this data, U.S. Navy hospital corpsmen now can tell which child has what inoculation.

Another encouraging factor the team has uncovered is that adults want their children to have a better education than they themselves had. To help provide this the civil affairs personnel sponsored a school-building program and the Government of Vietnam is providing a teacher.

Team members teach conversational English and because the English language is especially difficult for Vietnamese, students and teachers alternate in singing songs in English. This quickens the learning process.

Sergeant Paul Smith, acting platoon sergeant and licensed veterinarian, is the brains be-

hind the team's stock-raising and agricultural improvement projects.

With a background in farming and ranching and a degree from Texas A&M, he is persuading the Vietnamese to try new methods: rotate crops, use marginal land, berry bushes for hedgerows and cultivate orange and citrus trees.

Each member of the team has his own specialty. Nguyen Vong, better known to his Marine buddies as "Henry", is a former hard-core VC. Since rallying to the Republic, he has been decorated by the Government of Vietnam on several occasions while serving as a scout. He senses the needs of the people and is an invaluable member of the team.

"We are doing everything we can to help these people. Our aim is to help the Vietnamese to help themselves and to solve their own problems," explained a team member.

The team is living up to its motto in many ways.

## Tots Received Gifts From AF

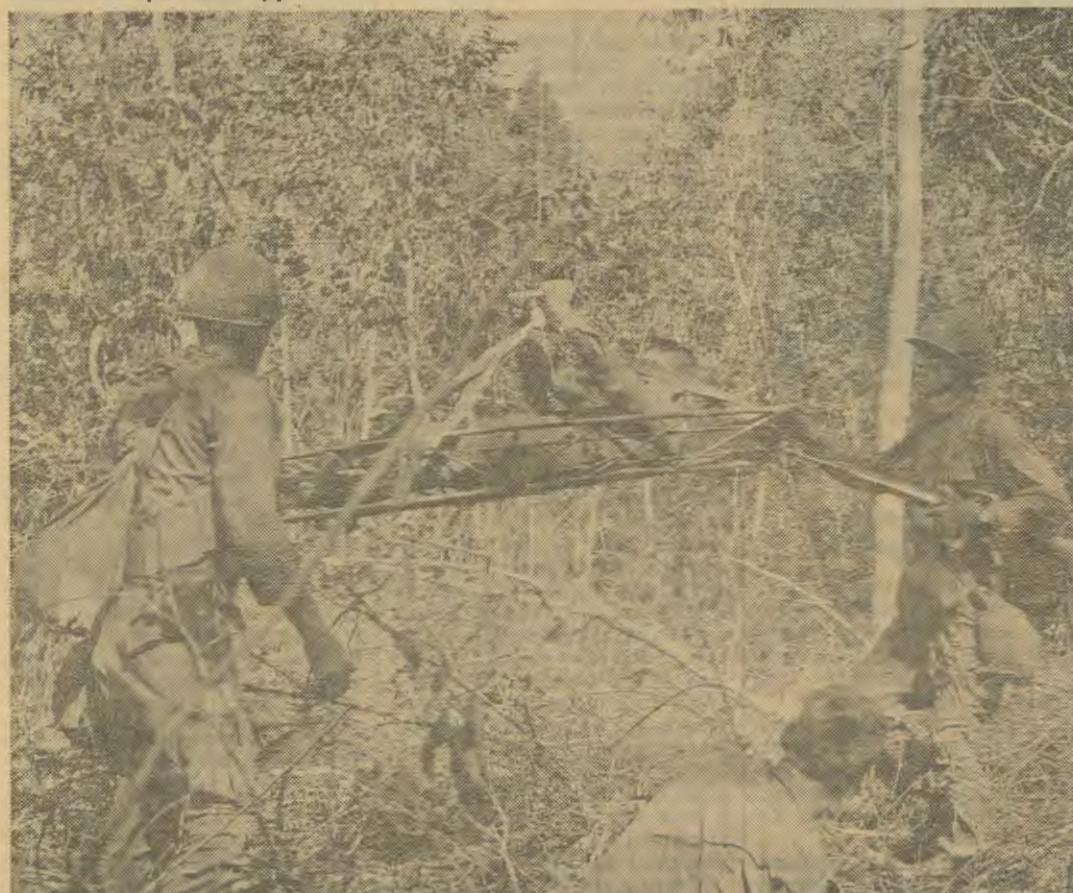
PHAN RANG (USAF) — During the past few weeks, approximately 1,500 youngsters in eight Montagnard and Vietnamese hamlets near Phan Rang Air Base have received toys and clothing from members of the 882nd Communications Squadron under a program called "Project Father."

Captain Donald Terrell, telecommunications officer of the squadron, said the toys and clothing are the gifts of people in the United States who were contacted by squadron personnel.

The sorting and distribution of the toys and clothing was a big job carried out by several of the officers and men of the squadron. In addition to distributing the gifts to the hamlets, the men also distributed gifts to the Protestant mission center and the Buddhist charity house in Phan Rang City.



