

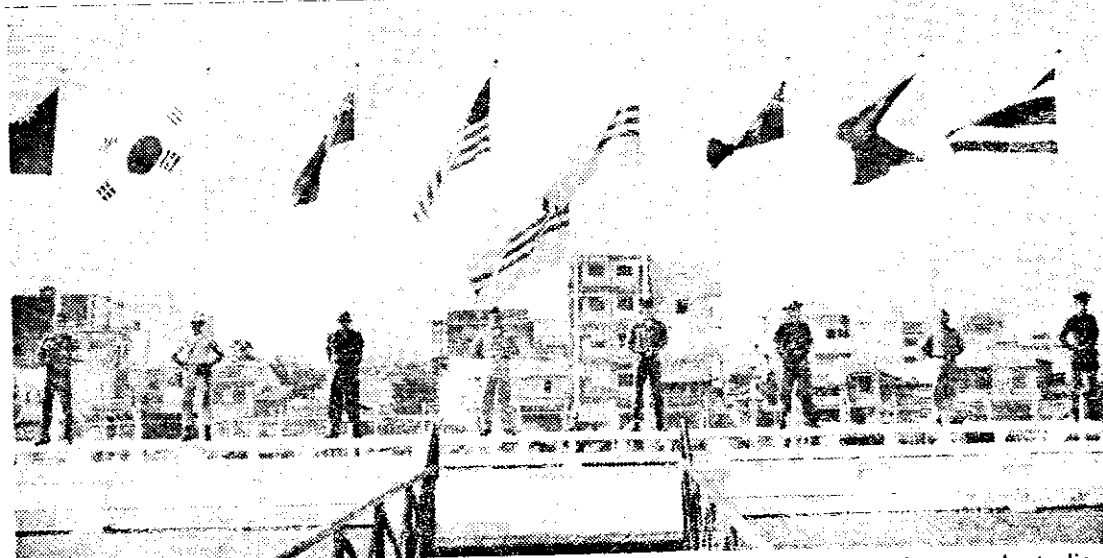
# Vietnam—Your Year of Challenge

## PACIFIC STARS AND STRIPES

AN AUTHORIZED PUBLICATION OF ARMED FORCES FAR EAST

Orientation Edition, Vietnam

Summer-Fall 1966



REPRESENTING the Free World strength that fights with Vietnam, soldiers of seven nations stand with their flags at the Free World Military Assist-

ance Office in Saigon. The nations are Australia, Korea, New Zealand, the Philippines, Republic of China, Thailand, United States and Vietnam.

## Red Aggression Here Hits at U.S. Security

You have come to fight in Vietnam because this is the place the communists have chosen as the battlefield in their new type of war of aggression. Our purpose here has been simply stated by our President and Commander-in-Chief:

"Our objective is the independence of South Vietnam and its freedom from attack. We want nothing for ourselves—only that the people of South Vietnam be allowed to guide their own country in their own way."

But the conflict in this small nation bears much wider significance. It involves the security of the United States and the free world, because the North Vietnamese and the Chinese communists are using it as a test case for their so-called "wars of national liberation".

President Johnson spoke on the same subject, saying, "Around the globe . . . are people whose well-being rests in part on the belief that they can count on us if they are attacked."

"To leave Vietnam to its fate would shake the confidence of all those people in the value of an American commitment and in the value of America's word."

The assault on the Republic of Vietnam is clearly an aggression. In pointing this out, Secretary of State Dean Rusk added that North Vietnam organized and directed the aggression, backed by communist China.

The cadres of guerrilla fighters, saboteurs and assassins who form the backbone of the Viet Cong were specially trained in North Vietnam.

"Had all these (thousands from North Vietnam) crossed the line at once—as the North Koreans did in invading South Korea 15 years ago—nobody in the free world could have doubted that the assault on Vietnam was an aggression," Mr. Rusk said.

The communists recognize that Vietnam is the testing ground. The North Vietnamese Army head recently referred to South Vietnam as a model of the national liberation movement.

"If the special warfare that the U.S. imperialists are testing in South Vietnam is overcome, then it can be defeated everywhere in the world," he said.

"War of national liberation" is the term communists use to describe any effort short of large-scale war to destroy by force any non-communist government.

In answer to the communist threat, and in support of our objective of insuring the independence of Vietnam, President Johnson has declared that we will do everything necessary to reach that objective.

(See "Challenge", Page 3)

## MACV

## Building Fighting Advising

The Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) is the fighting arm of the four-part U.S. Mission in Vietnam.

The other three are the Embassy, the Agency for International Development and the Joint U.S. Public Affairs Office. Chief of the U.S. Mission here is the United States Ambassador to Vietnam.

MACV is the second largest armed forces command outside the United States, with more than a quarter of a million Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard troops filling its rolls.

Commanded by General W.C. Westmoreland, MACV has two primary missions. The first is to support the South Vietnamese in their struggle against communist insurgency and aggression; the second is to assist in the political and economic development of the nation.

USMACV is charged with operational control of all U.S. Armed Forces in Vietnam, as well as with the total military advisory effort and coordination with the other Free World Military Forces.

The largest contingent assigned directly to MACV is the one that includes the advisers to the Vietnamese Armed Forces. The members of all Services who work directly for MACV headquarters comprise the remainder.

The advisers work with all of the Vietnamese Armed Forces, from the Joint High Command to the (See "MACV", Page 3)

## Free World Nations Rally To Assist South Vietnam

Seven flags, flying with Vietnam's in front of the Free World Military Assistance headquarters in Saigon, are a symbol of the 41 nations which have poured aid into the fight against communism in South Vietnam or which have promised or agreed to provide assistance.

Flying beside the Vietnamese colors are those of the seven nations which have sent military contingents—Australia, Republic of China, Korea, New Zealand, the Philippines, Thailand, and United States.

Assistance for economic development has included goods and materials such as cement, text-

books, medical supplies, tools, school equipment, and industrial and road-building equipment.

Several hundred Free World civilians work in Vietnam as teachers, doctors and technical specialists. More than 700 Vietnamese now are studying in 11 Free World countries other than the United States.

Of the 41 nations, 29 have provided aid and the remaining 12 have agreed or promised to send aid to Vietnam.

Korea has fielded the second largest Free World military force in Vietnam, after the United States.

Since arriving here the ROK Capital Infantry Division and 2d ROK Marine Brigade have earned the respect of both friends and Viet Cong forces for their fighting ability.

Korea also provides a 400-bed evacuation hospital, a surgical hospital, a construction group and a naval transport unit.

The 21,000-man Korean force is scheduled to jump to 40,000 in late summer, with the arrival of another division.

In addition to purely military activities, the Koreans conduct many civic action projects among the Vietnamese. Also, the Koreans have brought another skill to Vietnam—Taekwondo, the Korean form of karate, which their instructors teach both on and off duty.

Australians have served in Vietnam since 1962, as advisers and instructors in jungle warfare, and in special forces. Their first combat force of 1,500 men arrived in 1965. This May it was increased to 4,500.

New Zealand supports the cause with an artillery battery. Thailand has sent airplane pilots and crews and is sending an LST.

The Philippines are dispatching a 2,000-man force for noncombatant civic action projects in addition to the medical and psywar teams now in Vietnam.

In some parts of South Vietnam, whole hospitals are staffed by medical teams from, for example, Iran. The staffs of this and other unit-type groups move the complete operation into a location, set up a hospital, obtain local assistance, and go into action.

Often this medical attention will be the first that the Vietnamese community has ever had.

Economic aid to South Vietnam has come from these Free World countries: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Ecuador, France, Germany, Greece and Guatemala.

Also providing aid are: India, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Laos, Luxembourg, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Pakistan, Spain, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

## MACV Troops Are Diplomats: Secondary Role

At all overseas duty stations the American Serviceman is called upon to serve also as a kind of ambassador—to respect the ways and the people of the host country.

In the Republic of Vietnam this requirement is more vital than in any other place or time.

Engaged in a life-and-death struggle to resist communist domination, the South Vietnamese people need our help and that of other free nations. We need their friendship and understanding.

What is won by coarse, rude or clearly disrespectful behavior toward a host people? Certainly not friendship.

Each of us must play a dual role—that of both serviceman and diplomat. It's part of our mission.

## MACV Commander Welcomes You

I welcome you to the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, and to one of the most worthwhile military assignments of our generation.

The struggle in which we are engaged in Vietnam has a direct connection with the security of the United States.

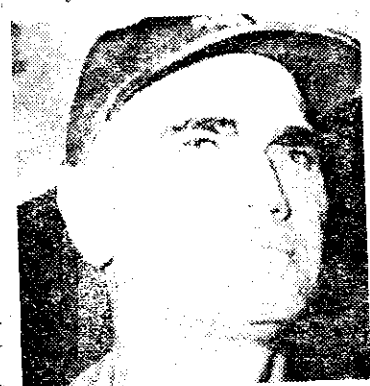
We have a vital mission here, and you are important to the accomplishment of that mission.

Our task—our mission—is a double one: to support the South Vietnamese people in their struggle against communist insurgency and aggression, and to assist them in building a strong nation.

The Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, is designed to accomplish these tasks.

I urge you to remember that the battle is everywhere.

Whether you are fighting in a field unit, patrolling in the city, or typing at a desk assignment, you must always be aware of the enemy.



General W.C. Westmoreland

You must be alert, security-conscious and sincerely cognizant of your responsibility to your unit and to your fellow Serviceman.

At yet another level, we must respect and seek to understand our Vietnamese colleagues. They are a brave people who have fought on for many years to attain and hold principles of freedom which are common to the United States and other free nations.

You have a big task in Vietnam, and a great opportunity for service. I am confident that your military training and your foundation in American democracy will make you a valuable member of this soldier-diplomat team.

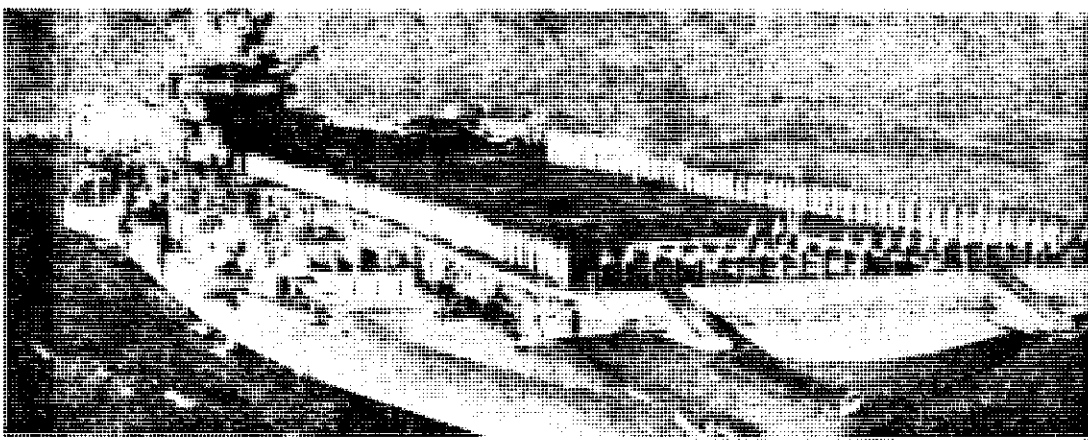
*W.C. Westmoreland*

## 'Mighty 7th' Here, Too

While the U.S. Navy Seventh Fleet is not within the MACV organization, it is playing a major part in winning the fight for freedom from aggression here, side by side with other American and Free World Forces.

The mighty Seventh Fleet operates in an area covering 30 million square miles—including the South China Sea off Vietnam. In February 1965 Seventh Fleet aircraft launched the first air strikes against North Vietnam.

Toward the Free World effort in South Vietnam, the Seventh Fleet provides a big assist with air strikes, naval gunfire against land objectives, amphibious landing capabilities and a number of support activities, pointing up its motto, "Ready Power for Peace".



USS HANCOCK is one of the Seventh Fleet's aircraft carriers operating off the coast of Vietnam.

