

# HAWK



MARCH 1969





# 1ST AVIATION BRIGADE

# HAWK

MARCH 1969

VOLUME II

NUMBER 7



44th Med ..... p. 4



Taekwon-do ..... p. 8



GCA Specialist ..... p. 15

## THIS MONTH

EDITORIAL	1
CHAPLAIN'S CORNER	1
CAREER COUNSELOR	1
BRIGADE CHANGES HANDS	2
44TH MED	4
NEWSLETTER	6
HAWK HONEY	7
ABOUT VIETNAM: TAEKWON-DO	8
TAIWAN R&R	10
BRIGADE PERSPECTIVE: 212TH CSAB	12
SAFETY IN THE GLOOM	15
CAV STRIKES AGAIN	18

### COMMANDING GENERAL

DEPUTY BRIGADE COMMANDER

DEPUTY BRIGADE COMMANDER

COMMANDER 164th CAG

COMMANDER 12th CAG

COMMANDER 17th CAG

COMMANDER 58th AVN GP (FFM) PROV

COMMANDER 212CSAB

INFORMATION OFFICER

OFFICER IN CHARGE

ADVISING EDITOR

EDITOR

MG Robert R. Williams

COL James C. Smith

COL William C. Boehm

COL Jack V. Mackmull

COL Herb D. Prather

COL John L. Todd

COL James G. McFadden

LTC Jack L. Mullen

MAJ Wade W. LaDue

1LT William C. Bayne

1LT John G. Alston

SP4 J. Lee Moreland

HAWK, an authorized Army publication, is published monthly by the Information Office, 1st Aviation Brigade. Opinions expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army. HAWK uses the facilities of Armed Forces News Bureau (AFNB), Army News Features (ANF), and others where credited. All photographs appearing in this publication are U.S. Army photos unless otherwise credited and may not be reproduced without the express approval of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs or the MACV Office of Information.

Feature stories, photographs and art work of general interest to 1st Aviation Brigade personnel are invited. Write HAWK Magazine, Information Office, 1st Aviation Brigade, APO 96384.

## Editorial

# Carelessness Is Costly

Dying is a subject about which no one likes to think. Yet each and every day men die in Vietnam, many of them due to carelessness or the carelessness of others. These are needless deaths and, in most cases, preventable ones.

In war as in no other human activity there is a need to work together and watch out for your buddy. Some day you may need your buddy to watch out for you.

A door-gunner on a troop carrying slick fails to keep his weapon in good firing condition and an entire ship and all its occupants is endangered.

A young soldier forgets to clear his weapon and accidentally and fatally wounds a friend.

A man falls asleep on bunker guard and not only loses his life, but allows the enemy to destroy millions of dollars of essential equipment.

No one wants to die. Even though we are all aware that someday we must, no one wants to die far from home in a strange land and in the terror of a death in war. Protect yourself and those around you. Stay awake on guard duty, make sure that weapon has been cleared and make sure it will fire if you need it.

Walk off that Freedom Bird. Don't be carried off.

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

**Chaplain (CPT) Dick Shockey  
10th Combat Aviation Battalion**



When a person tells you his name, when he invites you to call him by his given name, he invites you to his intimacy, he takes you into his confidence. In the military life, the more senior a person is to you, the more conscious you should be of the way you address him. On the other hand, your buddies, your co-workers, expect you to call them by name.

God has asked us to address Him by His name. Many of us call Him 'the good God.' But that is the family name. God calls Himself Father, and His Son is named Jesus. Do we address our God by the name that He has revealed to us?

He knows us by our names. The Almighty Person considers the members of the human race His friends. Can we respond better to His regard for us by acting more like His friends? We said in the beginning that the use of the given name introduces us into the friendship of persons. God has told us His Name—Jesus, Saviour, and by that act, He reveals to us our name, "sinner" or "lost one." Let us be willing to know ourselves for what we really are, and may we allow Him to call us by our name so that we may, with sincerity, call Him by His name.

## from the CAREER COUNSELOR

The Variable Reenlistment Bonus is the Army's way of saying, "We need your skills." It is also your opportunity to pocket some hard cash if you have one of the 300 MOS's designated by the U.S. Army as critical. You must also meet the following criteria:

- You must have served at least 21 months on your current enlistment.
- You must be at least an E-4 or above (E-3 is some MOS's).
- You must be serving in your first enlistment.