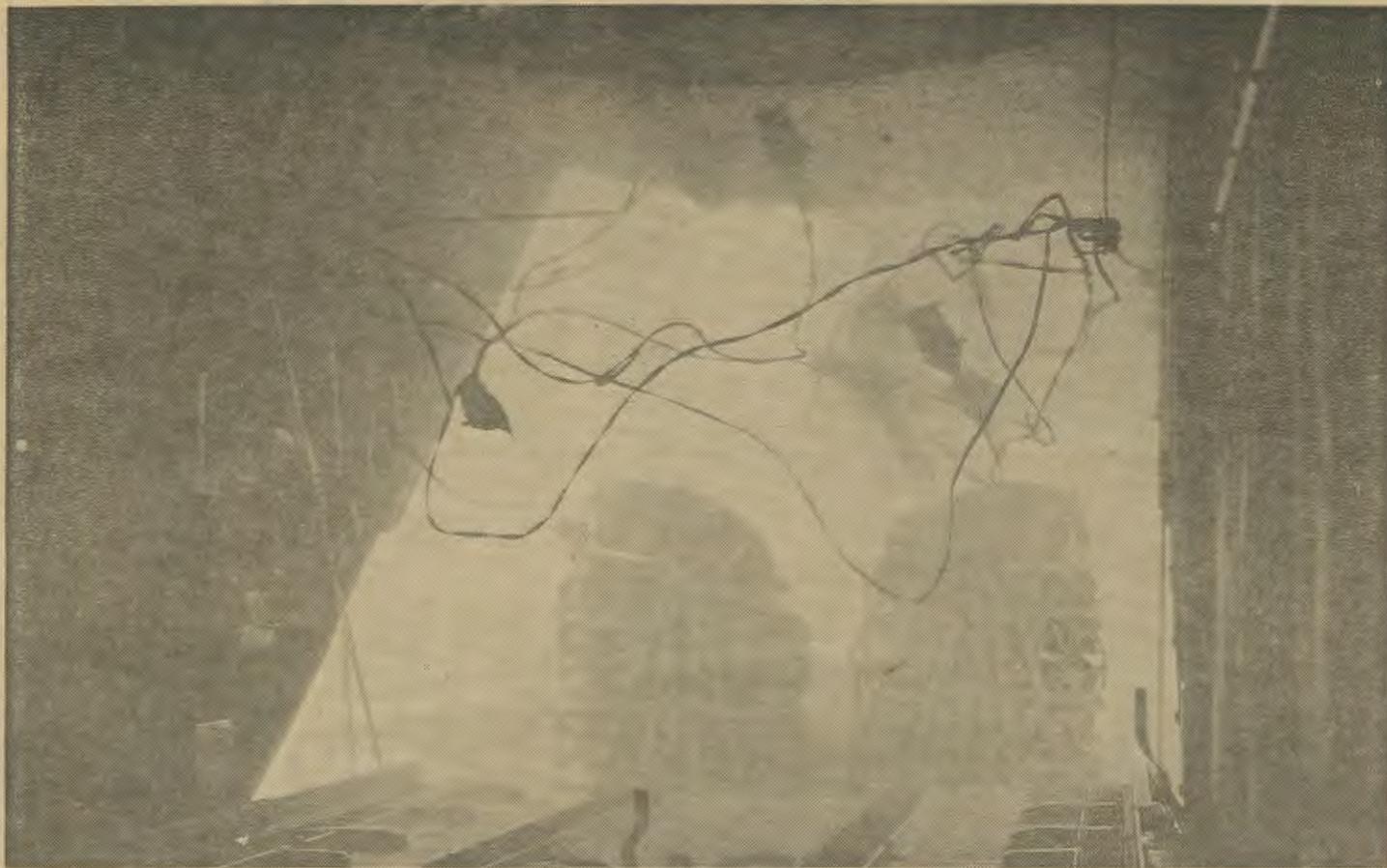
A member of the rescue team stands ready with his M-16 rifle.



After cutting a landing zone out of the jungle the soldiers medevac the patient.



The wounded crew member is hoisted into the chopper.



Rumbling like an express train, tons of cargo clears the C-130 aircraft four seconds after their release.



Chutes stream earthward.

## Khe Sanh 'Lifeline'

**DA NANG (USAF)** — The Khe Sanh airdrop — it has no fancy code name — is now the largest airdrop in history for a 30-day period. Before it ends, it will undoubtedly be the largest airdrop ever in terms of tonnage.

To the Marines, the Khe Sanh airdrop is a life-sustaining pipeline that feeds them ammunition, fuel and rations. To the C-130 Hercules crews from the 315th Air Division, and the C-123 Provider crews from the 311th Air Commando Squadron at Da Nang air base, the Khe Sanh airdrop is the most challenging, but the most rewarding mission they fly. To the airmen of the 15th Aerial Port Squadron at Da Nang, and the Army parachute riggers of the 109th Quartermaster Company, Cam Ranh Bay, no job is more important than the proper preparations of cargo bundles for the Khe Sanh airdrop.

In the first 30 days of this massive airdrop, tons-upon-tons of cargo have been parachuted to Marines at Khe Sanh. Most of these supplies have come from cargo stockpiles at Da Nang air base.

On an average day the C-130s and C-123s will drop several tons of supplies into Khe Sanh. Each C-130 and C-123 will unload its cargo as it passes over the drop zone.

Most of the cargo for Khe Sanh is airdropped from a low altitude. However, some supplies are delivered by the LAPES or Low Altitude Parachute Extraction System. When LAPES is used, the C-130s set up a normal landing approach for Khe Sanh's 4,000 foot runway. Without touching down the aircraft flies a few feet above the runway and pops out a large chute that literally pulls the load out of the airplane.

A specially built skid absorbs the shock as the load hits the runway and comes to a stop on the aluminum matting. Most of the materials the Marines use for building and re-enforcing their bunkers is delivered to Khe Sanh by the LAPES system.

C-130 crews will normally make two drops a day at the outpost. Back at Da Nang's busy cargo loading ramp, the Hercules load and take-off in an average of 20 minutes. This remarkably quick "turn around" time is a tribute to the skill of the loading crews at Da Nang's 15th Aerial Port and the fine support they get from Army riggers.

It takes only two hours for an empty C-130 to make a round trip from Da Nang to Khe Sanh.

When this aerial pipeline started in early February, the weather over Khe Sanh was zero-zero.

most of the time. This did not stop the life-sustaining flow of supplies. Using radar and doppler navigation systems, crews from the 315th Air Division continued to deliver the goods accurately without ever seeing the drop zone.

During the first 30 days of the Khe Sanh airdrop, 90 per cent of the missions were under blind conditions. Out of 68 airdrops made during one week, only two missed the mark. Both of these were due to unavoidable chute malfunctions.