# Navy Hunts the Enemy On Rivers, Coasts

Virtually all U.S. Navy forces in the Republic of Vietnam come under the operational control of U.S. Naval Forces, Vietnam (NAVFORV), which has been functional as a major element of MACV since 1 April 1966.

The Navy in Vietnam conducts a much more massive and widespread series of operations—exclusive of the U.S. Seventh Fleet, the sea-stationed force that is not part of MACV—than is generally realized.

The NAVFORV units include the Coastal Surveillance Force, River Patrol Force, MACV Naval Advisory Group, 30th Naval Construction Regiment (a Seabee unit), and two Naval Support Activities, at Danang and Saigon.

### MARKET TIME

The Coastal Surveillance Force (Task Force 115) has conducted its MARKET TIME operation since March 1965, making this battle against enemy infiltration by sea the longest single operation of the war.

The task force includes radar picket escort ships, patrol planes, minesweepers, LST's, the now-famous SWIFT's (25-plus knots), support craft of various types, and a contingent of 82-foot Coast Guard cutters.

The MARKET TIME campaign has shown top results, with an outstanding record of enemy interceptions, captures and sinkings.

Last October the Coast Guard cutter Point Clear rushed to the aid of a Vietnamese army outpost on the

verge of being overrun by VC. The cutter shelled the attackers with mortar and .50 caliber fire, forcing them to withdraw.

Special Forces at the outpost said the cutter brought on the turning point of the engagement and probably saved the outpost.

### GAME WARDEN

The River Patrol Force (Task Force 116), whose activities are called Operation GAME WARDEN, has the mission of preventing Viet Cong infiltration, movement and resupply on the rivers of the Mekong Delta, along the mouths of the rivers and in the Rung Sat Special Zone.

In effect, GAME WARDEN operations have the same kind of mission in Vietnam's hundreds of rivers and canals

as the MARKET TIME force has in coastal waters.

Basic unit of the force is the river patrol boat (PBR), a 31-foot, quiet, high-speed craft designed for shallow water operations. The boat draws 18 inches of water.

With a four-man crew, the PBR's carry twin .50's and one .30 caliber machine gun, plus individual weapons. Twin engines of 220 horsepower each power the boat through a marine jet pump.

PBR's often work in joint operations with MARKET TIME coastal craft, as well as with Vietnamese Naval, Police and Customs teams.

### NAVAL ADVISORY GROUP

The third major element in NAVFORV is the Naval Advisory Group, Vietnam, which assists in the training and operations of the 14-year-old Vietnamese Navy (VNN).

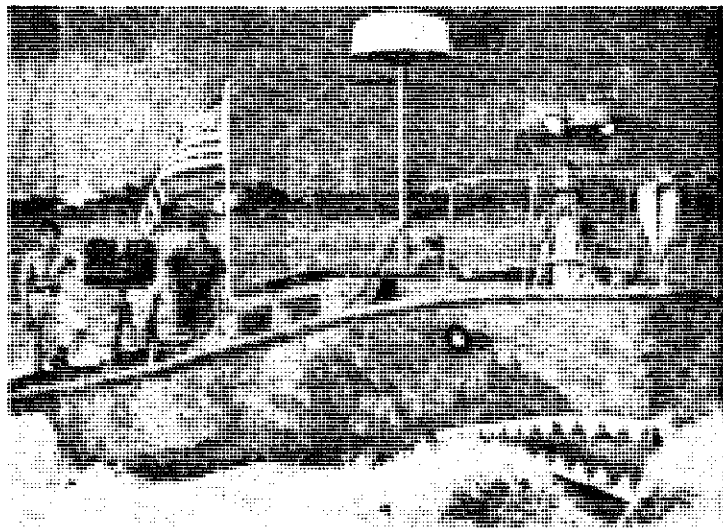
The U.S. Navy has had a hand in the VNN development since the days of Indochina, when the United States and France signed a mutual agreement to provide military aid to that country.

In 1954 the VNN had eight Sea Force ships and about 100 river patrol craft. Since then more than 45 ships have been delivered to Vietnam under the Military Assistance Program. Also, 50 river craft have been added to build up River Assault Groups and other units.

In early 1962 the U.S. Navy had nine mobile training teams in South Vietnam.

By August 1965 each Vietnamese Navy Sea Force ship was assigned an American Naval Adviser who stayed with the ship during overhauls as well as on patrol, thus strengthening the rapport between advisers and VNN counterparts.

Other improvements included the development of special craft, designed for



RIVERBOATS have performed heroically in Naval operations here.

this area and heavily armed, long-ranged, and shallow in draft.

### SEABEES

The Seabees are at it again. Famous for World War II feats, the Seabees have had a big hand in the mighty construction effort which has supported the American buildup in Vietnam.

The 30th Naval Construction Regiment has handled the construction tasks in the I Corps area and is involved in significant efforts for naval units in III and IV Corps.

But the jobs are not all heavy construction for military units, for the Seabee Technical Assistance Teams are participating in a wide range of civic action projects to help the Vietnamese people.

### SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

Two Naval Support Activities are the logistic arm of NAVFORV.

The fighting Marines in the northern I Corps area look to the Naval Support Activity, Danang, for the vital necessities to keep operations rolling. The unit also operates the important port at Danang.

The Naval Support Activity, Saigon, provides the logistic and administrative backup for Navy elements in

II, III, and IV Corps areas.

In-country bases keep MARKET TIME, GAME WARDEN and harbor defense operations rolling.

Both activities provide base maintenance, maintenance and repair of small boats, medical service, communications, air transportation, supply, fiscal and transportation functions.

## Mail Clerks Rush Letters To All Units

In Vietnam, as in World War II and the Korean War, mail is an exceedingly important item to the American Serviceman.

Here, it is given the highest delivery priority the situation will allow—sometimes as high as tactical equipment. Some men have received letters from the States in two days!

Outgoing personal letters and cards can be sent without stamps by writing "free" in the upper right corner of the envelope and using the military return address.

All incoming and outgoing first-class mail, regardless of rate of postage, is moved by air between Vietnam and the West Coast APO.

Parcel post packages weighing less than five pounds also benefit from transoceanic airlift in either direction, even when mailed at regular rates.

At Tan Son Nhut Air Base near Saigon, a 140-man staff sorts more than 250,000 pounds of mail daily, rushing it to the units.



U.S. NAVY ADVISERS stay with Vietnamese crews all the time.

## AFRT,V Gives 24 Air Hours

News, sports, music and features are beamed to American Forces in Vietnam 24 hours a day by Armed Forces Radio and Television, Vietnam.

An expanding network has been serving the troops since the first radio station went on the air here in mid-1962.

The radio programs reach most areas of troop concentrations, while new transmitters are expected to bring television to major areas outside Saigon by 1967.

The main radio station in Saigon broadcasts continuously on AM, and eight hours daily on FM. The AM signal is relayed throughout South Vietnam to re-

peater stations for retransmission to troops in the field.

AFRT, Vietnam is connected by direct underwater cable—24 hours a day—with the Armed Forces Radio & Television Service in Los Angeles, providing immediate airing of major sports events, important public events and other special programming.

Television came to Vietnam in February 1966 when AFRT went airborne and began nightly telecasts from the "Blue Eagle Project Jenny" flights which circle the Saigon area.

The daily programming, aired from 2000-2300 hours, includes popular Stateside shows and a local newscast.

The same flights aid in telecasts of the Vietnamese TV for one hour each night.

This Stars and Stripes Orientation Edition for Vietnam is published by the Office of Information, Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, for the information of new personnel in the command. It is printed by the Pacific Stars and Stripes in Tokyo.

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# Revolutionary Development Key to Building of Vietnam

United States military forces play a double-barrelled role in the task of defeating communist aggression and building a stable, functioning nation in Vietnam.

At the rice-roots level, where nation-building actions are vitally important, the American military adviser represents our government.

The government of Vietnam developed a three-phase concept to defeat the Viet Cong and simultaneously build a nation:

First, a military offensive to defeat the VC and the North Vietnam main force units.

Second, Revolutionary Development to continue the restoration of security and to establish gov-

ernment control.

Third, nation-building to continue the process of establishing a strong society that can survive.

The program aims to liberate the people from Viet Cong control, restore public security and win the commitment of the people to progress for themselves and for their country.

Revolutionary Development is the transition phase in this process, tying together all sides of the struggle—the military, economic, political, social and educational programs. It begins when regular military units, assisted by Regional Forces, have cleared an area of the communist main forces.

Province and district chiefs direct Revolutionary Development in newly cleared areas. American assistance is coordinated at province level by a U.S. Mission team of USAID, JUSPAO and MACV representatives.

But at the district level the military adviser is usually the sole American representative, with the job of promoting all phases of the program.

He has the task of assisting with security, health, education, agriculture, construction, information and myriad other projects.

Among the first to move into a newly cleared area is a 59-man cadre of specialists in several fields, actually the initial government. This group includes teams for defense and propaganda, civil affairs, census, grievances, and new life development.

The cadre works with the people, first to take care of immediate needs and then to restore normal economic, social and political patterns. On this new area the government focuses high-impact aid to develop a stable community.

The task of Revolutionary Development is finished when the people once again can take over their own government and manage their long term nation-building—an unending process.

The concept of Revolutionary Development is not new, but it has the advantage of a Ministry of Revolutionary Development to centralize direction of the program and expedite resources from the various government agencies involved.

Also, the new cadre groups are receiving more thorough and more specialized training for their tasks.

Our Deputy Ambassador is the man responsible for the U.S. Revolutionary Development effort.



Trained teams move in to begin building.

## Full Circle...

The war dragged on and many judged their cause lost.

Soldiers deserted in droves to get back to families and farms. Whole regiments mutinied.

The central government had little power and, split in opinion, was virtually helpless.

The enemy controlled much of the country.

The help of a friendly na-

tion that sent troops and money saved the war.

Vietnam? No. The American Revolution.

Today, strong and free and the most highly developed nation in the world, we Americans sometimes find it easy to criticize and hard to understand Vietnam.

Look for the similarities in human hopes and needs, not for the differences in culture and development.

## Expanding Red Cross Effort Serves Field Units, Hospitals

The American Red Cross is serving the troops in Vietnam as it has done in all other wars and in other places.

Red Cross representatives are assigned throughout the command to units down to brigade size, operating from about 60 main offices.

They offer three kinds of service to our troops here: the regular military aid concerning emergency leaves, messages, loans; hospital services, including recreation; and the clubmobile and recreation center program.

In May, five military hospitals had Red Cross units and two more such units were on the way. Nine of the recreation centers were operating in May, at bases where no Special Services clubs were functioning.

Also, The American Red Cross advises and assists the Vietnamese Red Cross, with liaison, technical assistance and supplies.

Another facet of the Red Cross operation here is its service as intermediary in the distribution of Friendship Boxes prepared by the American Junior Red Cross for Vietnamese children.

More than 150,000 of the kits, containing such items as soap, toys and a message, have been given out to date. Many are distributed in remote areas by Special Forces adviser teams and the Vietnamese Red Cross.

Since February 1962 the American Red Cross staff in Vietnam has expanded in step with troop increases until by June they numbered more than 160.

Nearly all the men in the staff positions have had military service. They understand the needs and special situations of the Serviceman and they live and work where the troops are.

## Vietnam—Your Year of Challenge

(Cont. from Page 1)

"We do this," he said, "to convince the leaders of North Vietnam—and all who seek to share their conquest—of a very simple fact:

"We will not be defeated.

"We will not grow tired.

"We will not withdraw, either openly or under the cloak of a meaningless agreement."

Despite years of war, political instability and division of their country since 1954, the people of South Vietnam fight on with courage and determination.

These people represent what President Johnson calls the "third face of war in Vietnam," the most tragic and most hopeful.

"It is the face of human need. It is the untended sick, the hungry family and the illiterate child. It is men and women, many without shelter, with rags for clothing, struggling for survival in a very rich and a very fertile land," the President said.

We are here to help build a

nation as well as to repel aggression. Our Servicemen have put thousands of hours into helping the Vietnamese people and our government has spent millions of dollars in that cause.