You may be wondering at this point how to compute your own VRB. It is really quite simple. The starting point is your VRB Multiplier. Each of the Army's 300 eligible MOS's is assigned a multiplier of from one to four. In order to find out your multiplier see your career counselor. He can help you compute your VRB and give you other facts and figures concerning the Variable Reenlistment Program.

Say your VRB multiplier is 4, the highest the Army offers at this time. You simply multiply your normal reenlistment bonus by 4 and add the result to your normal reenlistment bonus. This gives you your total Variable Reenlistment Bonus.

In Vietnam a special feature of the Variable Reenlistment Program is the tax free clause. Just as your monthly paycheck is tax free while you are serving here, so is your Variable Reenlistment Bonus. That can add up to quite a savings as you already know.

You can use your bonus money to buy a new car, start a stock portfolio, get married and raise a family, or just simply salt it away for future years. And while you're in Vietnam don't forget soldier's deposits and the accompanying 10% interest rate.



*In Late March...*

## BRIGADE SET TO CHANGE HANDS

The reins of command of the 1st Aviation Brigade are set to change late in March.

At press time, *HAWK* learned that Major General Robert R. Williams, commander of the brigade since September 1967, will return to the Pentagon in the office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development. During the same month, Colonel James C. Smith, Deputy Brigade Commander, will be tapped for an assistant division commander's slot with the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile).

Gen. Williams took command from Major General George P. Seneff and quickly initiated several of the tactics for helicopters which he had developed while serving as director of Army Aviation, his previous assignment. He led the brigade during the fierce TET and

May enemy offensives of 1968 and was cited by both U.S. and the South Vietnamese government for his heroism during that action.

He supervised the brigade in growing to its present size, approximately 25,000 men and more than 2,000 aircraft. He headed the transition for the newer, more lethal weapons in the Army's aviation property book—the AH-1G Huey Cobra, the OH-6A Cayuse and expanded on the use of sheer aviation tactics.

Gen. Williams was cited by the South Vietnamese government in May 1968 for his heroic actions with that government's highest award—the Cross of Gallantry with Palm. At the same time, the brigade, under Gen. Williams, was awarded its second award of the Cross of Gallantry with Palm.

Col. Smith joined the brigade in

August 1968 and quickly undertook the development of better maintenance and subsequently a better record of operationally ready aircraft. He is best known for his exploits in several command assignments with the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile). With the 101st he will take responsibility for the completion of the transition to airmobility. He is presently on the list of those promotable to brigadier general.

Both Gen. Williams and Col. Smith will be greatly missed by the brigade, the largest aviation command in the Army. Their expertise in aerial warfare has been recognized repeatedly in the Army and their determination to build a stronger, more flexible 1st Aviation Brigade has been a credit to the men and a much better tool for the ground commander.



**Colonel James C. Smith**

*To become Assistant Division Commander*



**MG Robert R. Williams**

*Back to ACSFOR*

# 1st Aviation Brigade and 44th Medical Brigade Unite...

...To Conserve  
the Fighting Strength

It usually begins in the field in the tall wet grass that stands unmoving, too far inland to be swayed by breezes swirling near the coast.

A LRR patrol moves out silently on a reconnaissance-in-force mission in Tay Ninh Province. Three hours later, the man walking second from point lay writhing in the grass, his left leg torn open by enemy automatic weapons fire.

"Medic!"

A flurry of activity. "Doc," the 19-year-old medical aidman, crawls to the wounded GI and starts cutting away the left trouser leg of the jungle fatigues. A shot of morphine is injected into the thigh to dull the pain and a dressing is applied to the wound.

Simultaneously, a defensive perimeter is established while the patrol leader talks on the field radio requesting a Dustoff.

In Cu Chi a Dustoff crew of the 44th Medical Brigade scrambles into action. Skilled in helicopter evacuation techniques, air ambulance crews of the 44th Med per-

formed over 85,000 missions last year, evacuating more than 190,000 patients.

Within minutes the unarmed Dustoff ship is hovering over the patrol's perimeter and a hoist is lowered to lift the patient from the dense undergrowth.