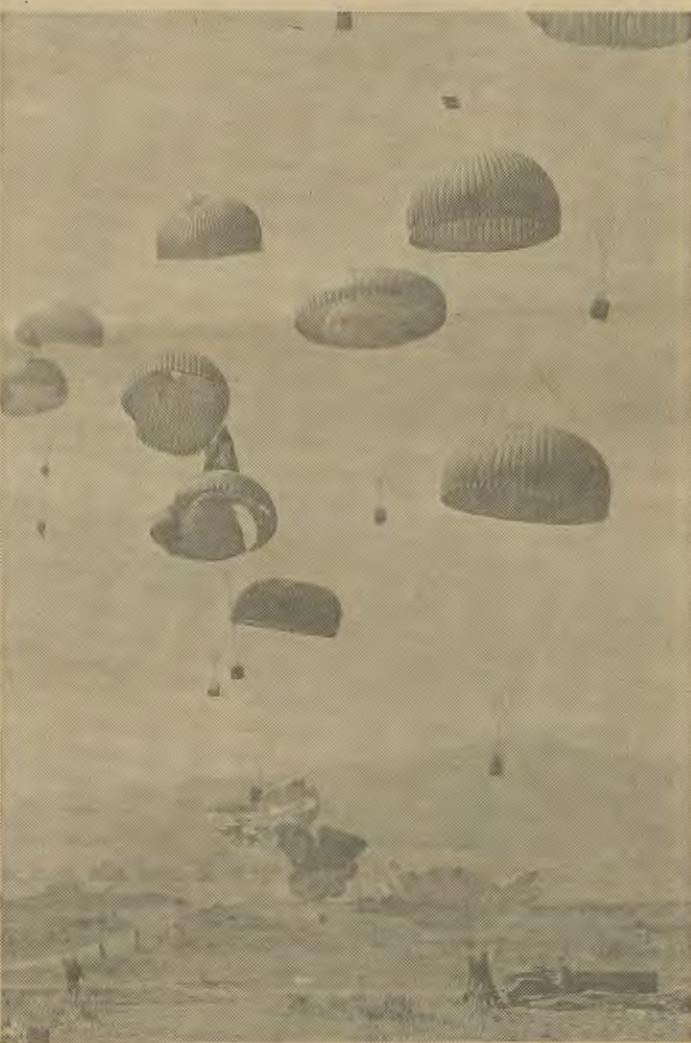
Making an airdrop over Khe Sanh is no "milk run." Each aircraft is greeted by a hail of enemy ground fire as it approaches the drop zone. But despite the ground fire and bad weather, the aircrews continue to supply the goods.

Even without a fancy code name, the Khe Sanh airdrop is earning a special niche among famous airdrop operations of the past. It has already earned a special place in the hearts of the Marine Corps.

Story & Photos

By

U.S. Air Force



Supplies float to an abrupt landing at Khe Sanh drop zone.



During the last leg of their journey, the supplies are lifted onto trucks by Marine crews at the drop zone and are taken to Khe Sanh base camp.

# VN Marine Corp



Lt.Gen. Le Nguyen Khang, Commandant of the VNMC, presents the Cross of Gallantry for heroism.



During a lull in the fighting a Marine sits and watches for elusive enemy soldiers.



Emblem of the VNMC carries with it all the honor and tradition

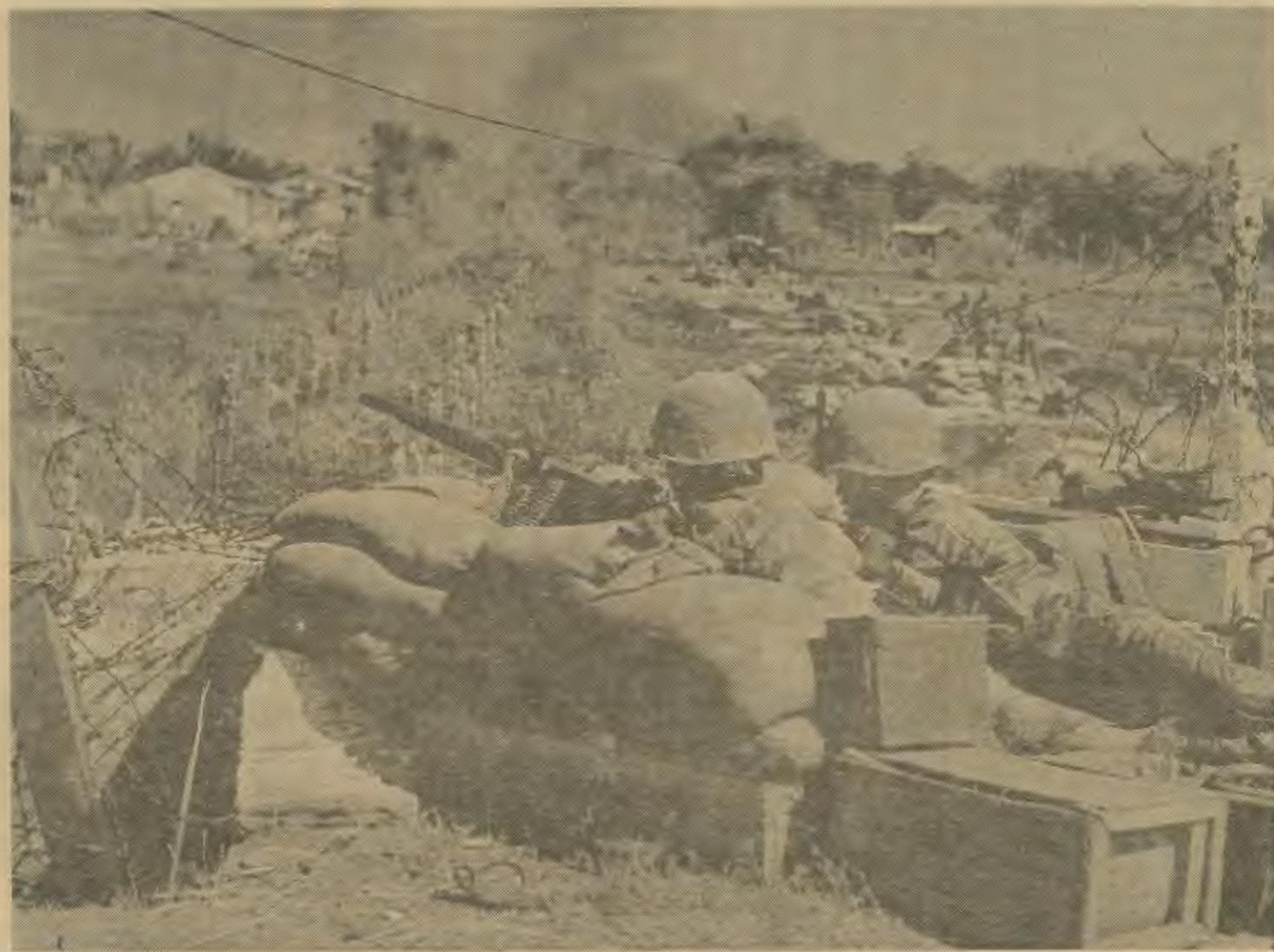


Four Marines cross a roadway in fireteam formation during heavy contact with the enemy in the streets of Saigon.



A Marine moves to a new position with his grenade

# Corps In Battle, Honor and Tradition



With their machine gun in position, two Marines keep watch for any sign of enemy movement during fighting in Saigon.