## MACV Is Core of Operation

(Cont. from Page 1)

The Regional and Popular Force units in provinces and districts. Advisers serve with all types of units—combat, logistics, administrative—even with those of the Vietnamese Women's Armed Forces Corps.

Each Vietnamese Corps area has an advisory unit, with a Senior Adviser in IV Corps and Deputy Senior Advisers in I, II and III Corps.

Major components of MACV (described in detail elsewhere in this edition) are:

U.S. Army, Vietnam (USARV), which administers and supports all U.S. Army units in Vietnam.

## This One's Different

This is a different kind of war. It has no battle lines drawn on a map, and no rear area.

Success is not measured by maps showing government and VC-controlled areas, for outside of the populated areas most of the jungle and swamp belong to the force that occupies them at any given time.

Success is depriving the VC of his safe havens, as we are doing with bombing and ground operations; denying him rest and a chance to recuperate and train; disrupting his supply lines by air, land and sea action; defeating main force units; and depriving him of rice, salt and fish.

These figures are some measure of our success in the first five months of this year:

—18,048 confirmed VC killed in action

—2,652 VC captured or detained

—tens of thousands of tons of rice captured.

## Chaplains Share Perils To Serve Fighting Men

The unique type of combat in Vietnam requires chaplains to travel farther and conduct more services than in any previous war to provide for the spiritual needs of the fighting men.

Chaplains serve with every Army and Marine unit committed

to battle. They hold services before operations and are frequently in the foremost area of danger.

Navy chaplains frequently join crews on patrols in the rivers and on the coast of Vietnam.

Air Force chaplains provide religious ministrations to air crews before departure on combat missions and wait with ground-crews for their safe return.

Chaplains exert every effort to be present when needed by the wounded. Evacuated casualties are met by a chaplain on arrival at a hospital where complete religious coverage is constantly provided.

In order to serve Americans in the many small advisory detachments spread throughout the country, chaplains are assigned to corps areas. Aircraft replace the horse of the historical American circuit rider as the chaplain makes his rounds of these isolated units.

Chaplains who qualify for Special Forces assignment are ever on the move to serve the men wearing the green beret.

Units supporting the fighting men normally are able to worship in chapels they have built with their own dedicated hands.

Wherever he is—whatever his job—the American in Vietnam is served by a chaplain of his faith.

Sharing the dangers of combat, five chaplains have been wounded and one killed.

## Home Not Far By Telephone; Low-Cost, Too

If you want to telephone someone in the United States (or in Canada, Alaska or Mexico) you can do so from an exchange in the Saigon USO, sometimes in less than an hour.

The USO-based telephone service operates daily from 0700-1600 hours, staffed by English-speaking Vietnamese operators supervised by American technicians.

"Collect" calls cost \$4 per minute. Prepaid calls are paid for with piastres.

The early bird gets the call in this case, because the exchange holds to a first-come, first-served policy. Maximum time allowed on these Stateside calls is five minutes, with a three-minute minimum.

Saigon is 13 hours ahead of the Eastern Standard Time zone, so that a Monday morning call from here would reach New York Sunday evening. (By Eastern Daylight Time—April to October—the difference is exactly 12 hours.)

Another means the Serviceman in Vietnam has of contacting home is through some 20 MARS (Military Affiliate Radio System) stations located throughout the command.

Messages and telephone calls are relayed through U.S.A.-based MARS stations. In the case of telephone calls the party being called in the United States is billed for the call from the MARS station there to the place called.

## Nine Rules

Every commander in the American forces in Vietnam, and every Soldier, Sailor, Airman and Marine who has been here a while, knows that the Republic of Vietnam has paid heavily for its long fight against communism.

We are here because they asked for our help. In addition to helping militarily all members of this command can help by observing these nine rules:

1. Remember we are guests here. We make no demands and seek no special treatment.
2. Join with the people. Understand their life, use phrases from their language and honor their customs and law.
3. Treat women with politeness and respect.
4. Make personal friends among the soldiers and common people.
5. Always give the Vietnamese the right of way.
6. Be alert to security and ready to react with your military skill.
7. Don't attract attention by loud, rude or unusual behavior.
8. Avoid separating yourself from the people by a display of wealth or privilege.
9. Above all you are members of the U.S. Military Forces on a difficult mission, responsible for all your official and personal actions. Reflect honor upon yourself and the United States of America.



ADVISERS work, fight, eat with their VN Armed Forces counterparts. Navy adviser (left) accepts award from commander for combat action,



while Army adviser (right) takes break with his men. Center, VN cadet is ceremoniously commissioned.



# Vietnamese Forces Bear Brunt of War

The action in Operation Dan Chi 228-B began at 1030 hours on 17 May down in the steamy Delta.

A Regional Forces company reinforced with a Popular Forces platoon on a routine patrol, received small arms fire from a VC unit.

The word was flashed to district and relayed to the Vietnamese 21st Division commander directing another operation 30 kilometers away.

Reacting swiftly, the CG heli-lifted a ranger battalion into the area east of the VC position. The advancing rangers made contact with a battalion-size enemy force.

The CG then committed two infantry battalions as a blocking force east of the VC, and called in Vietnamese and American aircraft to lay a wall of fire along the canal on their west.

The ranger battalion swept north, overrunning and routing the VC.

The kill ratio in this operation was 65.75 to 1 in favor of the South Vietnamese. They captured 11 crew-served weapons, a 60mm mortar and 25 individual weapons.

This is a Vietnamese war.

Dan Chi 228-B is just one of many operations in which the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces (RVNAF) are engaged daily. They have paid heavily in the long struggle and will continue to do so.

In 1965 alone the Vietnamese Army lost 11,100 killed in action and another 39,050 wounded or missing.

They fight on. Properly trained and led they are the equal of any armed force.

Vietnam honors a tradition of military heroes, and the Vietnamese peasant-soldier has time and again proved his ability to defend his country.

He threw back the Mongol hordes of Kublai Khan when the khan invaded with an army two and a half times the size of the Vietnamese force.

Twice he ran the Chinese out of Vietnamese lands. In other campaigns he overcame the armies of the Champa and Cambodian empires.

Today's Vietnamese armed forces total nearly 700,000 troops, organized into the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN), the Vietnamese Air Force (VNAF), the Vietnamese Navy (VNAV) and the Regional and Popular Forces (RF and PF).

In June the regular forces totalled 316,000. Regional and Popular Forces more than 270,000.

The National Police, Civilian

Irregular Defense Groups and Armed Combat Youth made up the balance of the men under arms.

The armed forces are commanded by the head of state through the Ministry of Defense and are headed by a tri-service Joint General Staff.

## ARMY

The ARVN accounts for almost 90 per cent of the regular forces strength. It consists of 10 infantry divisions, and separate infantry, airborne, ranger and armor units.

The ARVN usually is employed in search-and-destroy operations against VC and NVA main force units. It also provides security for key areas and installations.

The army's training, equipment and operations are patterned

after those of the U.S. Army. The types of units are identified by the color of their berets—for example, maroon for rangers and scarlet for airborne.

The school system includes the National Military Academy at Dalat, which trains regular officers for all services; the Command and General Staff College, also at Dalat; and a system of branch and technical schools.

Training centers include the largest—at Quang Trung, near Saigon—for individual training, four national unit training centers and two ranger centers.

MACV advisers work with all ARVN forces, usually down to battalion level.

## AIR FORCE

The growing Vietnamese Air Force is playing an increasingly

larger role in the war. It now flies about one fifth of the in-country missions and participates in strikes over North Vietnam.

The VNAF is composed of five tactical wings, an air logistics and technical wing and an air training center.

The force is equipped with B-57's as well as with the A-1H, C-47, O-1, Ch-34 and U-17 aircraft, and will soon add the F-5. This gives it capability for bombing, close support, reconnaissance, transport and psywar operations.

The air force numbered more than 12,000 in 1965 and is building to 16,000 this year. Pilot training is carried out in the United States; other training is based at Nha Trang.

MACV's U.S. Air Force adviser teams work at all echelons of

the VNAF and often accompany flights on operational missions.

## NAVY

The Vietnamese Navy consists of the Fleet Command, the Coastal Groups and the River Assault Groups. The Navy also is responsible for the Rung Sat Special Zone, between Saigon and the sea.

The Navy has grown to a force of more than 15,000.

The Fleet Command in Saigon carries out patrol, logistic and minesweeping operations. Craft assigned include patrol boats, gunboats, landing ships and minesweepers. One landing ship equipped as a hospital makes periodic visits along the coast and in the Delta on medical aid missions.

Twenty-eight coastal groups are under control of four coastal zone and two river zone commanders. These groups are from the former paramilitary "junk fleet" now incorporated in the Navy and assigned the mission of preventing enemy infiltration by sea.

The task of the River Assault Group (RAG) is to provide naval forces for inland waterway operations, including combat lift, patrol escort and logistical and gunfire support.

MACV advisers serve with all Vietnamese Navy units.

The Vietnamese Marine Brigade, a 6,000-man unit under the control of the Joint General Staff, includes infantry and combat support units and usually serves as part of the general reserve.

In 1965 the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces organized a Women's Armed Forces Corps as a regular component. By early 1966 the corps had grown to more than 1,500 women serving in administrative, medical and welfare positions for all branches of the armed forces.

MACV furnishes American Women's Army Corps advisers.

**NATIONAL POLICE**  
All civil police in Vietnam are organized as a single force, the National Police, under the Ministry of the Interior. As Revolutionary Development progresses this police force will become responsible for maintaining law and order in newly secured areas. In addition to normal police functions, the National Police have important responsibilities for collecting intelligence on VC clandestine operations and controlling the movement of men and materials.

An expanding force is having ever greater effectiveness in this civil action against the VC. From a force of 22,000 early in 1964, the police have been expanded to more than 50,000.

USAID handles the advisory role with the National Police giving assistance in organization, procedures and training.

## RF-PF Engaged in Lonely, Small-Unit War In Hundreds of Villages Through Vietnam

Maps of Vietnam which show large areas under predominant VC control don't tell the story of the Regional and Popular Forces (RF/PF) or "Rough-Puff" as they are often called.

Making up about 59 percent of the RVN forces, there is a PF platoon in every district in Vietnam but one, and an RF company in all but five districts.

More than 3,000 PF platoons and 1,700 squads defend villages and hamlets, guard key installations and provide security for officials. Better than 700 RF companies perform the same type of duty at district level.

All are separate units with no higher organic organization, but between them the RF/PF account for more VC kills than the ARVN.

The isolated PF units, with an automatic rifle as their heaviest weapon, succeeded in holding their positions against VC assaults in all but three percent of the attacks during May.

The 883d RF Company earned

the U.S. Presidential Unit Citation for spoiling a VC attack by holding off one battalion for 11 hours.

Another unit, the 285th, is under consideration for the same award for two separate instances of repelling vastly superior VC forces.

Nationally administered, the Regional Forces are recruited locally and operate under the province (sector) chief, or more often under the district (subsector) chief. They are employed for local operations, security and as a district reserve.

The Popular Forces are recruited at village level, operate under the village chief, and normally are employed only in the local area.

RF/PF are volunteer organizations, forbidden to recruit draft-age young men. They operate their own training centers and have quotas for ARVN schools and centers.

They have no logistics system of their own and depend on the ARVN for support. They are be-

ginning to receive full uniform and equipment allowances.

The PF has the lowest pay scale in the Vietnamese forces. A PF private with a wife and two children is paid at a flat rate of 1,400 piastres per month as compared with the more than 2,000 piastres in pay and allowances an ARVN private receives in the same circumstances.

The RF is paid on a slightly higher scale.

Families live with the PF, sharing their fortified positions, building their makeshift homes alongside. During attacks, the women pass ammunition, man radios, even take up weapons.

The RF light infantry company has 132 men. Their heavy weapon is the 60mm mortar. In addition, 22 river boat companies in the Delta are used for movement of troops and supplies and for medical evacuations.

American advisers to the RF/PF are assigned at national, corps and province level.