Sometimes there are too few friendly troops at the PZ to establish an effective defense perimeter. A Cobra from one of the 1st Aviation Brigade's Armed Helicopter Companies swings into action. Usually the evacuation is accomplished without incident and the Cobra hovers protectively close by. Although all Dustoffs bear the distinctive Geneva Red Crosses, hostile forces sometimes attack the unarmed aircraft with automatic weapons fire. But the attack is short as the Cobra moves in for the kill with its mini-guns and rockets blazing.

Hostile forces usually have enough sense to retreat in the face of such firepower, but occasionally a lucky shot through the Dustoff's engine is all that is needed to bring

the copter down. Another Dustoff will rescue the crew and the patients while the "Hawkmen" provide the action again. The stricken chopper must be retrieved from its emergency landing site, and a CH-47 is the aircraft that will "hook" it out of the jungle. Besides such salvaging operations pilots of Chinooks fly hospital patients to major airfields where the injured or ill will be flown to a General Hospital in Japan by the Air Force.

Minutes after the pickup is made, the helicopter arrives at an LZ near the 45th Surgical Hospital in Tay Ninh. A ground ambulance transports the patient to the pre-operative ward while a medical airmen continues medical treatment in the back of the "Crackerbox."

In the pre-op ward, nurses quickly remove the dressing and clean the wound to prevent infection. The patient is then taken to the operating wound where a team of surgeons and nurses repair the damage to the limb.

In Dalat a team of veterinarians

work to remove a piece of shrapnel from a Montagnard water buffalo which represents two or three years wages to a peasant farmer. Veterinarians also advise farmers on matters of animal husbandry and agriculture. Often they operate amid Viet Cong harassment attempts to thwart their efforts.

When these obstacles are eliminated the results are healthier farm animals and a larger yield per acre. Since farming is the most prevalent occupation in Vietnam, the benefits to the farmer will help thousands who rely on local produce for their foodstuffs.

To dentists counter-revolutionary development often means traveling to isolated villages or hamlets to provide dental treatment. Performing thousands of dental procedures in their off-duty time, in addition to an estimated one million per year that take place in Brigade clinics, the blue surgical gowns of the dentists are as familiar to thousands of Vietnamese as their MACV advisors.

For preventive medicine personnel, the "other war" means overcoming disease and health problems indigenous to Southeast Asia. Acting as a complement to Veterinary teams which inspect over eight billion pounds of food per year, preventive medicine teams inspect water points and sanitation conditions in an effort to reduce disease.

Mosquitoes, rodents and other disease carriers are often as elusive to combat as "Charlie"—and are just as deadly. Insecticides and pecticides are the primary weapons of the preventive medicine crews. While not in the sames class as an M-16 or M-60, when used properly they are just as effective in eradicating the enemy.

Inside a laboratory of the 44th Medical Brigade yet another war is waged as pathologists and lab technicians attempt to detect and identify diseases which afflict Allied Forces.

The 44th Medical Brigade is the



*Captain James D. Rundquist, 245th Veterindry Detachment prepares to treat a pig near Phuoc Long.*

first and only medical brigade to ever serve in a combat zone. As such, its 168 medical units which cover Vietnam from the DMZ to the Mekong Delta can provide Free World Forces with the full spectrum of medical care.

The 44th Medical Brigade and the 1st Aviation Brigade make a team that is hard to beat. Working together over the length of Vietnam, they strive to "conserve the fighting strength" of the GI in the field.

*A team of surgeons and nurses provide emergency care for a wounded soldier at the 24th Evacuation Hospital in Long Binh.*



# NEWSLETTER

Although some soldiers may complain that their tour of duty in Vietnam hinders their education, more than 60 personnel from the 121st Assault Helicopter Company in Soc Trang found an opportunity to further their education by participating in high school and college equivalency testing administered here in early November, 1968.

The GED testing program was initiated when Warrant Officer Wayne L. Dandridge, educational officer for the 121st, was given the additional duty of administration and supervision of the General Educational Development program. SP4 William G. Lee was designated as the GED coordinator to assist him in his new responsibility.

Through the efforts of Warrant Officer Dandridge, personnel interested in the GED (high school equivalence) and CCT (college equivalence) testing programs were released from duty on the 12th, 13th, and 14th of November to travel to Can Tho where the tests were administered. The testing program was so successful that a testing team from the Army Educational Center was recruited for further testing in Soc Trang at the beginning of December.