Photos By VNMC  
&  
SSgt Ted Owen USMC

In the honor and tradition of young Corps.

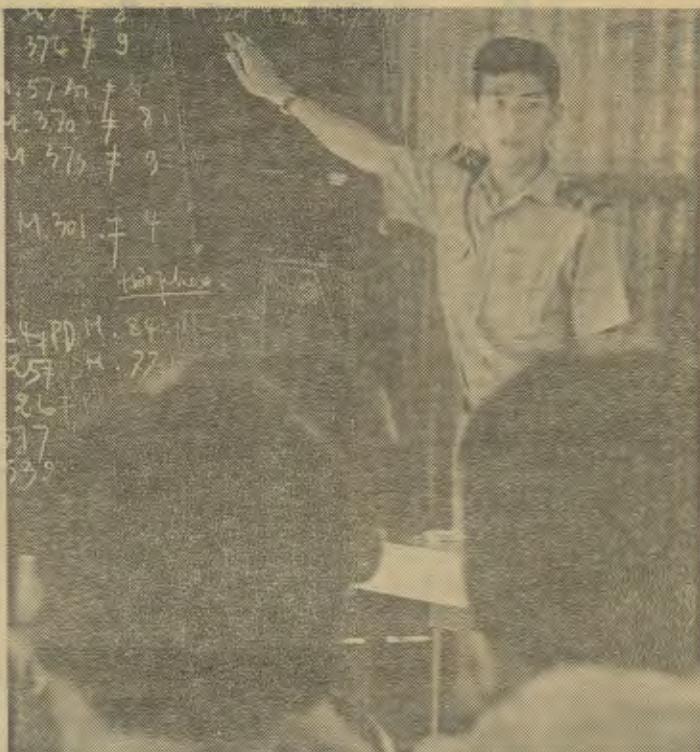


position with his grenade launcher at the ready.

Captain N.V. Kim points out a possible enemy position on his map to his U.S. advisor, Captain J.A. Williams.



Emphasis is placed on the concept of "cross-training" as a U.S. Navyman gives instructions.



A Vietnamese Navyman instructs fellow Vietnamese sailors.

## 'Swifts' For Viets

**AN THOI (USN)**—Seventy-one Vietnamese Navymen recently completed six months of intensive training here and began coastline patrolling in four 50-foot Swift boats.

These patrol craft are the same type the U.S. Navy is using to patrol the coast of South Vietnam in Operation Market Time—a series of anti-infiltration patrols which prevent the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese from moving supplies and men into South Vietnam by sea.

According to Lieutenant David C. Brown, commander, Coastal Division Eleven, the unit organizing and conducting the training, the Vietnamese use the Swift boats to patrol two areas near here originally patrolled by U.S. Navy units. Later, as more Vietnamese crews are trained, more boats will be assigned until all of the Market Time inshore stations—from the DMZ in the north to the Cambodian border in the southwest—are taken over by the Vietnamese Navy.

Of the 71 Vietnamese sent here for training by the Vietnamese Navy headquarters in Saigon, 48 are being trained especially as boat crews. The remainder will serve as reserve

crew members and maintenance personnel.

The training started in mid-October when the first increment of trainees, about half of whom had graduated from the Naval Training Center in Nha Trang, arrived at An Thoi.

After the usual check-in period and a survival swimming test, all were organized into crews, said Lieutenant (junior grade) Dan Ustick, coordinator of training and a Swift skipper himself. Then a few days later all were taking a familiarization ride aboard one of the high speed, staunchly-armed craft.

Then the schooling really got underway with a month of classroom instruction—"the heart of the entire program," said Lieutenant Ustick.

During this classroom phase of instruction, the Vietnamese—taught by other Vietnamese Navymen who had received training earlier under U.S. Navy crews aboard the Swifts here—learned to operate the radar, the various radio circuits, how to fire the weapons and all the other things they need to know to step aboard and effectively operate a Swift boat.

This completed satisfactorily and a comprehensive review and examination given, each crew

of six was broken down into two watch sections.

Then each section of three men was assigned to a U.S. crew for one month and became functioning members of the crew. With the Vietnamese aboard, a U.S. crewman was eliminated. During this underway phase the Vietnamese began putting to practical use the lessons learned in the classroom. Special emphasis was placed on the concept of "cross-training"—the system whereby every crewmember is familiar with the others' primary jobs—the key to the successful combat employment of small patrol units.

The officers who have trained these men aboard their boats have nothing but the highest praise for them.

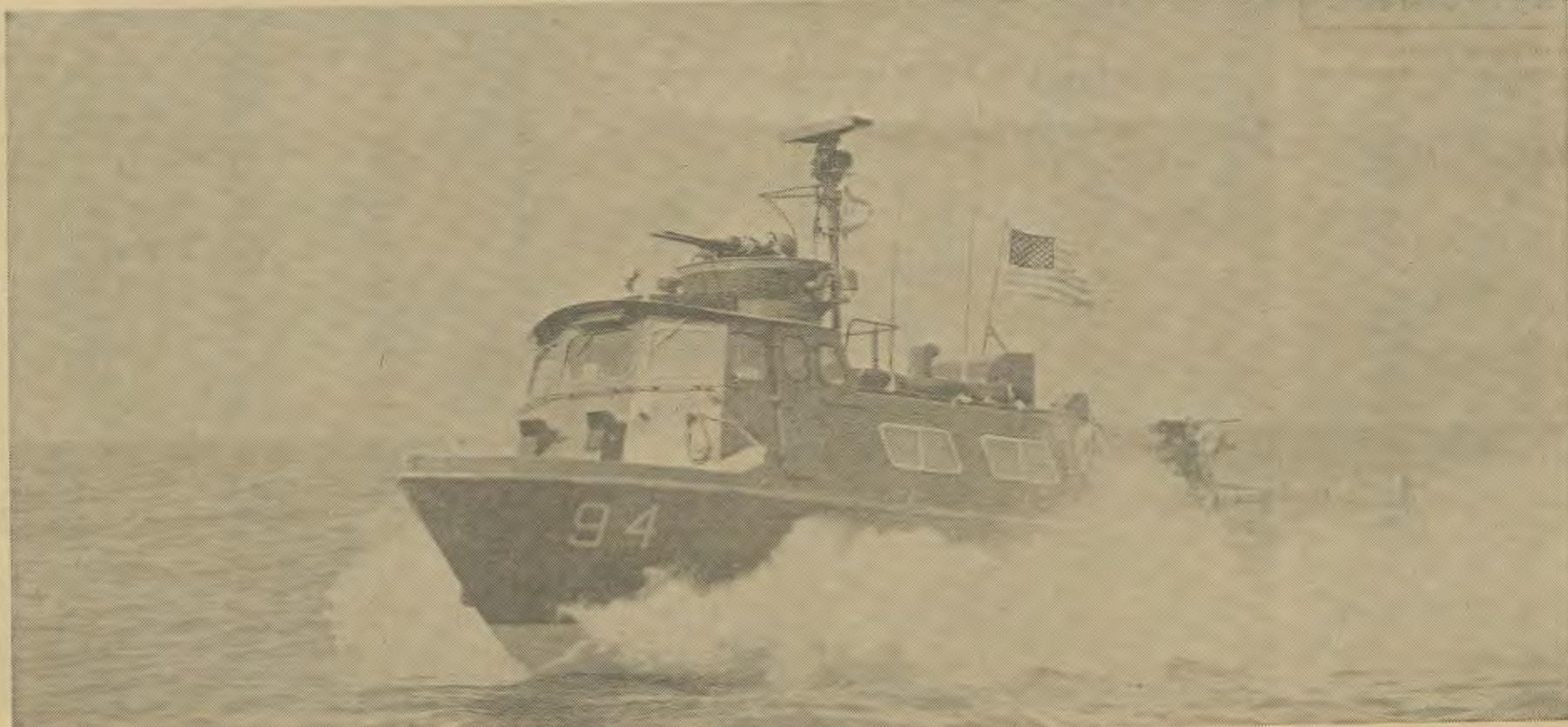
According to one U.S. Navy officer, "the people I have aboard are as well-trained as the U.S. sailors who come from nine weeks of training at Coronado. If the other watch sections are as good, they will form tremendous crews."

