

DA SPECIAL PHOTO OFFICE  
INFORMATION BULLETIN  
NO. 2 SEPT 1963

1. LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Request reimbursement for my subscription to DASPO's "Information Bulletin." Received first issue but no subsequent ones.

Sincerely,

IMPATIENT READER

Dear Impatient Reader:

The "Information Bulletin" -- which premiered in October 1962 -- is published "periodically." It seems that increased office activities and expanded coffee breaks have made the period between the first and second issues a bit longer than originally planned. Herewith please find our encore issue, and be assured further publication will suffer less delay. The secret; smaller coffee cups and larger "out" baskets.

Yours truly,

THE EDITOR

2. WHO'S ON FIRST?

Changes in DASPO personnel are reflected in the lineup attached as Inclosure #1. Subsequent bulletins will acknowledge further alterations in the DASPO team. Your help will be appreciated in keeping our scorecard up to date. Most of you responded to our initial request for ID photos. Others, (i. e., Rivera, Meyers, Berndt, Pawley, Devan) can help by sending in your mug-shots to complete our files.

### 3. BACK TO SCHOOL

Captain Richard Baun will have a three month hiatus in his duties in DASPO's New York office to attend the Associate Career Course for officers. Classes to be conducted at Ft Monmouth, New Jersey, will begin the first week of January 1964. During Captain Baun's absence his duties will be assumed by Lt Toles.

### 4. LT TOLES JOINS DASPO RANKS

The newest member of the DASPO office staff is 2/Lt George Toles. Lt. Toles comes to us from the Directorial Branch of Production Division where he served as a script clerk for two months and as assistant director for five months. At this writing the lieutenant and his wife, Elizabeth, and daughter, Anne, are awaiting the second addition to their family.

### 5. FRESH STRENGTH FOR PANAMA

The Panama Detachment has recently been infused with new blood. SP-5's Donald W. Berndt and Leasel S. Pawley transferred into the detachment from another unit in Panama, and Staff Sgt J. D. Devan was assigned to the Det from APC. We are looking forward to great things from all three.

### 6. BALLINGER LOSES BAIL -- GETS BABY

In what appears to be a determined effort to narrow the gap between the size of their family and those of Major Bache and Captain Baun, Captain and Mrs. Herb Ballinger have proudly announced the arrival of Andrew Herbert. Andy weighed in at four pounds, eleven ounces.

Scanty reports from Panama did not reveal the weight of the three sailfish Ballinger netted that same week.

Perhaps the attendant vigor of being a member of this young and growing organization has a bearing on the DASPO "dependent explosion."

We call this to everyone's attention so that you fellows who have been pointing proudly to the size of your families can take appropriate action to protect your laurels. (Maybe you already have, but have not let us know yet?)

#### 7. DASPO PHOTOGRAPHS RANK WITH THE BEST -- CAPTIONS ARE COMING

Variety of camera angles and positions has given mute evidence on the screen to careful pre-planning in DASPO film coverage. That all-important ingredient of pre-planning is a key to pictorial success. Editors have been pleased with the diversity of long and close shots, interesting angles and good composition. The fruits of your resourcefulness and creativity are appreciated monthly in the Pentagon.

Captions have been improving to such an extent that we're considering eliminating the writers. Seriously, quality of scene descriptions has been enhanced greatly during the past year. In some cases the correct spelling of names and geographical locations has suffered. Incidentally, be sure to identify as many people and places as possible. As "What's My Line" panelists we are pretty bad.

#### 8. CONUS TEAMS COVER "OPERATION ROUND BOW"

"Operation Round Bow" was an extensive training exercise which found the 79th (Kirkee) Royal Artillery Battery (Commando) from England in.

exercises at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, and the 2nd Howitzer Bn, 2nd Artillery from Fort Sill at work in England, Wales and France.

SFC Jack Yamaguchi and Sp5 David Dardzinski were on hand at Fort Sill with cameras focused on Commando assault exercises which included rappelling, scaling cliffs, and flying through the air on the famed Death Slide. In an attempt to capture such scenes, Yamaguchi ventured down the Slide with Eyemo secured to his chest. To his surprise, at the completion of his 100 yard controlled dive through space he discovered he had only used ten feet of film -- a fair indication of his speed! For his participation in this and other events, Yamaguchi was awarded a Commando Beret by the Englishmen before they left for home.

Meanwhile, across the Atlantic SFC Tom Schiro and Sgt Dale Sperline were travelling with the American artillerymen. They covered the U.S. in England, on a trip via LCT to the Normandy beaches, on an exercise across the moors near Dartmoor prison, and finally in Wales. What a life!

#### 9. STILLS STILL IN DEMAND

We recently received a critique of DASPO's still photography from OCINFO which was, in substance, complimentary. The comments were made by Major Jon Del Vitto of the Public Information Division's Audio-Visual Branch.

Major Del Vitto described the technical quality of color and B&W slides from Vietnam as being generally good. But, he added, "For the most part, this coverage falls strictly in the historical record category and is not suitable for public information use..." Several reasons were cited and may

be found in copies of the critique sent to each detachment.