Seventeen chaplains of the 1st Aviation Brigade met for their quarterly conference under the chairmanship of Brigade Chaplain (LTC) Paul K. McAfee. The meeting was hosted by 17th Combat Aviation Group Chaplain (MAJ) Caleb H. Johnson and took place in the Conference Room at 17th Group Headquarters in Nha Trang, Vietnam, 6 January 1969. USARV was represented by Chaplain (LTC) John E. Stevey.

Chaplain McAfee said the conferences are held for three purposes: (1) to clarify and establish the policies of Brigade, (2) to discuss common problems in search of feasible solutions, and (3) to better esprit de corps by social fellowship.

## HIGH FLIERS

Awards of the Silver Star and higher for the period 21 December 1968 through 20 January 1969.

Specialist Four Patrick M. Malone, H Btry 29th Arty

Warrant Officer Robin K. Hicks, 281st Aviation Company

Chief Warrant Officer Clyde W. Shy, 3/17 Air Cavalry Squadron

Warrant Officer Charles R. Campbell, 68th Assault Helicopter Company

Warrant Officer William W. Breece, 7/1 Air Cavalry Squadron

PFC Bobby E. Robinson, 191st Assault Helicopter Company

Warrant Officer Richard P. Taylor, Aviation Company

Captain Anthony X. Hoyer, 7/17 Air Cavalry Squadron

Chief Warrant Officer Bradford M. Jones, 155th Assault Helicopter Company

\*Specialist Four Steven J. Perry, 7/1 Air Cavalry Squadron

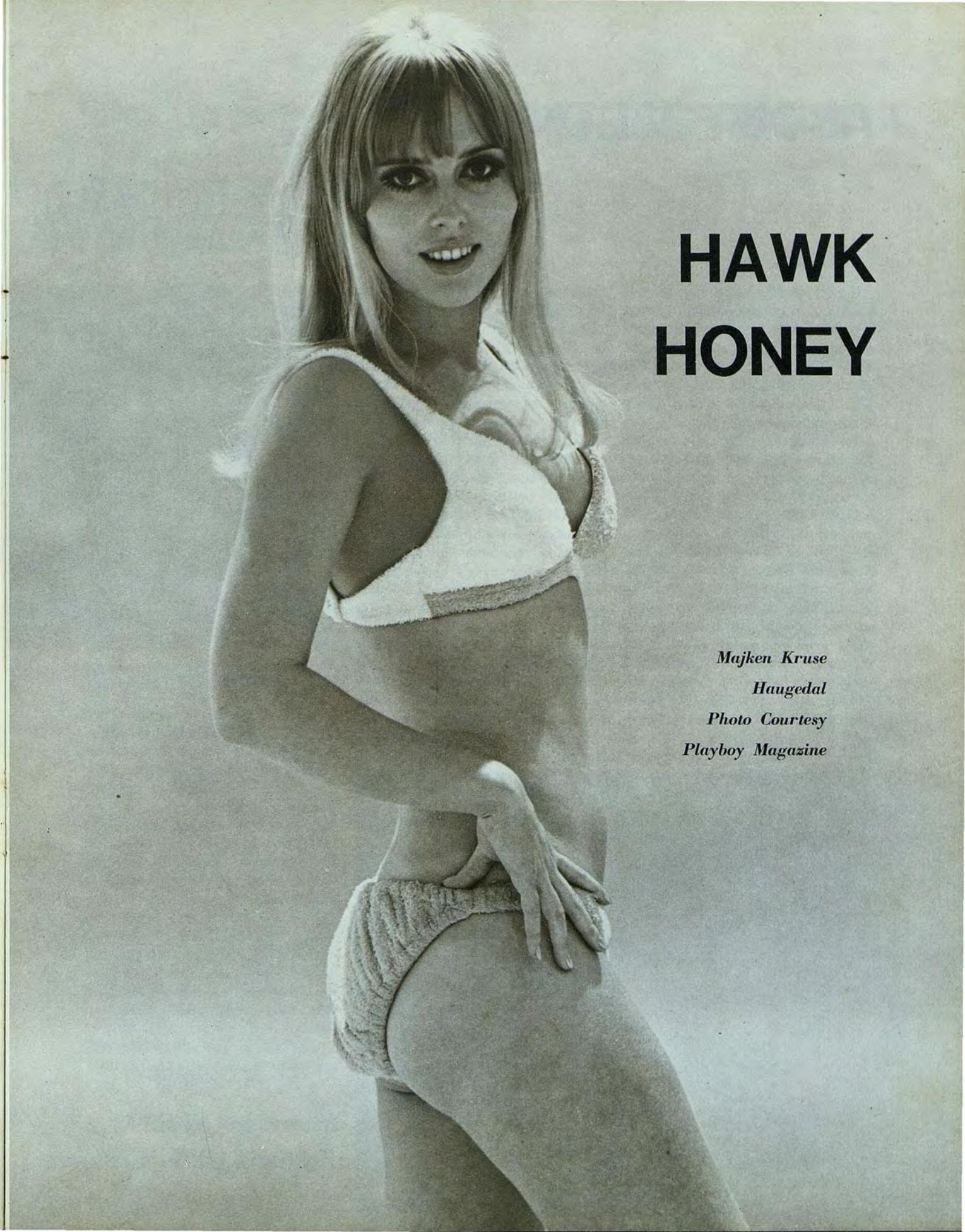
\* Warrant Officer Charles E. Sellner, 116th Assault Helicopter Company