Story & Photos

Lt (jg) T.S. Storck



Training aboard the Swift includes operating the 81mm mortar.



Four of these 50-foot Swifts are being operated by the Vietnamese Navy which is now participating in Operation Market Time.

# 9th Inf Division Assisting Monks

LONG THANH (USA) — Buddhist monks, laboring for more than 10 months, have constructed and recently opened an orphan's village for children whose parents fell to the Viet Cong.

Situated two miles from the 9th Infantry Division's Bearcat base camp, the village now houses more than 275 youngsters in an eight building complex.

The monks are continuing

## PFs 'Stop' Viet Cong Tax Men

PHONG DINH PROVINCE (USN) — Tax collectors are not popular people in the United States nor in South Vietnam, especially if they are Viet Cong.

When two of the enemy tribute collectors were killed recently in this Delta province, local residents were quick to identify them as VC tax men.

The pair was cornered by Popular Force troops in a ditch near a small canal 75-miles southwest of Saigon. The VC were pinned down from the sky by Navy Seawolf helicopter gunships when they tried to escape. They tried to fight their way out with grenades, but were killed by the Popular Force troops in the attempt.

## Commandos Fly Mercy Missions

NHA TRANG (USAF) — Five mercy missions to Pleiku and Ban Me Thuot were flown recently by crews of the 14th Air Commando Wing to deliver much needed rice for families of Civilian Irregular Defense Groups in that area.

Each flight averaged about 4,500 pounds of rice. Volunteer crews flew the missions, which were a joint effort on the part of the Air Force and the Army's 5th Special Forces. The Army supplied the rice when the local supply at Ban Me Thuot was depleted as a result of increased enemy activity in the area at the time.

their work until 42 buildings and a pagoda are completed. Units of the 9th Division are pitching in with material and medical help.

Recently, Division Support Command (DISCOM), the 9th Medical Battalion, Division Artillery and the 86th Engineers, a Division support unit, began civil action projects at the site.

A large kick-off program was held recently to express the division's intentions to help. Children were entertained by the band, received soft drinks, candy and fruit while the monks were given quantities of wood, shovels, cots, roofing tin and other materials.

Weekly MEDCAPS also are being conducted. More than 120 children and orphanage personnel received care at the first one.

As one of its initial projects, DISCOM passed out more than 250 tubes of toothpaste and brushes, then taught the children to use the items.

Nguyen Van Su, director of the orphan's village, said that the village will expand to more than 6,000 acres of land owned by the Buddhist Institute of Gia Dinh Province.

The land is being entirely cleared and developed by 70 monks. Presently, the eight-building orphanage contains classrooms, sleeping areas, shower points, a large dining area, a kitchen and religious shrines.

It is now staffed with six teachers, three nurses and attendants for the children.

As the complex grows, its needs will increase. As a result, the 9th Medical Battalion will help build a dispensary and train the Vietnamese to run it. Already the medical units have restocked and reorganized and existing aid station.

The engineers are currently putting up a playground. Another Bearcat unit is providing a teacher to conduct English language courses regularly.

Although the orphan's village needs many supplies from Saigon each week, its only transportation is a small bus. The 9th Supply and Transportation Battalion will solve that problem by providing two and one-half ton trucks once a week for transportation.



**DOG-GONE REPLACEMENT**—Lieutenant Colonel T.R. Hill, commanding officer of the 1st Military Police Battalion, presents a puppy to ARVN First Lieutenant Nguyen Van Quang and his daughter. The puppy was to replace the family's pet which was killed a few months ago when it attacked a U.S. patrol. The following day the colonel visited the family and promised to replace the dog as soon as one could be obtained.

(USMC PHOTO By Sgt A.M. Chambers)

## Sp4 Makes Tots Happy

DUC HOA (III CTZ) — Eight hundred Duc Hoa Elementary School children were happier and Specialist 4 Edson M. Wiggington, MACV Advisory team 99 with the 25th ARVN Infantry Division, saw the fulfillment of a dream.

It all started several months ago when the 21-year-old special-

ist experienced a jeep breakdown near a hamlet about 10 miles west of Saigon. While waiting for help to arrive, he noticed a Vietnamese mother crying by the roadside. Viet Cong had shot her husband and her children during a night raid.

The real losers in any war,

reflected the specialist, were the children and he decided to bring a little happiness to some Vietnamese children before he left Vietnam.

He selected the 800-children school of Duc Hoa near his U.S. compound and started buying candy and gum for them. Soon, however, he realized he needed help. His buddies were happy to add their resources to the cause but the goal still seemed too distant.