Four Popular Force defenders keep sharp watch for VC at Cam Lo village.

# Rules on Money Strict; Saving Combats Inflation

The Vietnamese and United States governments enforce strict regulations on the possession and disposition of money in Vietnam.

These regulations are aimed at curbing inflation and preventing funds from falling into the hands of communist agents.

American personnel may possess only two kinds of money instruments while in RVN: Military Payment Certificates (MPC, also called "scrip") and Vietnamese piastres.

On arrival in Vietnam all American dollar instruments (including travelers' checks) will be declared and converted to MPC. MPC is the only type of currency used in all American facilities.

Piastres will be used for all transactions outside of American facilities.

Piastres may be purchased only at official exchange offices and only at the officially established rate. Exchanges at other places or at other rates are in violation

of regulations.

Inflation is a specter that haunts the Vietnamese economy. Americans can unwittingly do much to create inflation here.

By pouring money into the economy we make money cheaper, and cheaper money buys less. Inflation hurts most that great number of low-income people on fixed salaries who, in an inflated economy, have more trouble buying the necessities of life.

Americans can do many positive things to avoid hurting the Vietnamese economy. Most important—for it and us—is to save money.

Put your extra pay into U.S. Savings Bonds or your own savings plan. A tour in Vietnam is a good time to save money.

A second way to combat inflation is to avoid overspending. A 10-piastre taxi ride should not be paid for with 20 piastres. Tipping is expected only in restaurants, and then 10 per cent is sufficient.

Tips often are already added on to the bill.

When we pay more than the asked-for price, the seller is likely to up his charges. We can afford this, but not the Vietnamese who needs the same thing.

Remember that we are putting our spending power in direct competition with the much lower Vietnamese scale when we buy on the local economy.

This can lead to shortages of the necessities of life for the Vietnamese.

The rule to follow is to buy at Post Exchanges, clubs and messes and not aggravate local supply problems.

Never deal on the black market.

Money is a weapon of war. Dollars or MPC that Americans spend illegally, find their way to the communists who use them as foreign credits to purchase goods to continue the war.

While in Vietnam, military personnel may select the convenience of having the pay office send all or part of their pay back to a bank or person in the United States. Three options are available:

A—All pay sent to the United States

B—All pay accepted in cash here

C—Combination of the above, with part sent to the United States and part received here in cash.

MACV expects regular United States banking service to become available here this summer with the opening of military banking facilities.



BOB HOPE and other top name performers tour Vietnam regularly.

## MACV 'R & R' Sites Offer Much to Troops

American Servicemen on duty in Vietnam have a wide choice of places to visit to "get away from it all" in Vietnam and in other Far East and Pacific locations.

They can do so under the MACV "R & R" (rest & recuperation) program, set up to give the troops a break from their assigned duties as often as the mission allows.

Servicemen are allowed to go on in-country R & R for three-day periods, on a pass status, to several beach and resort areas throughout the country.

For R & R trips outside of Vietnam, each Serviceman is authorized one for each 12 months of duty in the command. (The R & R can be taken any time after the first three months of duty here.)

R & R is not charged as leave and cannot exceed seven days.

Places one may visit on R & R include Hong Kong, the Philippines, and Thailand, among others. Hawaii recently was added to the list, on an experimental basis. Your special services officer can give you a current list of available areas.

Air transportation is provided by the command for out-of-country R & R.

Requirements for immunizations, documents, money exchange and clothing vary somewhat, depending on the place to be visited. Thus, the serviceman

should check when he applies for R & R.

Up-to-date information is always available at Special Services Offices, which implement the command's R & R program.

## USO Clubs Bring Home To Vietnam

The USO in Vietnam is performing the job for which the organization was designed — providing homelike services for troops away from home.

Seven clubs are in operation, with five more scheduled to open soon. Now in full swing are USO's at Saigon, Tan Son Nhut, Nha Trang, Di An, Cam Ranh Bay, Qui Nhon and Danang.

Seventeen Americans man the clubs and the Saigon central office, assisted by about 325 Vietnamese employees.

The USO staffers are on duty 12 hours daily as an average, and serve a two-year tour of duty in Vietnam.

Letters and gifts of food, clothing and other articles come to the USO from individuals and groups all over the United States and are passed on to Service people.

Book drives by civic, fraternal and veterans' groups in the States produce thousands of books which are distributed to all units.

The command's USO clubs offer coffee, a snack bar where possible, information desk (including an interpreter), books and reading rooms, movies, musical instruments, stage shows, dances, games and many other services to relieve the tensions of a war zone tour of duty.

While statistics are not available for all the USO clubs in the command, in the Saigon USO more than 80,000 "customers" use the services and comforts in any one month.

## Troops Observe VN Law; Legal Assist Available

The legal rights and obligations of American military personnel in Vietnam remain the same as at home. All are subject to the provisions of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Also, all American personnel will obey Vietnamese laws, including traffic laws, those pertaining to curfew, off-limits areas and currency.

Although Vietnamese police and courts do not have jurisdiction over American Servicemen, the Serviceman nonetheless will cooperate with Vietnamese police and comply with their orders according to MACV directives.

Any traffic citation or other legal summons should be reported to the unit commander, and advice sought from the Staff

Judge Advocate.

If involved in an accident or incident you should furnish your name and organization to police and other parties involved. You are advised not to sign anything or settle any claim on the spot.

Legal assistance officers are available in Vietnam to advise on personal legal problems.

## PX's Go Where Troops Are, From Delta to 17th Parallel

Even in war-locked Vietnam our Servicemen can walk into a Post Exchange—or in some cases have the PX walk or fly or drive to them—and buy from a stock of 2,000 items of merchandise, depending on the location.

With the headquarters and main store located in the Saigon area, the Army & Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) operates 19 branch stores throughout the command.

Aiming for service to even the smallest units, the PX and unit commanders arrange for helicopter "flying exchange" deliveries to small field units and teams.

While the PX system in MACV increases, as do our troop strengths, certain "convenience items" such as radios, cameras

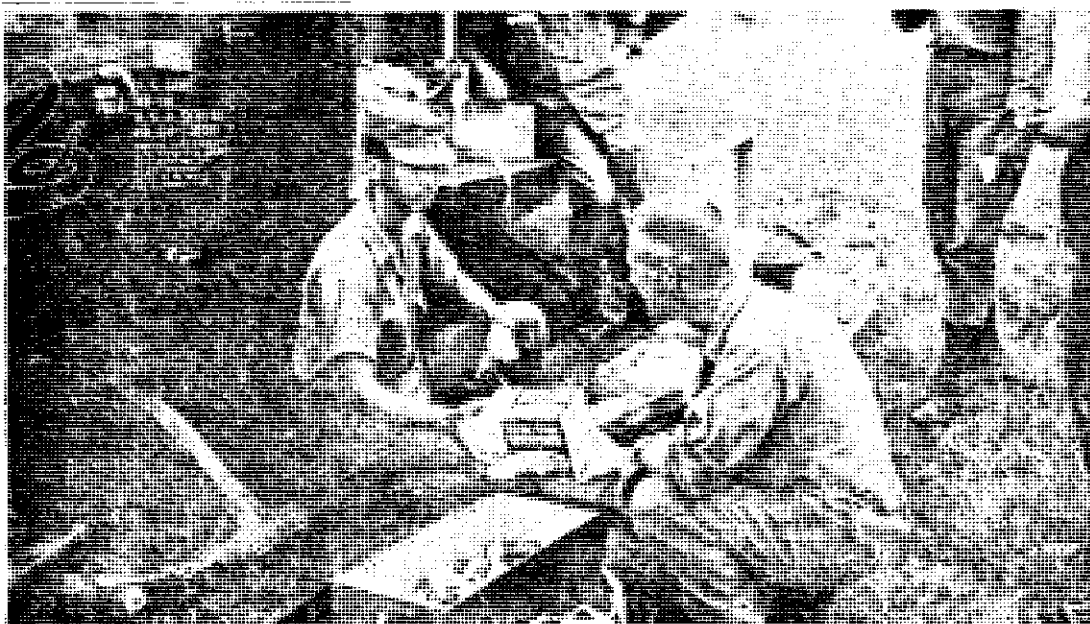
and batteries will be in short supply because of delivery priorities which go instead to health items like soap and toothpaste.

Items purchased from PX's by American Servicemen and by certain allied nationals may not be re-sold, bartered or transferred to anyone in Vietnam not authorized exchange privileges except as bona fide gifts.

Bona fide gifts must be valued at less than \$10 and must not be a controlled item—a rationed item.

The MACV exchange system is expanding its limited mobile snack bar service in major troop areas.

Additionally, the normal range of concession services is being increased to meet troop needs.



FLYING EXCHANGES are most welcome in isolated areas of command.

## Daily Paper Arrives Fast

The Pacific Stars and Stripes, the authorized military daily newspaper for the Armed Forces Far East, distributes more than 55,000 free copies daily to American troops in South Vietnam. Another 5,000 are sold from newsstands.

Identified by a blue stripe down the outside fold, the free copies are intended to be read by more than one Serviceman. The regular edition, without stripe, is sold on newsstands.

The Vietnam three-star edition of Stripes is printed each afternoon in Tokyo and loaded aboard Air Force planes nightly in time for early-morning deliveries at three points in Vietnam.

From those initial points, circulation offices get the bundled newspapers to APO's or onto the first available aircraft headed for units in the field.

The MACV Office of Information is responsible for the in-country unit circulation. Requests for changes in distribution (on a 1-for-5-readers basis) should be submitted to MACV OI.

(Published within the command are several major and smaller unit newspapers, all distributed free to the troops.)



Vietnam today . . .

# A proud, valiant people struggle for freedom

3000 B.C.	Legendary founding of nation which eventually became Vietnam
163 A.D.	Chinese complete their domination of people of Tonkin delta and name region Viet Nam
939	Vietnamese achieve independence after 1,000 years of Chinese domination
1802-1899	French consolidate their control of Indochinese area
1940-1945	Japanese occupy Vietnam
1945	Communists under Ho Chi Minh seize power and proclaim "Democratic Republic of Viet Nam"
1946-1951	Viet Minh carry out war against return of French control
1954	Geneva Conference establishes separate governments for Laos and Cambodia and provides for partition of Vietnam at 17th Parallel
1955	Government proclaims Republic of Vietnam with Ngo Dinh Diem as president after national referendum chooses republican form of government
1956	Vietnam's first national election, based on popular suffrage, selects Constituent Assembly which drafts constitution modeled on United States and Philippines constitutions. Assembly becomes National Assembly
1957	Communists renew use of violence and subversion in South Vietnam
1961	Diem requests increased American military and economic assistance in face of stepped-up Viet Cong activity
1963	Military depose Diem due to increasingly authoritarian and repressive nature of his government
1965	Major American combat units deployed to South Vietnam after North Vietnam moves regular units into country

The war is very close and very real to all Vietnamese. For them it has meant midnight terror raids on their villages, sons impressed into Viet Cong forces or killed fighting for the government, loss of crops, often loss of their homes.

But the South Vietnamese have successfully resisted communist attempts to take over for nearly 12 years. No other nation has been so long under communist guns and resisted so well.

That South Vietnam remains free is due to the indomitable spirit of her people and their strong desire for freedom.

The Vietnamese people, their society and their culture remain distinct, although they were subjected to 1,000 years of Chinese rule, Hindu influence, European traders and missionaries and a century of French rule.

Never absorbed by these outside cultures, the Vietnamese instead absorbed much from them. They truly are a people with 2,000 years of culture.

The Vietnamese are intensely proud of their civilization and of their national identity.

Not only are ancestor-worship and veneration of elders deep motivations of social behavior, but there is unspoken acceptance of the family as the most important unit in the culture.

Vietnam's population of about 15 million is approximately 85 per cent ethnic Vietnamese.

These people are slightly built but sturdy. The men stand little over 5 feet tall and the women somewhat less. They have clean-cut features, skin varying from olive to dark brown, and black hair.