The Major put great emphasis upon showing MAAG and Special Forces advisors at work with the nationals, stressing the theme that "American soldiers are advising."

Color transparencies suitable for magazine covers are in great demand. Skilled DASPO teams are looked to as having both the ability and opportunity to satisfy many of these requirements. With added initiative we can play an even greater role in providing high quality photographs and captions.

In Major Del Vitto's words: "Photographers should be concerned with 'making' a picture rather than 'taking' a picture."

#### 10. WHAT HAS MORE FEET THAN 4,000 CENTIPEDES?

The DASPO footage counter recently clicked past the 400,000 point. In round figures here's the current breakdown on film shot by our teams during DASPO's brief period of operation:

|                     |         |
|---------------------|---------|
| Vietnam.....        | 140,000 |
| Thailand.....       | 125,000 |
| South America ..... | 100,000 |
| Africa .....        | 3,000   |
| Hawaii.....         | 20,000  |
| Taiwan.....         | 6,300   |
| CONUS.....          | 19,000  |

## 11. AT THE POST

To bring you up to date on DASPO's track record, here is a list of the entries produced to date:

Special Bulletin #1 -- "Delivery of MAP Equipment to Niger and Upper Volta - April 1962"

Special Bulletin #2 -- "United States Army Support to Thailand - 1962"

Special Bulletin #3 -- "Operation Sea Swallow"

Special Bulletin #4 -- "U. S. Army Communications in Southeast Asia, 1962"

Special Bulletin #5 -- "Military Assistance Impact Shipment to The Republic of the Congo (Leopoldville)"

Special Bulletin #6 -- "U. S. Army Helicopter Operations in South Vietnam"

Special Bulletin #7 -- "Summary of Special Warfare Activities Around The World"

Special Bulletin #8 -- "Civic Action in Guatemala"

Special Bulletin #9 -- "The Military Assistance Training Advisor Course in Action"

Special Bulletin #10 -- "The U. S. Army Unit Advisor in Vietnam"

Special Bulletin #11 -- "U. S. Army Engineers in Military Civic Action"

## 12. THE WORKLOAD

Future special bulletins approved for production and now in various stages of accomplishment are:

SB 12: Operation Thanarat, the story of the SEATO Exercise conducted in Thailand in June 1963.

SB 13: Civic Action - Mobile Development Units, Thailand, the story of a major effort by the Thai government in improving living conditions throughout Thailand.

SB 14: Special Action Forces, Latin America, the story of the counter-insurgency training of our Latin American allies.

SB 15: This is tentatively approved to be on the training of Montagnards in Vietnam by Special Forces personnel.

## 13. TEN RULES

We do not see technical errors in DASPO film to the extent that we did a year ago. But we occasionally see out of focus film, and camera motion when there is no excuse for it. It would be delightful to eliminate these errors altogether, and we think it is time we did. To help, we are establishing the following ten rules, to be followed by all cameramen:

1. Use a Tripod
2. Use a Tripod
3. Use a Tripod
4. Check Focus
5. Check Focus
6. Check Depth of Field
7. Check Focus
8. Check Depth of Field
9. Use a Tripod
10. Use a Tripod

#### 14. ACE CAMERA WORK

Recently some film from our far-flung teams has been especially notable for its technical excellence and high interest:

a. Sgt Kenneth S. Fielding covered civic action in Guatemala in a manner that sent DASPO stock sky-high, and resulted in SB #8. Later, with

b. SP5 Lawrence S. Windon, the story was brought up to date. This coverage showed that Windon merited kudos equally with Fielding.

c. SFC John Marsten shoots memorable footage wherever he goes. In Vietnam his coverage of Montagnard training, and, with SP-5 Richard D. Welsh of the Mohawk Aircraft in action, set high standards. Then, in Thailand, working with SP-5 Harry Bowen, the story of Thai Special Forces and the Transportation Barge Company was of great interest and brought us complimentary comments from DA.

d. SP-5 Gerald D. Cornelius, our purple heart winner, and SP-4 Ivan L. Bigley, invariably turn in film of high quality and interest. They recently showed their generous nature in shooting a flattering story of Navy Seabees in Vietnam.

e. SP-5 Francisco S. Salas seems to be improving his coverage constantly as he makes the grand tour from Panama through Colombia, Peru, and Bolivia.

f. SP-5 Gilbert L. Meyers, who recently joined the Pacific Detachment in an overseas transfer from another activity in Hawaii, has wasted



no time proving his ability. His coverage of Special Forces Personnel working with Montagnard villagers is an excellent follow-up to Sgt. Marsten's initial work on this subject.

#### 15. HELP THE EDITOR

The editor for DASPO is Vic Salamone. He knows the footage of all the cameramen better than anyone. He looks at it, studies it, cuts it, arranges it, discards it, saves it. Most important, he tells a story with it. And he has two suggestions:

- a. Make scenes at least fifteen feet long.

The reason: Too many times Vic finds the precisely perfect scene to illustrate the narrative portion of a script; only to discover the film is too short to last through the narration. He then either has to substitute a piece of film that is not as good as his first selection, or prevail on Chick Avedon, our writer, to shorten the narration.