Reading the labels on confectionery wrappers one day, he got the idea to write to the manufacturers for bulk price list. Letters also were sent to his folks and to the mayor of his home town of Saint Joseph, Mo., to ask for additional contributions.

In traditional American style his pleas for assistance received prompt and generous support. Letters from manufacturers and church groups pledging candy, toys, gum and school supplies flooded in from the U.S. The mayor of St. Joseph endorsed the soldier's letter by placing it in a local newspaper, and more pledges were received.

Two months later there were enough gifts for all of the children.

After presenting the gifts to the children, Specialist Wiggington exclaimed, "I knew it was a worthwhile project — I can see that by expressions of their faces — now I can go home."



**LET'S GO!**—A VC suspect is rushed to an awaiting helicopter during a 196th Light Infantry Brigade operation. (USA PHOTO)

## 6th ARVN Regiment

## 'Doc' Is Unique

**TAM KY (USA)**—A unique doctor, a resourceful G.I. and a desire to help are reasons that are making the 6th ARVN Regiment's MEDCAP team click.

First Lieutenant Duong is a rarity in Vietnam—he is a Montagnard from the Nung tribe—the first to become a doctor.

## Canine Courage

**BIEN HOA (USAF)**—“A dog is a man's best friend,” and in the case of Sergeant Louis J. DiFiore Jr., this statement has a personal meaning.

Sergeant DiFiore, a sentry dog handler with the 3rd Security Police Squadron, Bien Hoa air base, was on duty with his German shepherd dog, Hunde, recently when the base came under an enemy rocket attack.

“We were out by the flight-line when the first rounds started to come in,” he explained. “There was no bunker around, so my dog and I sought protection in a gully. Hunde laid down next to me and placed his head over my neck.

“A rocket exploded 20 feet from us, spraying shrapnel all over the area,” the sergeant continued. “My dog was hit in the neck and side by the shrapnel and was dead within a few minutes.”

“I probably wouldn't be alive today if it weren't for Hunde; he saved my life that night,” concluded the sergeant.

This is another example of why dog is man's best friend.

The Nung tribe is in North Vietnam on the Red China border. His family left the north because his father decided he did not want them to live under Communist domination.

“MEDCAP is a continuing project with the 6th—often held minutes after the villages have been cleared during operations,” said Doctor Duong.

He explained that many times the team has gone into a village and received hostile looks and had a hard time convincing the people that they were trying to help them.

“However,” he added, “after a few people have come forward for treatment and the villagers have seen the benefits of MEDCAP, they are most appreciative and receptive to the team.”

Sergeant First Class Dirk Oliverson is medical advisor to the 6th.

“I'm proud of this medical team, mostly because of each individual's desire to help his fellow man,” stated the sergeant.

He pointed out that in addition to his regular duties as the Regimental Surgeon, and his MEDCAP visits, Doctor Duong also has set up a dependents medical program for the men assigned to the regiment.

When Doctor Duong arrived, the unit did not have a dispensary, but with Sergeant Oliverson and his men, they built one.

Another thing that makes this team different is the services of Navy Dental Technician First Class Ronald F. Laqua. He is a member of MILPHAB N3 based at the Tam Ky civilian hospital.

The navyman has started a program of dental hygiene for the villagers.

Tooth brushes and paste are handed out to the children and proper brushing technique is explained.

## Leathernecks Build Children's Hospital

**DA NANG (USMC)**—U.S. Marines and Vietnamese officials teamed up in March to turn over the first shovel of dirt in symbolic ceremonies to start construction on a new home for the Hoa Khanh Children's Hospital at Camp Books, near Da Nang.

The new building, which will replace the present, inadequate structure, is slated for completion in the fall of 1968.

The hospital, the only one of its kind in the I Corps area, has already expanded from its original 11-bed clinic to a 70-bed unit.

Plans for the new facility include a general ward with 120-beds, an isolation ward, modern operating and emergency rooms, X-ray equipment and an intensive care section.

Lieutenant Colonel Le Tri Tin, Quang Nam province chief, expressed his gratitude to all involved in the tremendous growth of the hospital and spoke of the material and spiritual involvement of his people.

Construction of the hospital was made possible through the efforts and contributions of local Marines and Seabees and numerous civic and social organizations throughout the U.S.

A women's club in Gary, Ind., recently bought an air conditioner for the hospital's new operating room. A \$500 check

from Mrs. Josephine Stackhouse of Oklahoma City, Okla., also was presented at a fund raising kick-off here last month.

Another big boost to the building program is the 41,000 bricks needed to build their new hospital which are being made by the people of Hoa Khanh.

## Launches War On Waste

**LONG KHANH (USA)**—Seven American soldiers are fighting a war on waste in the heat of III Corps Tactical Zone's Long Khanh Province. These hand-picked specialists from the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment make up the two-month-old Logistical and Administrative Advisory Team (LAAT).

The trouble-shooters, working side by side with their Vietnamese counterparts, are assuring the province's Regional and Popular Forces a steady flow of personnel, supplies and salaries to maintain top readiness and performance. When a problem crops up, the team attempts to guide the units in submitting requests and reports through the proper channels for the speediest handling of their work.

The LAAT headquarters is the Administrative and Direct Support Logistics Company, or A&L



**POLKA DOTS**—Jan Sutton is her name, she can be seen at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas. (PHOTO By Las Vegas NB)

## Company, just south of Xuan Loc, the Long Khanh provincial capital. At this home base they check and chart incoming personnel and logistics reports for discrepancies and outgoing supplies for deficits.

When a LAAT advisor discovers a problem, he tells his Vietnamese counterpart about it. Together they work out a way to remedy the situation.

“One of the main functions of LAAT is to carry the influence of the A&L Company to the field,” says Major Roger T. MacLeod, team leader and deputy province advisor for Administration and Logistics. So contact teams of Vietnamese and LAAT advisors from the A&L Company visit the RF companies and PF platoons throughout the province.

On these trips they check for missing and needed equipment, adjust A&L rosters and reports

that are not up to date, repair as many deadlined articles as possible and arrange paperwork and shipment for equipment that must go back to the A&L Company for repair.

Some of the field units have difficulty picking up new or repaired equipment or part from the company. When this happens, the LAAT advisors try to get helicopters to fly the supplies out to the field.

Besides keeping track of the province's administration and logistics, the team also shares the defense for the Xuan Loc MACV compound and helps the A&L unit to upgrade their own defenses.