About 1 million Chinese form the largest minority group in Vietnam. As everywhere else in the world, they are industrious and active in almost every branch of the local economy.

Some half-million Cambodians live in

the northwest section of the Delta, while tribes of Montagnards, perhaps 800,000 people, are the chief inhabitants of the central highlands. These are primitive peoples of varied cultures.

They speak a bewildering variety of languages and represent a number of racial mixtures. The social and administrative unit is the village, each one independently governed by its own council.

South Vietnam, long and narrow like California, compares in size to the state of Washington.

Nearly 600 air miles separate its southern tip from the 17th Parallel, the 1954 demarcation line between North and South Vietnam. In the north, as little as 25 miles lie between the coast and the Loatian border.

There are 1,500 miles of coastline and 920 miles of interior border with Cambodia and Laos in this country which is about as long as California and generally one-third as wide.

The country is divided into three geographical areas:

The Delta, all of the southern part of the country and extending north of Saigon, holds some 8 million of the 15 million people of Vietnam and is the principal rice-growing area as well as being the center of industry and commerce.

In the Delta are some 4,000 miles of navigable waterways—rivers and canals—including the lower portion of the Mekong River which rises in Tibet and flows 2,509 miles through Asia to the South China Sea coast of Vietnam.

The coastal plain extends north in a narrow strip along the coast from east of Saigon. It is densely populated and cultivated, and is famous for its beaches, coves and bays. It has a narrow, fertile plain and piedmont of rolling land and hills.

The central highlands, paralleling the coastal plain, are broken by a chain of rugged mountains and hills. Dense jungle and forest cover much of the highlands.

Forested areas have an unbroken continuity of tall trees that form a dense, closed canopy. Underneath an impenetrable mass of smaller growth forms

one or two additional canopies.

Lying just north of the equator, Vietnam's climate is typically tropical with two main seasons—hot and dry, and hot and wet.

Due to the range of geographic features, there are wide differences in local conditions. In the south the wet season generally ranges from mid-April to mid-October, while in the north rain begins in September and lasts through January.

Average rainfall varies from 54 inches in Nha Trang on the central coast to 119 inches in Hue, the northernmost city.

Vietnam is suitable for a variety of agricultural products. In normal times it produces an excess of its main crop, rice. There are hundreds of varieties of rice, from rice that grows on dry land to rice that grows in water where the grain head floats on the surface at the end of an eight-foot stalk.

Other crops are garden vegetables, corn, sugar cane, copra, tea, bananas, a variety of fruits and coffee. Rubber is an important product, although production has been hurt by the war.

Cattle, pigs and poultry are raised for meat, while the water buffalo is the draft animal of Vietnam. Fish is a staple of the diet, as are various other seafoods.

As of June, Vietnam is ruled by the National Leadership Committee, the latest in a succession of governments following the overthrow of President Diem in 1963.

The committee has promised to return control to an elected civilian government as rapidly as possible. An electoral law was drafted in June in preparation for national elections expected in September.

The largest government unit below national level is the province, of which there are 43. Provinces are divided into districts which are made up of several villages.

Each village, the administrative group nearest to the people, contains several hamlets. By American standards the province would be a state, the district a county, the village a township and the hamlets towns or communities.

South Vietnam operates with parallel military and civilian government organizations. The first command level below the national government is the corps. Vietnam is divided into four corps areas (see map).

The current practice is for a military officer to hold both the military and civilian positions. For instance, the military commander in a province is also the province chief.

Eighty per cent of Vietnam's population is rural, looking to the land and the village, their means of livelihood and the center of their world. Here the people live much as they have for centuries. The village council, traditionally elected, is the government to these people.

Religion has been a powerful factor in the Vietnamese way of life. The culture and customs of these proud and sensitive people are strongly conditioned by their religious beliefs.

For example, feeling that the universe and man's place in it are essentially preordained and unchanging, they place high value on stoicism, patience, courage and resiliency in the face of adversity.

The essential character of religion in Vietnam is that, apart from priests and other functionaries, the Vietnamese have never considered themselves exclusively "Confucianists", "Buddhists" or "Taoists", which with Christianity are the principal religions of Vietnam.

Vietnamese literature is filled with references to "the harmony of the three religions . . . three roads to the same destination". They share certain doctrines in common: all teach the original goodness of man and hold that man can attain salvation through the realization of his essential nature.

Christianity, with similar moral precepts, is not incompatible in Vietnamese practice with ancestor worship.

Underlying many beliefs is a primitive folk religion, the worship of ancestors and reverence for natural things such as the mountains, the rivers and the soil.

(Defoliation of the Cau Mau peninsula area is welcomed because it destroys the foliage where evil spirits live; de-

# People Struggle for Freedom

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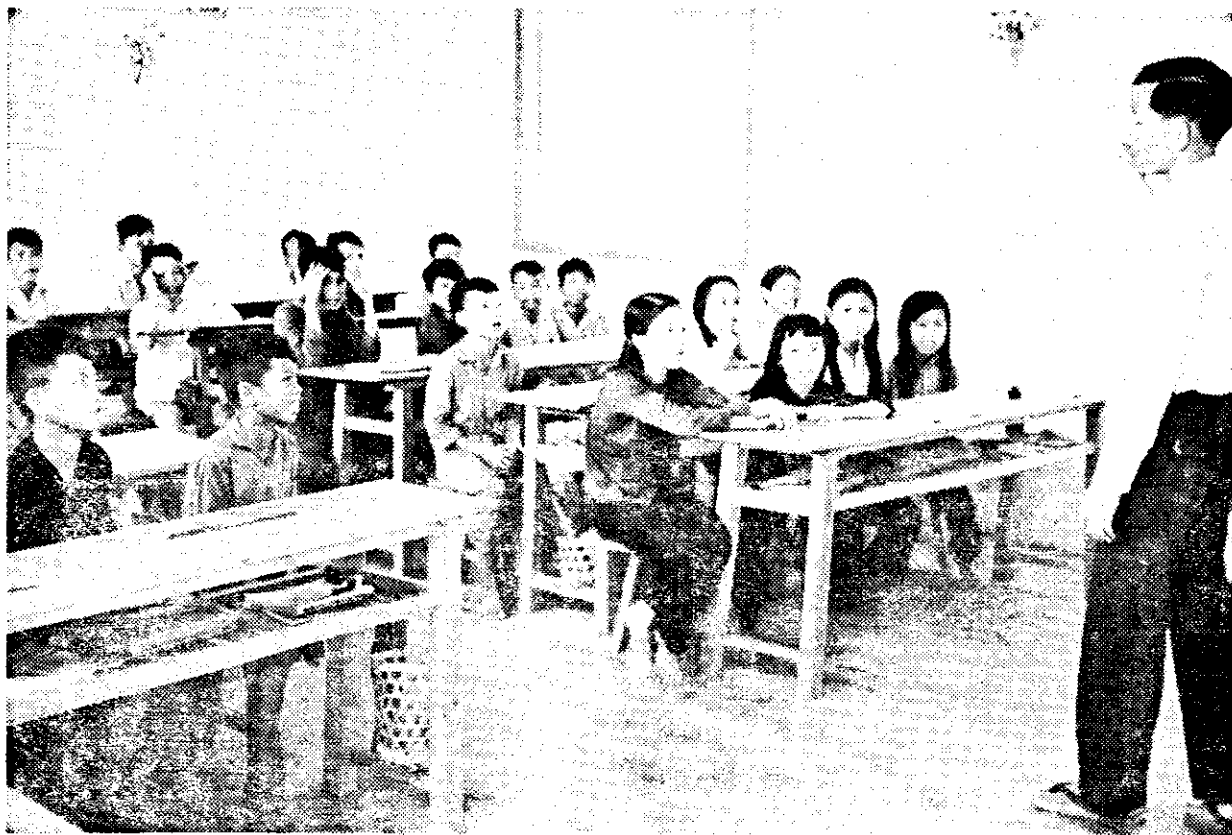
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... and tomorrow ...

## To win friends...

Here are some suggestions on how to win friends and influence people in Vietnam.

—Vietnamese value harmony and good manners while disagreements, bragging and comparisons are distasteful to them. It is best to avoid even friendly arguments prompted by what we would call intellectual curiosity.

—The direct approach or the direct request are impolite. A Vietnamese would never launch directly into business, but would approach it gradually.

—Vietnamese are not accustomed to the American first-name habit, so stay with Mr. or Mrs. Incidentally, the full name should be used when written.

—Follow the formal custom of being introduced by a third person rather than introducing yourself.

—Keep your self-control and avoid public displays of anger,

strong emotions or affection.

—To motion someone toward you, hold your hand palm down and flex the fingers downward. Our index finger motion is unacceptable.

—Traditionally, Vietnamese avoid touching others, particularly on the head, and are offended if someone sits with crossed legs and a foot pointed toward them.

—If you want to send a gift to a family, send something to the children and send an even number of gifts.

—You should learn some basic Vietnamese phrases but make sure that you use the correct inflection. Slight changes can give what you say a very different meaning.

Remember that if you find some of these customs strange, the Vietnamese find much that you do just as peculiar.

... and building all the time



foliation along the 17th parallel is bad because it destroys the foliage where ancestors dwell.)

Also found is reverence for persons considered worthy. Pictures and statues of Roosevelt, Victor Hugo and even American advisers can be found in some temples.

Although acknowledging that basic human needs are alike—in East or West—the American must realize that the approach to life here is different from his own. Much of this difference may be traced to the philosophies in the Vietnamese blend of religions.

Contrasts between Westerner and Vietnamese could be generalized as active vs. passive, material vs. spiritual and logical vs. mystical.

Vietnamese always have held education in great respect and the school system is being vastly expanded. Although the schools were influenced by the French and still are patterned on the French system, yet the increasing American role here is bringing many changes.

The first three grades of the five-year primary curriculum are compulsory for all children. Secondary schools have two divisions, a four-year followed by a three-year course.

The goal of secondary education here is to pass the stiff baccalaureate examinations required for admission to the five-year university program or to advanced technical schools.

Women traditionally hold a place subordinate to men in Vietnamese society, but the continued struggle has placed many women in the role of family provider. Some now take an active role in business and public life. Women also do much of the manual labor in Vietnam.

In addition to the provinces Vietnam has five chartered cities. The capital and largest is Saigon. Its twin city is the predominantly Chinese Cholon. The other cities are Hue, Danang, Nha Trang, and Vung Tau.

For more information about Vietnam, its people and the country, read the Department of Defense Pocket Guide to Vietnam, DoD PG-21A.

# Government Offers 'Open Arms' to Viet Cong

The little group of American soldiers waited in their dug-in positions, weapons aimed at the black-pajama-clad man walking toward them. His hands were up and in one he held a colored slip of paper.

Obviously afraid, the man came on hesitantly while the Americans waited, ready to fire if this was a Viet Cong trap.

When the Vietnamese got closer the soldiers could see that the piece of paper in his hand was a national safe conduct pass. Thousands had been airdropped over VC territory during this operation.

Two soldiers accompanied the ex-VC back to a command post, gave him a cigarette and water, offered him food. After a while the man seemed reassured about his safety.

Through an interpreter, he

asked the soldiers to take him back to where he had hidden his weapon. He wanted to collect the 1,000-piastre reward the government offered for a rifle.

The Americans went with him, wary of traps. But this was no trap. The ex-VC led them to where the rest of his squad waited to surrender. The squad had sent one man in first, to check the promise made on the safe conduct pass.

This true story illustrates several important points about Chieu Hoi, the government of Vietnam's "Open Arms" program.

The promises of the government must be carried out; the returnee is welcomed, not captured. In this case, eight more men came in because promises were kept for one man.

If the Chieu Hoi offer had not

been available, then the same American unit would more than likely have had to fight that VC squad.

Every success of the Chieu Hoi program hurts the Viet Cong: it takes away men and arms and lowers the morale of the remainder.

## Acceptance Is Hard

Accepting Chieu Hoi is not easy for the VC. A man cannot just walk away from his unit. First of all, the VC are known to kill or severely punish any of their men found with safe conduct passes in their possession.