- b. Shoot more cutaways.

The reason: Cutaways provide continuity. For example, consider a scene showing a helicopter coming down the ramp while being unloaded from a large transport aircraft. Suddenly the scene ends. The cameraman came to the end of the roll. The next available scene shows the helicopter already in the air, taking off under its own power. Obviously here is a gap in the story and a problem for the editor. He can solve it if he has a cutaway showing spectators watching the action, a technician directing the action, or some similar scene that can be inserted between the two scenes of the helicopter to bridge the gap in the action.

Therefore, the word from the motion picture editor is:

- a. Make scenes at least 15 feet long.
- b. Shoot more cutaways.

The bulletin editor thinks this is good advice.

#### 16. APPRECIATION FROM THE WRITER

The man who has written most, and certainly most of the best, of the DASPO special bulletins, is Chick Avedon. Month after month he turns out, with the help of editor Vic Salamone, special bulletins each of which equals or betters the previous one. He, and Vic, are the first to point out that their success is founded on the high quality of the film coverage obtained by you fellows scattered through the remote parts of the world. In addition, Chick Avedon constantly expresses appreciation for the high quality of your captions. In particular he is happy about the summary or over-all story of the subject matter that most of you write as an introduction to your detailed captions. He uses this to great advantage. Neither Shakespeare nor the Daily Mirror is studied more assiduously than he studies your captions.

So - - keep up the good work. And the word to you fellows who turn in good film stories but without a written story, an attempt to tell in your own words what you are telling on film, is to start this practice. It will enable us to make much better use of your film. It will greatly increase the value of your film.

| <u>NAME/RANK</u>          | <u>MOS</u> | <u>ASSIGNMENT</u> |
|---------------------------|------------|-------------------|
| Lt Col Arthur A. Jones    | 8511       | Ch, DASPO, APC    |
| Major Claude V. Bache     | 8511       | OIC, Pacific Det  |
| Capt Herbert H. Ballinger | 8511       | OIC, Panama Det   |
| Capt Richard A. Baun      | 8511       | Asst Ch, DASPO    |
| 1st Lt Bernard F. Sweeney | 8511       | Pacific Det       |
| 1st Lt Brian S. Kelly     | 8511       | Pacific Det       |
| E-8 Harold A. Bryan       | 843.80     | Pacific Det       |
| E-7 Kenneth Wipperman     | 843.70     | Panama Det        |
| E-7 Jack Yamaguchi        | 841.70     | CONUS Team        |
| E-7 Thomas J. Schiro      | 841.78     | CONUS Team        |
| E-7 John Marsten          | 841.70     | Pacific Det       |
| E-7 Donald E. Julius      | 841.70     | Pacific Det       |
| E-7 William I. Vice       | 841.70     | Pacific Det       |
| E-6 Robert C. Ambrose     | 843.60     | Pacific Det       |
| E-6 Herbert L. Ruff       | 843        | Pacific Det       |
| E-6 J. D. Devan           | 841.60     | Panama Det        |
| E-5 Thomas DeMitor        | 841.60     | Pacific Det       |
| E-6 Lyle V. Boggess, Jr   | 843.10     | Pacific Det       |
| E-5 Gilbert L. Meyers     | 841.20     | Pacific Det       |
| E-5 David Dardzinski      | 841.60     | CONUS Team        |
| E-5 Donald W. Berndt      | 841.6668   | Panama Det        |
| E-5 Leasel S. Pawley      | 841.10     | Panama Det        |

| <u>NAME/RANK</u>        | <u>MOS</u> | <u>ASSIGNMENT</u> |
|-------------------------|------------|-------------------|
| E-5 Lawrence S. Windon  | 841.20     | Panama Det        |
| E-5 Dale L. Sperline    | 841.10     | CONUS Team        |
| E-5 Francisco S. Salas  | 841.60     | Panama Det        |
| E-5 Victor J. Feci      | 841.1627   | Panama Det        |
| E-5 William J. Barry    | 841.20     | Pacific Det       |
| E-5 Kenneth S. Fielding | 841.28     | Panama Det        |
| E-5 Harry Bowen         | 841.20     | Pacific Det       |
| E-5 Gerald D. Cornelius | 841.20     | Pacific Det       |
| E-5 Thomas O. Wade      | 841.20     | Pacific Det       |
| E-5 Richard D. Welsh    | 841.20     | Pacific Det       |
| E-4 Ronald R. Leahey    | 711.10     | Pacific Det       |
| E-4 Adreon K. Willis    | 401.10     | Pacific Det       |
| E-4 Ivan L. Bigley      | 841.20     | Pacific Det       |
| E-4 Ned Crawley         | 841.18     | Pacific Det       |
| E-2 Jose C. Rivera      | 841.1068   | Pacific Det       |

*Arthur A. Jones*

ARTHUR A. JONES  
Lt Colonel, Signal Corps  
Chief, DA Special Photo Office

ARMY PIC CENTER, LIC., N.Y.