The team is under the operational control of the Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV), and receives instructions from the Long Khanh province senior advisor.

## Engs. Give Viets Help

**BIEN HOA (USAF)**—Personnel of the 3rd Civil Engineering Squadron, Bien Hoa air base, recently took up a collection within the unit to aid Vietnamese employees who lost homes and relatives during the Communist Lunar New Year offensive.

In a brief office ceremony, Lieutenant Colonel Airus E. Bergstrom, squadron commander, presented checks to the victims.

“The decision to take up a collection for the Vietnamese was spontaneous on the part of the men in our squadron,” the colonel commented. “Vietnamese employees make up roughly two-thirds of our organization and we feel that they are very much a part of our unit.”

## American Forces Vietnam

## Network—Channel 11

(Programs Subject To Change Without Notice)

(Guide For Week of April 10-16, 1968)

## (Saigon Area)

Wednesday

1830 News Headlines  
Lost In Space  
1930 News-Sports-Weather  
2000 Hey Susie  
Insight  
2005 Seventh Fleet  
2230 Adams Family  
2100 Carol Burnett  
2200 Sports-Basketball  
Halftime Headlines

Thursday

1830 News Headlines  
Voyage To The  
Bottom Of The Sea  
1930 News-Sports-Weather  
2000 Hey Susie  
Insight  
2005 Information Feature  
2030 Dick Van Dyke  
2100 Kraft Music Hall  
2200 Perry Mason  
2300 Update News  
2305 Jerry Lewis

Friday

1830 News Headlines  
Wild Wild West  
1930 News-Sports-Weather  
2000 Hey Susie  
Insight  
2005 Prince Of Peace  
2030 Bewitched  
2100 The Lucy Show  
2130 Big Picture  
2200 Star Trek  
2300 Update News  
2305 Joey Bishop

Saturday

1230 News Headlines  
Mike Douglas  
1345 USGA 1967 Highlights  
1400 Bob Hope Desert Classic  
1500 Sports  
1700 Roy Acuff  
1730 American Profile  
1830 Lawrence Welk  
1930 News-Sports-Weather  
2000 Hey Susie

Apr. 10

2005 Seventh Fleet  
2030 My Favorite Martian  
2100 Jackie Gleason  
2200 Gunsmoke  
2300 Update News  
2305 Feature Movie

Sunday

1230 News Headlines  
The Christophers  
1245 Sacred Heart  
1300 Prince Of Peace  
1330 Feature Movie  
1500 Sports  
1645 Pat Boone Special  
1730 Johnny Midnight  
1800 G.E. College Bowl  
1830 Danny Thomas Hour  
1930 News-Sports-Business  
2000 Hey Susie  
Window On Vietnam  
2005 Young People's Concert  
2100 Ed Sullivan  
2200 Bonanza  
2300 Update News  
2305 Dean Martin

Apr. 11

1830 News Headlines  
Daniel Boone  
1930 News-Sports-Weather  
2000 Hey Susie  
Insight

2005 In Town Tonight  
2030 My Three Sons  
2100 Hollywood Palace  
2200 Mission Impossible  
2300 Update News  
2305 Tonight Show

Apr. 12

1830 News Headlines  
Big Valley  
1930 News-Sports-Weather  
2000 Hey Susie  
Insight

2005 In Town Tonight  
2030 My Three Sons  
2100 Hollywood Palace  
2200 Mission Impossible  
2300 Update News  
2305 Tonight Show

Apr. 13

1830 News Headlines  
Mike Douglas  
1345 USGA 1967 Highlights  
1400 Bob Hope Desert Classic  
1500 Sports  
1700 Roy Acuff  
1730 American Profile  
1830 Lawrence Welk  
1930 News-Sports-Weather  
2000 Hey Susie

Apr. 14

Apr. 14

1830 News Headlines  
Daniel Boone  
1930 News-Sports-Weather  
2000 Hey Susie  
Insight

2005 In Town Tonight  
2030 My Three Sons  
2100 Hollywood Palace  
2200 Mission Impossible  
2300 Update News  
2305 Tonight Show

Apr. 15

1830 News Headlines  
Big Valley  
1930 News-Sports-Weather  
2000 Hey Susie  
Insight

2005 In Town Tonight  
2030 My Three Sons  
2100 Hollywood Palace  
2200 Mission Impossible  
2300 Update News  
2305 Tonight Show

Apr. 16

1830 News Headlines  
Big Valley  
1930 News-Sports-Weather  
2000 Hey Susie  
Insight

2005 In Town Tonight  
2030 My Three Sons  
2100 Hollywood Palace  
2200 Mission Impossible  
2300 Update News  
2305 Tonight Show

Apr. 17

## Up Country



WELL SIR.. I FIGGERED THE BEST WAY  
TO CATCH THE GUY WOT WAS STEALIN'  
OUR BEER WOULD BE TO SET UP A  
BOOBY TRAP!



- What is the record for most homers hit by a player in his major league game?
- What pitchers have won the most games in a season since the National and American Leagues were organized?

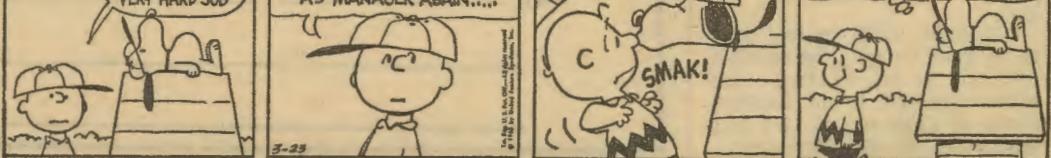
Answers

1. Two, by American Leaguers  
Bob Nieman of the old St.

2. The National League record is 60, set by Hoss Radbourn of Providence in 1884. The American League record is 59, set by Jack Chesbro of New York, who had a won-loss mark of 41-12 in 1904.

## Beetle Bailey

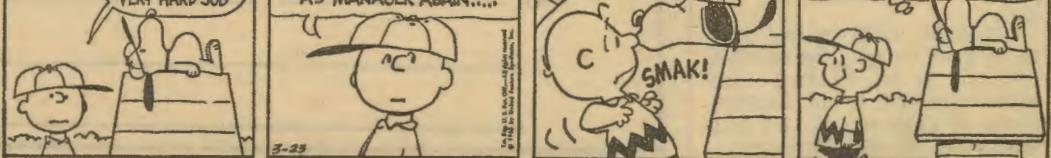
By Mort Walker



A KISS ON THE NOSE, AND I'M OFF THE HOOK!