In spite of this, we know, many VC do keep the passes. After a recent battle a large number of VC dead were found to have the leaflets concealed in their clothing or equipment.

Since the Chieu Hoi program was proclaimed in April 1963 more than 35,000 VC rallied to the government by May 1966.

This year the numbers have been increasing. Seven thousand came in during the first four months of this year, compared with 11,000 in all of 1965.

The returnees include military, political cadre and other VC agents.

The returnee (Quy Chanh) really does face a new life. Wherever he turns himself in, he receives safe conduct to the nearest government authority. There, he is preliminarily interrogated and moved to a Chieu Hoi center for more interrogation and classification.

Nearly all of the ralliers (returnees) provide valuable information. Many volunteer to take part in psywar operations, such as loudspeaker flights over their old areas, so they can tell their comrades that the government's arms really are open and urge them to come in, too.

Sometimes, pictures of returnees are used on leaflets dropped over the area.

## Make Him Useful Citizen

The next step in the program is to make the rallier into a useful citizen and help him begin a new life. He and his family are housed at a Chieu Hoi center such as the one at My Tho, in the Delta south of Saigon.

This center, nestled in the shade of a grove of banana trees, includes living quarters, class-

room, dispensary and a cook house.

These living areas have no guards, no walls. The Quy Chanh is free to stay or go, as he likes.

Among the benefits the rallier receives are clothing, food, expense money and the reward for any weapons he brought in. He also is given instruction on the advantages of a free government.

For his future there is vocational instruction or on-the-job training. When he is ready, the rallier is resettled by the government to begin his new life.

## Humane Treatment Is Key

One keynote is evident through the whole Chieu Hoi procedure—humane treatment. The returnee has come on the promise of good treatment; his allegiance is won on the basis of this promise fully kept.

The safe conduct pass, reproduced on this page, should be recognized by every member of

the Free World Military Forces in Vietnam.

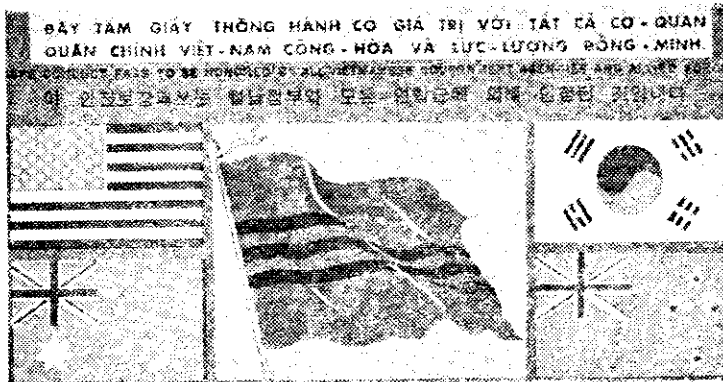
Its bearer represents one less man to fight, a source of valuable intelligence and a victory in the psychological war.

The pass instructs the rallier to come in during daylight with his hands up, unarmed. He may then want to be escorted to where he has hidden his weapon so that he can collect the reward for it.

The rallier should be given food, clothing and medical care if needed.

He should be searched and the proper security should be observed, but he must be treated with dignity. As soon as possible, he should be turned over to government authorities.

The American Serviceman's delivery of a Quy Chanh to a government activity may be the end of his job, but he will have taken the first steps in unfolding a whole new life for his charge, the Quy Chanh.



CHIEU HOI program brings in many like this NVA sergeant, here explaining Chinese-made automatic rifle that brought him reward.

## Even In War, 'Safety First'

Safety programs might seem slightly inappropriate in a combat zone, but the Services all have them. They save lives, and they apply to each one of us in Vietnam.

Safe handling of weapons, for example, is more than a desirable trait—it's an essential habit and even a state of mind.

Also, even weapons you've been around for years can turn on you, so to speak. All of us tend to get a little casual about firearms in a situation where everyone "wears" a weapon, but weapons can easily maim or kill your buddy—or you—if carelessly handled.

Then there's the other category of weapon—the privately owned weapon. MACV prohibits import or local purchase of such weapons.

About the war trophy firearm you might be planning for—it must be nonautomatic, of enemy origin, have no intelligence value and be registered with the MACV Provost Marshal.

Concerning motor vehicles—you need a valid military driver's identification card before you can operate any military vehicle.



FRED SAYS THE WAR HAS TO WAIT UNTIL HE PUTS FIZZIES IN HIS SWAMP WATER

# Red Leaders from Hanoi Direct VC Aggression

Who is the Viet Cong?

He's a farmer in a rice paddy. He's an old woman in the market place.

He's a teenager with a grenade. He's a fisherman on a sampan.

He's a tough fighter in the jungle.

He's a Vietnamese communist. He is Vietnamese, indistinguishable from loyal Vietnamese except by his actions.

The VC includes hard core political cadre, main force regular troops from the south, local troops, part-time guerrillas, and men, women and children terrorized or deluded into helping the communists.

Whether he is a South Vietnamese trained in the north and then sent south, or someone recruited locally, the VC is told that he is fighting to liberate Vietnam from Vietnamese traitors, from American aggressors and imperialists, and from colonialism.

## They Train Hard

The VC is almost always a peasant, accustomed to privations, hardship and a marginal existence.

He is continually subjected to relentless communist indoctrinations and surveillance by cadre and fellow cell members.

Behind the VC is a classic communist organization directed, controlled and supplied from Hanoi with the objective of conquering the Republic of Vietnam.

All control ultimately comes from the Central Committee of North Vietnam's Lao Dong (communist) Party.

Like tentacles from this headquarters in Hanoi, communist lines of control run to committees and cells in South Vietnam's districts, villages and hamlets. They operate in the open in Viet Cong-dominated areas and are an evil shadow in government controlled areas.

The Central Office, South Vietnam (COSVN), operating under Hanoi, is the highest VC headquarters in RVN. Under COSVN are six VC military regions directing political and military actions. At province and district levels, VC organization closely resembles that of the true government.

Viet Cong forces, as separate from the North Vietnamese Army, consist of two basic elements, paramilitary and the full military.

The paramilitary VC generally is a local civilian, part-time soldier, whose military duties do not take him far from his home. He may be used in village defense or to support regular forces in local operations.

He has little training, is armed

with few and primitive weapons, and usually wears the peasant's black pajamas.

VC regional forces are full-time soldiers but not always uniformed. They rely mainly on guerrilla tactics and depend on the local area for logistical support.

## Main Forces Well-equipped

VC main force battalions are the elite troops, distinguished by their "hard hats", a type of helmet. They may wear uniforms such as khaki shorts and shirts, but the black pajamas are their fatigue uniforms.

Main force units are logistically supported from higher echelons, have better weapons, and conduct operations over a larger area.

North Vietnamese Army units are regular forces, distinctively uniformed. However, much of the distinction between VC and NVA units is disappearing as the VC units are re-equipped and the NVA replaces losses with VC fillers and increases its cadre strength in the VC main force units. The North Vietnamese Army progressively is taking over the VC.

The Viet Cong use terror as a calculated weapon. Bombings, kidnapping, assassination, sabotage, harassing actions—all are planned and executed to destroy government influence and coerce people into cooperating with the VC.

The number of terrorist incidents has been increasing as government military pressure is put on the VC. Revolutionary Development operations have been singled out for special attacks.

## Difference Is Important

It is vitally important to recognize the difference between the Viet Cong and the loyal Vietnamese who make up the overwhelming majority of the people.

Careless acts that hurt innocent civilians endanger the support and loyalty of the people to the legal government and to our military effort.

In early summer the United States estimate of the communist main force elements, both VC and North Vietnamese totalled 85,000 to 95,000 men organized in 13 VC regiments and 12 NVA regiments.

Guerrillas added another 100,000 to 120,000 to the force and political and military cadres were estimated at 30,000 to 40,000.

The infiltration rate for the early months of 1966 was estimated at 5,500 NVA troops per month with the capability of increasing to 7,000 per month.

# 7th Air Force Plays a Major Role Here

The U.S. Air Force in Vietnam is engaged in the longest continuous period of aerial warfare in its history — from November 1961 to date. The controlling agency for all Air Force operations here is the Seventh Air Force, headquartered at Tan Son Nhut AB near Saigon.

The Seventh's commander is also MACV Deputy Commander for Air, in which capacity he is responsible for co-

ordinating combined air power of all American military services and the Republic of Vietnam.

Seventh Air Force has three missions — operating U.S. Air Force aircraft, advising the Vietnamese Air Force and supervising overall air activity against the enemy. (Until 1 April 1966, the organization had been 2d Air Division. It then was redesignated as the Seventh Air Force.)

Air power is used in many ways in the Vietnam struggle—operations with fighter-bombers, airlifts, reconnaissance, rescue and psychological warfare.

Strategic Air Command B-52 Stratofortresses—based elsewhere and not as-

signed within MACV, but under MACV operational control for certain missions—began hitting enemy targets in Vietnam in mid-1965.

They have a capability of carrying 60,000 pounds of bombs.

These high-altitude bombers have contributed in large measure to the Free World Forces' successful prosecution of ground warfare in Vietnam.

Control of air missions is held by two Seventh Air Force agencies—the Tactical Air Control Center and the Tactical Operations Center.

The TACC conducts the air war within the Republic of Vietnam while TOC conducts Air Force raids on the communist North, in coordination with the U.S. Navy.

Additional control is set up through an airborne command post.

Seventh Air Force strikes within South Vietnam are approved by Vietnamese authorities and are directed by forward air controllers to prevent damage and injuries to friendly civilians.

North Vietnam strikes are limited to

routes of communications and other military targets.

As the command's air arm steadily added aircraft to its strike force, monthly air strike figures increased from 764 in January 1965 to 6,000 in March 1966.

The Seventh Air Force has assigned to it virtually every kind of tactical and support aircraft used in our time—several classes of fighter-bombers, bombers, light planes, helicopters, specially equipped and modified aircraft for special jobs and others.

Major units of the Seventh Air Force include:

The 3d, 12th, 35th and 366th Tactical Fighter Wings; the 14th and 315th Air Commando Wings; the 632d, 633d and 377th Combat Support Groups.

Also, the 3d Aerospace Rescue & Recovery Group; the 460th Tactical Reconnaissance Wing and the 505th Tactical Control Group.

Thus—from November 1961 when the U.S. Air Force effort began here with 200 men and 12 aircraft, the men and aircraft of what is now the Seventh Air Force have kept pace with the war in Vietnam.



FIGHTER-BOMBERS of Seventh Air Force hit communist targets (top), while "Big Charlie" helicopter picks up a 105mm howitzer in joint Air Force-Army maneuver, guided by crew chief controlman.



COMBAT CONTROL team of Air Force marks drop zone for paratroopers.

## VN Vocabulary

- ARVN—Army of Republic of Vietnam
- Chieu Hoi—"Open Arms", government program for returnees
- CIDG—Civilian Irregular Defense Group
- FWMAO—Free World Military Assistance Office
- GVN—Government of (South) Vietnam
- I FFV—First Field Force, Vietnam
- II FFV—Second Field Force, Vietnam
- III MAF—III Marine Amphibious Force
- MACV—Military Assistance Command, Vietnam
- NVA—North Vietnamese Army
- RF/PF—Regional Forces/Popular Forces
- RVN—Republic of Vietnam
- RVNAF—Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces
- USARV—U.S. Army Vietnam
- VNAF—Vietnamese Air Force
- VNN—Vietnamese Navy
- VC—Viet Cong (Charlie)

## Shots, Pills and Precautions Are Key to Staying Fit

American Servicemen in Vietnam have the finest medical care our country has ever sent to the battlefield.

The now-famous Medevac "Dustoff" flights make it possible for the wounded to receive hospital attention in minutes. Helicopter evacuation has resulted in a reduction of deaths among wounded reaching medical care to 1 percent. No seriously wounded man in Vietnam is more than 30 minutes from a hospital.

But a big factor in staying healthy in Vietnam is the preventive care each person gives himself.

Here is the frequency with which all troops in Vietnam must receive immunizations listed:

Plague 4 months

Cholera 6 months  
Smallpox, typhoid and typhus immunizations must be taken once a year, while six years is the interval between those for yellow fever and tetanus. Gamma globulin is given per local regulations.

Every member of MACV has received immunizations for every

known disease of this area for which immunization is available, but keeping shots up-to-date is the individual's responsibility.

The sting of a needle is much better than weeks of illness.

Malaria prevention depends on taking the antimalaria tablets regularly, using mosquito repellent and tucking in your mosquito

bar at night when in malaria areas.

With regard to food and drink, keep in mind these precautions:

- All water should be assumed nonpotable unless it has been treated. Use your water purification tablets when in doubt. Only potable water should be used for drinking and brushing teeth.
- Bottled drinks are safe when drunk from the bottle.
- All cooked foods, but especially meats, must be cooked thoroughly and served hot.
- Vegetables must be treated in chlorinated water before being eaten. Fresh fruits are safe if they can be peeled.
- U.S. military clubs and messes maintain normal military sanitation standards and special precautions are unnecessary.

Most Americans are unaccustomed to the heat and humidity of Vietnam's tropical climate. To help overcome this, get plenty of sleep, drink all the liquids you want, and take salt tablets.

Skin diseases and rashes can be minimized by paying particular attention to personal cleanliness, bathing frequently and changing clothing as often as possible.

Rabies is prevalent here and every animal bite should receive medical attention. The animal should be brought in, too, alive if possible.

Finally, should you develop symptoms of illness, report to sick call promptly.

### Times Change...

SAIGON	HAWAII	WASHINGTON	ZULU
	Previous Day		
0400	1000	1500	2000
0800	1400	1900	2400
1200	1800	2300	
1600	2200		0400
2000	0200	0300	0800
2400	0600	0700	1200
		1100	1600

(For Daylight Saving Time add one hour.)

The war in Vietnam is far from being just a military war of guns and planes and ships. This war envelopes the marketplace, the schoolroom and the rice paddy. Most of all, the war is for men's hearts and minds.

The United States Mission to Vietnam is organized to combat communist aggression against South Vietnam and its people on all these varied fronts. Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge directs the integrated

actions of four agencies:

The Embassy, for political action.

USMACV, the U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam.

USAID, the U.S. Agency for International Development, for economic and social action.

JUSPAO, the Joint U.S. Public Affairs Office, for psychological action.

# U.S. Mission to Vietnam Wages 4-Front War

## USAID...

Since the end of World War II the United States has helped other nations help themselves by providing more than \$110 billion in economic and technical assistance to 94 nations.

Today the United States' largest aid program is committed to helping the Vietnamese people build a strong nation.

This program is closely connected to the military action, dependent upon it for the security in which the people can work and live, and assisted by countless combat men who devote time and talent to helping in many ways.

Economic assistance to Vietnam began in 1950, and increased in importance and emphasis in the past year. Nor is the United States alone in this program. Forty-one other nations have also pledged assistance.

Since 1954 the United States has spent \$2 billion on economic aid to Vietnam. In fiscal year 1965, the program spent more than \$205 million with larger amounts being made available now.

## Need is clear

The need for this aid is easy to see. Disrupted by war and insurgency since 1940, South Vietnam has lacked the stability of peace necessary for economic growth.

When Vietnam was divided at the 17th parallel by the 1954 Geneva negotiations, most Vietnamese industry and mineral resources were left in communist-controlled North Vietnam. In the south, the economy was near chaos as a result of years of warfare.

The aid program seeks to restore the balance with three main attacks:

Largest is the Commercial Import Program (CIP) which uses as much as 70 percent of aid funds in support of Vietnamese foreign trade. This program enables Vietnam to meet her import needs without jeopardizing her foreign exchange balance.

The "clasped hands" symbol, seen everywhere here, shows that the item has been imported through this program. These items are not gifts but evidence of cooperation in a vital economic area which provides needed commodities for commerce and industry.

USAID's second line of attack is in the field of technical assistance for such activities as education, agriculture, industry, public administration, public health, public safety and public works.

AID technicians work as advisers to the appropriate Vietnamese ministries and assist with their field activities.

This program has had startling results since 1954, due to the initiative and hard work of the Vietnamese people—results that may not be apparent to an outsider, even over the period of a year, because these are long-term projects.

## Industries boom

Basic industries have grown from scratch. In textiles Vietnam now produces 90 per cent of its annual needs in more than 700 plants that have been created or enlarged since 1954.

The nation is approaching self-sufficiency also in paper products and finished plastics.

Import credits, building materials and sometimes entire plants

have been supplied to Vietnam by industrial nations, including France, Germany, Japan and Thailand.

Basically an agricultural country, Vietnam has made some of its most important progress in this area.

Aid to farmers has included distribution of insecticides, new varieties of seeds and cuttings, funds for irrigation and water control, agricultural experimental stations and credit for fertilizers and livestock.

Fishing is another industry undergoing impressive expansion. The annual commercial yield of seafood rose from 57,000 tons in 1957 to 268,000 tons in 1965, providing a rich source of protein for people throughout the country.

The expansion has been aided by technical advice, introduction of new equipment and restocking with fast-growing fish.

The newcomer to Vietnam will note the wide difference in health and sanitation conditions between here and the United States. This is another area in which great strides have been taken.

More than 25 nations have sent medical teams and supplies to Vietnam to help improve health standards. American military medical personnel also offer extensive assistance.



DENTISTS here are rare, thus more appreciated than elsewhere.

Since 1954, with American assistance, some 12,000 new hamlet health stations have been established. Several diseases which once took a heavy toll of lives every year now have been substantially curbed.

Perhaps the most important of all the areas in which steady and lasting improvement has been made is education. Elementary school enrollment has risen from 690,000 in 1955 to more than 1.5 million in 1965.

## Students increase

The number of students in secondary schools has increased more than 10 times. The number of university students has more than quadrupled, as have those in vocational schools.

In 1955 only a few crude textbooks in the Vietnamese language existed outside the major cities. Today 14 million are being printed. Self-help construction of classrooms is a major concern of the government, which provides cement for walls, sheet metal for roofing, and teachers.

College education is expanding the nation's social and economic horizons. A new polytechnical school near Saigon trains 1,000 students in trade and technical subjects, home economics, and business administration.

A special area of AID assistance that began in 1965 is the



AMERICAN SANTA is enjoyed by Vietnamese tots at VAA Christmas party.

on health and sanitation, and assist in construction of housing, wells, roads and market places.

The regular Military Civic Action Program is not aimed at refugees specifically, but the many projects involved aid the local population, including refugees.

Military units support USAID logistically with sea, air and road cargo movements of supplies and equipment as space is available.

USAID's objective is not only to assist the Vietnamese government in planning national programs for economic development, but also to concentrate attention and action at the provincial level.

At least one AID representative works with each province chief to coordinate projects at the local level. AID officials have been kidnapped and killed because of the success of their efforts to assist Vietnam in its drive for freedom and a better way of life.

But it is the Vietnamese who bear the greater burden.

As the USAID director in Vietnam said recently, "It is the Vietnamese people who will build this nation and live in it not Americans. It is the Vietnamese people who will become economically strong through the best of all aid programs, that of self-help."

## JUSPAO...

The war for men's minds will not be won by what we do alone. People must know and understand our actions and our motives and those of the government of South Vietnam.

Toward this end the Joint U.S. Public Affairs Office (JUSPAO) directs the information efforts of the U.S. Mission to Vietnam, coordinating the programs of all the American agencies and advising and assisting the Vietnamese government.

Communication is a massive problem in Vietnam. Formidable terrain, the country's long, narrow shape, few open land routes, lack of facilities and transport—all tend to isolate communities.

Also limiting a cohesive support of national programs are regional religious differences, urban

versus rural viewpoints and split family loyalties (sometimes with sons serving in both Viet Cong and government forces).

To carry out the war of ideas JUSPAO coordinates the information programs of the American agencies, including MACV, prepares materials on Vietnam for Free World distribution, operates American cultural centers in four major cities.

The three psychological objectives of JUSPAO are to help:

1 Increase the Vietnamese people's participation with their government in the war against communist subversion and aggression.

2 Increase the people's participation in developing Vietnam's social and economic progress, as well as its unity as a nation within the Free World community.

3 Increase other nations' sympathy for and assistance to the cause of Vietnam.

Also, the agency oversees American support for six Vietnamese-American Association Centers, provides policy guidance for political and psywar operations and assists the Vietnamese government with information, technical aid and equipment.

It integrates officers from USIS, MACV, Department of State and USAID, and works with Vietnamese psywar officers from village to international level.

## V-A groups active

JUSPAO supervises American Cultural Centers now operating at Saigon, Dalat, Can Tho, and a new one at Danang.

The Vietnamese-American Associations, located in seven cities, are chartered by the Vietnamese government and are approximately 70 per cent self-supporting.

They conduct cultural and social programs for their joint membership. One of their most important contributions has been the instruction offered in English and Vietnamese language studies.

More than 12,000 students are enrolled in the English classes, taught mostly by volunteer MACV personnel.

# Fighting U.S. Marines Win Friends, Too

Five hundred United States Marines landed in South Vietnam in March 1965 to aid that republic in its struggle for peace.

Since that time, the Marines' area of responsibility has increased from eight square miles to more than 950 square miles. Also, some 53,000 Marines now are here—the First and Third Marine Divisions and the First Marine Aircraft Wing, all bound together in the III Marine Amphibious Force.

The USMC forces are concentrated in the northernmost part of South Vietnam, within the Vietnamese I Corps area.

The Marine Corps top headquarters in South Vietnam is the III Marine Amphibious Force (III MAF), at Danang.

Also at Danang are the Third Marine Division and the aircraft wing, while the First Marine Division is at Chu Lai, 52 miles south. Elements of all three forces are charged with the security of Phu Bai, 45 miles north of Danang.

What each newly arriving Marine finds in South Vietnam is what some authorities call "... a different kind of war."

Boiled down, the job here is broken into three types of offensive action: large unit operations,

counter-guerrilla operations and civic actions.

The first operation listed is conducted against main force units, usually with multi-battalion forces of Marines.

Less spectacular and little publicized are the daily, routine

Since landing here the Marine divisions have participated in a number of major actions including Double Eagle, Cherokee, Georgia, Apache, Montgomery, Wyoming and New York.

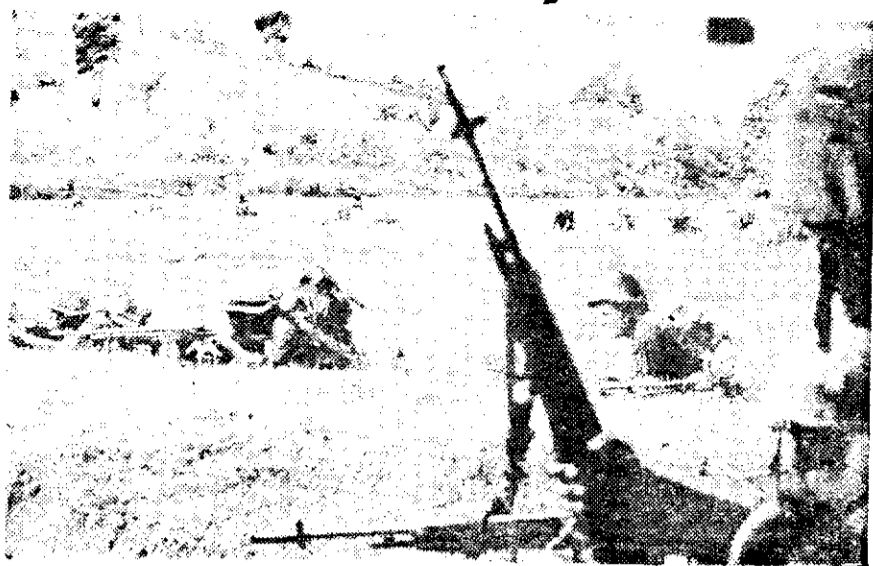
And it was a Marine force that conducted a search and destroy operation in the Rung Sat Special Zone.

patrols and ambushes conducted by the fire teams, squads and platoons. These operations are effective in routing out the VC and in denying him access to the people—his mainstay.