## Peanuts

By Charles M. Schulz



# Parachutes Fail; 2 Pilots Survive

**PHAN RANG (USAF)** — Two Air Force pilots who bailed out of a crippled F-100 Supersabre at 500 feet had a close brush with death recently, when the parachute of one failed to open and the other's chute opened just one second before he hit the ground.

The normal minimum ejection altitude for an F-100 is 2000 feet.

Lieutenant Colonel Burton M. Field and Captain William D. Canup escaped with minor injuries, after their two seater model F-100 was shot down 10 miles from Binh Thuy air base.

Colonel Field was saved by a tree and a ditch. His unopened parachute snagged on a mango tree 30 feet high, and he found himself dangling from the harness in an eight-foot ditch below the tree. His ankles rested in mud, and the water in the ditch came up to his knees.

Captain Canup landed in a rice paddy covered by 15 inches of water. He was unhurt, except for soreness. The captain said he thought the soft earth and water in the rice paddy kept him from sustaining major injuries, even though there was not time for his parachute to attain a normal rate of descent.

Within 15 minutes, the two

pilots were rescued by helicopter and returned to their unit, the 615th Tactical Fighter Squadron at Binh Thuy.

Colonel Field recalled those agonizing seconds after he ejected, and said he was not really worried until he fell head first through the tree branches.

"There were branches between me and that streaming chute. I figured that was the end . . . and I wondered how long it would hurt."

It was the second bail-out from an F-100 for Colonel Field. The first occurred five years ago at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.

After his latest narrow escape, the colonel telephoned his wife in the United States via the Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS).

"Well, I did it again," he told her. "She took it a lot better than last time," he reported. Colonel Field is a veteran of 126 combat missions in Vietnam.

Captain Canup noted that his ejection into the rice paddy came on his second combat mission.

"I had every confidence in the system (ejection system)," he said, recalling his feelings during descent. "I suppose it was not my time to go."

## 'Quick Kill' Method Too Much For VC

**PHAN THIET (USA)** — The "quick kill" method is a new firing technique being taught U.S. soldiers prior to their coming to Vietnam. It involves pointing their rifles at an enemy insurgent without taking time to use the sights for aiming.

Paratroopers from the 101st Airborne Division's 1st Brigade made extensive use of the Army's new kill method while flushing Viet Cong from a village near here recently.

A platoon from Company A, 3rd Battalion, 506th Infantry, was sweeping through a village

when a VC leaped from behind a house and drew his .45 caliber pistol.

The airborne infantrymen pointed their rifles and killed him instantly.

A second enemy soldier stepped out from behind another house with a rocket launcher ready to fire. Again using the "quick kill" method, Specialist 4 Marshall D. Nelson shot him immediately.

Meanwhile another platoon was sweeping the area outside the village. A Viet Cong jumped out of the brush with his hands in the air. He was detained by the paratroopers.

As the platoon resumed forward movement, still another soldier emerged from the brush. This one chose to "shoot it out" however.

Private First Class Chris Adams swung his M-16 around at hip level and scored a third quick kill.

Altogether the paratroopers killed 12 Viet Cong in the sweep.

## Not His Way, He Quits VC

**PHU BAI (USMC)** — A man who spent a short stint as a Viet Cong, had good reasons to surrender under the Chieu Hoi program to Marines during a recent operation near Phu Bai.

The former enemy had lived in a quiet village near Highway 1. During the Communist Tet offensive, the VC came into his village, stole food, shot a number of villagers and kidnapped two men. He was one of the kidnap victims.

An unwilling guerrilla from the outset, he was sent to an indoctrination school in the mountains. After several days of instructions in the virtues of enemy goals in southeast Asia, the man was assigned to a working party and accompanied bands of VC operating in the area.

"But all the time," he said, "I was awaiting an opportunity to escape and return to my village."

One night, while the real guerrillas were sleeping, he escaped, returned to his village and turned himself in to Leathernecks of Company M, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment.



SP4 Robert Collarile, treats a wounded CIDG soldier he carried to safety.

(USA PHOTO)

## Civil War Relic Useful

## Old Plow Cuts Work Time

**PHUOC VINH (USA)** — A paratrooper's promise, the generosity of a Kentucky tobacco farmer and a Civil War plow teamed up to turn a half-day's labor into a 20 minute chore for signalmen of the 101st Airborne Division's 3rd Brigade here.

The value of a plow became apparent to Staff Sergeant Ted E. Johnson during a previous

Vietnam tour with the Screaming Eagles. During that tour he was involved in building Communication lines near Dak To.

"Our lines had to be 18-feet above ground or six inches below the surface," the sergeant recalled. "I had Highlanders (Montagnards) cutting poles for me, but as the VC increased their sniping fire, the length of the poles decreased."

He decided the best solution was to bury the lines, but this took six men half-a-day to dig a quarter mile of trench. It was then he hit upon the idea of a plow.

"I bought a plow from a Highlander for 400 piasters," he continued. "The plow was designed for marshy rice paddies and broke under the stress of turning hard ground. I vowed then and there I would bring an American plow with me if I ever came back to Vietnam."

Sergeant Johnson returned to the U.S. and was assigned to the 3rd Brigade, then at Ft. Campbell, Ky. when his unit was alerted for movement to Vietnam.

The sergeant remembered his previous problems and called upon R.E. Pace, a nearby tobacco farmer.

"I explained why I wanted a plow," said the sergeant. "Mr. Pace understood my needs and gave me an old plow that turned the tobacco fields a hundred years ago."

The brigade signal platoon scoured the share, added a touch of paint and deployed to Vietnam with their ancient plow and modern communications equipment.

With Sergeant Johnson at the plow handles and a vehicle in the harness, the signalmen can lay a quarter mile of wire in minutes.

"It sure has saved us a lot of 'elbow-grease,'" he said, as a half dozen nearby privates nodded in agreement.

## Joint . . .

(Continued From Page 1) **tion** Scotland were 1,561 enemy dead and 50 suspects detained. In addition, 112 individual and 66 crew-served weapons were captured.

U.S. casualties were 204 Marines killed, 845 wounded and medevaced, and 777 lightly wounded who were treated and returned to duty.

The operation was supported by 5,561 tactical air strikes.

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TO: _____	