Early in the war here it was said that the days belonged to South Vietnamese and allied forces but the nights belonged to the VC.

This is no longer the situation, because Marines and other American units now conduct many night operations, and with much success.

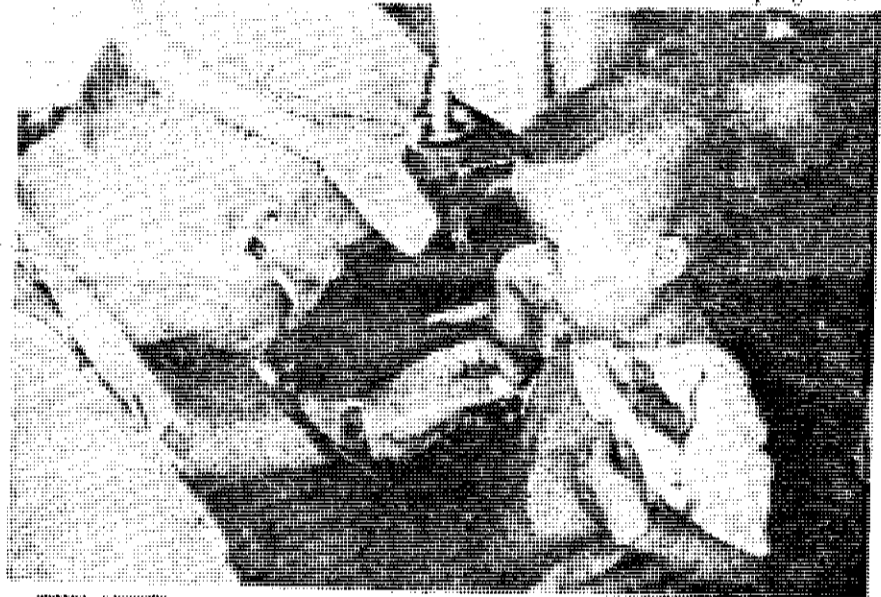
The civic action efforts of American units here are vast in scale. Virtually every Marine assigned here will at some time become involved in this program.



MARINES of III Marine Amphibious Force move in on search mission.



HITTING THE BEACH, Marines show enemy forces what amphibious war is.



THE OTHER SIDE of Marine operations—civic action by Navy corpsman.

Voluntarily — Marines have built new homes, hospitals, schools, churches for the people of war-torn Vietnam.

Here is a representative case of civic action:

When the Marines took the village of Le My—one that had been under VC control for a long time—they encountered uncooperative, very sullen resistance to any helping-hand efforts.

After medical and other assistance had been extended, plus obvious protection from Viet Cong reprisals, the villagers began to get the picture. They realized that they did not have to fear the VC blindly. They realized that Ameri-

cans would help.

Now that village is friendly to our forces and defends itself against enemy actions with a Popular Forces unit.

That's civic action.

Also, the Medical Civil Affairs Program (MEDCAP), although only 15 months old, already has accomplished dramatic results in the villages and hamlets.

Navy hospital men and doctors make daily visits to the people, bringing them medical aid such as they've never had before.

Marines in Vietnam today are carrying on the traditions of the Corps as always before, both in the fighting and the building.

## 'Green Berets' Hold Remote Outposts

The American soldier at lonely outposts in Vietnam's remote border areas belongs to the green beret unit, the 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne).

Living and working with the people in these distant locations, these Special Forces detachments have four functions in their mission—military operations, intelligence gathering, civic action and psychological operations.

The group is organized with four "C" detachments, one with each Vietnamese corps headquarters.

"B" detachments control the "A" detachments in the field, and one advises the Vietnamese Special Forces Training Center commander.

Working with the Special Forces units for local security and operations are Civilian Irregular Defense Groups (CIDG). These are local units, originally made up of Montagnards but now expanded to other areas. They are under the command of the Vietnamese Special Forces.

In a typical operation, a Special Forces team moves into a remote area, establishes a camp and sets up operations against the VC

aimed at destroying his control.

Then the team turns to psychological and civic actions to reestablish government influence, gain the loyalty of the people, and develop the economy.

As civilian authorities take over, the Special Forces job is done.

An example: at Duc Phong, a

III Corps area location, the enemy action had been fierce and constant for a considerable time. The 5th Special Forces "A" Team decided to clear the area and set up a camp.

CIDG men accompanied the Special Forces team in the initial landing, together with other special assault forces, and the section was speedily cleared of VC.



SPECIAL FORCES teams arrange for supply drops in far outposts.

## 1st Log Comd 'Moves It Out' To the Troops

What the fighting man needs to do his job, the 1st Logistical Command strives to supply.

Whether it's tank tracks or fresh bread, hot showers or ice cream, petroleum products or medical care, the U.S. Army Vietnam's "Log" provides it in three of the four corps areas in South Vietnam.

Largest single unit in the U.S. Army, with 28,000 troops (including about 300 nurses), the Log covers most of South Vietnam.

The sprawling command operates six military ports, moves supplies inland by more than 4,000 trucks or ferries them on water with its "navy" of more than 250 boats.

Also supporting the military effort are the Log's nine well-equipped hospitals, all within 30 minutes of battle areas by one of the Log's 50 heli-ambulances. The command even has a hospital to take care of the sentry dogs which guard troop perimeters.

The Log has a word for its work: "Expedite!"

## Hq Publishes Weekly Paper

The Observer, the MACV command newspaper, is printed and distributed free each week to all units.

The 12-page tabloid carries features from all Services in the command, with pictures, news highlights, sports, cartoons and news summaries.

New units may get on the distribution list by writing to The Observer, MACV OLCID, APO U.S. Forces 96243.

# USARV Handles Massive Army Support Mission

The nucleus of what was to become U.S. Army, Vietnam came to South Vietnam in December 1961. It was made up of the 8th and 57th Transportation Companies and an 11-man logistical team.

In 1965 the troop buildup went into effect here and the support activities boomed until in July all such Army activities were formed

into USARV. General W. C. Westmoreland, MACV commander, became its commanding general, "adding a hat," so to say.

The USARV missions are to administer and support all U.S. Army units assigned to Vietnam and to furnish to the MACV commander those forces required by tactical field headquarters.

Its major tasks presently in-

clude the completion of an extensive logistical support complex, the expansion of existing agencies throughout the command, and the reception, positioning and support of incoming tactical and logistical units.

During its first 10 months of operation USARV expanded to more than 156,000 troops in order to cope with the massive and com-

plex support mission.

Major units of USARV other than those covered elsewhere in this edition, are the 89th MP Group, 44th Medical Brigade, 1st Aviation Brigade, 1st Signal Brigade (STRATCOM), 18th Engineer Brigade and the 97th Artillery Group (AD).

Today, USARV is one of the Army's largest, most comprehensive subordinate commands.

## Some of Army's Best Units Here

### 1st Infantry Division

In line with its reputation for "firsts" in Army history—first to meet and fight the enemy in World War I, first ashore in many invasion operations in World War II—the 1st Infantry Division was the first U.S. Army division to begin the move to Vietnam duty, with its 2d Brigade coming ashore at Vung Tau in July 1965.

Taking up positions around Bien Hoa, north of Saigon, the brigade later was joined by most of the remaining elements of the "Fighting First".

In addition to the division headquarters and the three infantry brigades, the division has support: an armored cavalry squadron, an aviation battalion, Division Artillery and signal, engineer and other units to keep the division moving and shooting.

The 1st Infantry Division has fought several major battles in South Vietnam—in War Zones "C" and "D" and at the Michelin Plantation.

Recently the "Big Red One" spent a month sweeping through Viet Cong strongholds near the Cambodian border in Operation Birmingham. Other major 1st Division operations include Crimp, El Paso, Lexington, Abilene and Adelaide.

Among its other accomplishments in Europe in World War II, the 1st Infantry Division was the first Allied unit to crack Hitler's famed Siegfried Line—the defense complex that Germany called impregnable.

### 1st Brigade 101st Abn Div

The 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division landed in South Vietnam in July 1965, at Cam Ranh Bay. Since then the Brigade has been one of the most active units in the command.

The troopers "secured the area" in Qui Nhon in preparation for the ROK Capitol Division, and did the same at An Khe for the 1st Cavalry Division.

At Tuy Hoa, the brigade protected Vietnamese farmers in a rice harvest that yielded 38,000 tons of rice that the enemy did not get. While the farmers gathered rice, the brigade gathered 600 VC and NVA prisoners.

More recently, the 1st of the 101st conducted the now-famous Operation Hawthorne, a very effective search and destroy mission.

The brigade was formed in February 1964 from airborne battle groups of the 187th, 327th and 502d Infantry.



TWO FACES of U.S. Army in Vietnam are shown by bandsmen and war-weary Infantryman, illustrating both military and civic actions.

### 25th Infantry Division

From Guadalcanal in World War II to Cu Chi in South Vietnam, the 25th Infantry Division has served and fought exclusively in the Pacific and Far East areas.

The "Tropic Lightning" Division (a name it picked up from the speed of the Guadalcanal campaign) also fought through the Korean War from beginning to end, and stayed on in Korea for occupation duty. The 25th served in 10 campaigns during the Korea fighting.

From early 1963 to November 1965, the 25th Infantry Division sent more than 2,200 "shotgun" men—aerial door gunners—to Vietnam to ease the pressure on overworked helicopter crewmen.

Company "C" of the 65th Engineer Battalion also came to Cam Ranh Bay to help in that port's buildup.

The Division's 3d Brigade was airlifted to Pleiku in mid-January 1966 from Hickam AFB in Hawaii in the largest airlift on record.

"Tropic Lightning" operations often are identifiable by their Hawaiian names, such as Operations Makiki, Wahiawa and Maili.

Other 25th Infantry Division actions in 1966 include Operations Paul Revere and Longfellow.

The division is the first American organization to make extensive use of armor in Vietnam, with tanks of the 3d Squadron, 4th Cavalry and the 1st Battalion, 69th Armor.



With a colorful and distinguished history dating back to the Indian Wars, the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) clearly will add several contemporary pages to that distinguished history for its South Vietnam operations. These began in August 1965, when 1,000 1st Cavmen arrived to set up the division's base camp at An Khe. The remainder of the outfit arrived in September.

In July 1965 the 1st Cav became the first airmobile division in the U.S. Army.

In November and December of that year, and in January and February of 1966, the "First Horse" demonstrated the effectiveness of the airmobile concept in major battles around Plei Me, Bong Son, Chu Phong and Ia Drang.

Units of the 1st Cav have been almost continuously engaged this year. Operation Masher/White Wing ran several weeks. Other major actions included Crazy Horse, Davy Crockett, Mosby and Lincoln.

World War II saw the 1st Cav fighting through the Pacific theater of operations, with major campaigns on Leyte and Luzon.

Three weeks after the war broke out in Korea, the 1st Cav made the first amphibious landing of that war at Pohangdong. They fought in Korea until the end of 1951.

### 173d Airborne Brigade

First U.S. Army ground combat unit to be deployed in Vietnam, the 173d Airborne Brigade was formed in Okinawa in 1963 from two of the Army's most distinguished parachutist units—the old 503d Regimental Combat Team and the 3d of the 319th Artillery of 82d Airborne Division renown.

The brigade arrived here in May 1965 and immediately began combat operations, becoming the first American unit to enter War Zone "D" and the Iron Triangle, and the first to enter the Mekong Delta.

The 173d opened the year with Operation Marauder, with the Australian 1st Battalion.

In March they swept Zone "D" in Operation Silver City. Other actions were Hardhood and Denver.

Attached to the 173d are several units of the Royal Australian and Royal New Zealand Armies (both Infantry and Artillery organizations), and additional American support units.



CHOPPERS have proved to be one of the Army's most valuable instruments in the Vietnam war.