Chief Warrant Officer Dean A. Nichols, 3/17 Air Cavalry Squadron

Major Charles R. Byrd, 190th Assault Helicopter Company

Major John D. Jenks, Jr. (1st OLC) 7/1 Air Cavalry Squadron

\* Posthumous



# HAWK HONEY

*Majken Kruse*

*Haugedal*

*Photo Courtesy*

*Playboy Magazine*

# ABOUT VIETNAM:

The Republic of Korea Forces Vietnam, commanded by Lieutenant General Chae Myung Shin, are presently protecting 1,240,000 South Vietnamese (one fourteenth of the population) from terrorist Viet Cong and hard core NVA strike-and-slip-away invaders not only through planned combat operations, but also through an effective program of instruction in a contemporary version of an ancient Chinese form of unarmed combat.

Called TAEKWON-DO, this Korean self defense art has captured the imagination of not only the South Vietnamese military infrastructure (including Rangers, and military policemen), but also the villagers, young and old, male and female.

Translated from the Korean language, "TAE" means to jump,

*Young Vietnamese boys show their skill in the ancient art of Taekwon-do.*

kick or smash with the foot; "KWON" denotes a fist; and "DO" indicates a way or method. So, TAEKWON-DO is a technique of unarmed combat for self defense which involves the use of flying kicks, punches, body blocks and interceptions with the hands, arms, head and feet to defeat an opponent.

Wherever the Korean forces establish defense positions, their TAEKWON-DO influence is soon evident in the physical education programs conducted by the local school systems.

Vietnamese school children from grade three on up eagerly participate in the sport and after elemental instruction has been absorbed. They delight in giving not only exhibitions of their developing proficiency, but also compete in contests with neighboring schools.



**Story by SFC  
Edward J. G. Cannata**

# TAEKWON-DO



*ROK soldiers give a demonstration of one of the lethal kicks of Taekwon-do.*

TAEKWON-DO training consists of four parts. The first phase is a pattern of movements in which body balance and an aesthetic sense are graded as in dancing or gymnastic competitions.

"Step Sparring" is emphasized in the second part by the execution of foot movements with attention concentrated on balance, motion and form.

The third phase is a demonstration of the destructive power of TAEKWON-DO in which the main idea is to defeat the opponent with ONE blow rendered by either the feet, head, arms, or hands.

The last part of the instruction is a series of slashing leaps rated by

keen eyed judges as to whether or not the particular attack would have succeeded.

Just as in Karate, mental concentration is a contributory strength. When asked how it is possible to thrust a hand through 14 inches of roofing tile, a Korean TAEKWON-DO instructor explained that the secret lies in concentrating the maximum amount of strength into one point, the tips of your fingers, and then striking quickly. "The maneuver", he claims, "is simply the control of your mind and muscle direction."

At the completion of the TAEKWON-DO course of instruction the Vietnamese student graduates publicly recite in unison the Korean "Creed of the TAEKWON-DO Trainee".

**Photos Courtesy  
ROKV PIO, Saigon**

# SPORTS: PART I

- We will serve as a cornerstone in the anti-communist struggle by training not only our minds, but also our bodies.

- We will become apostles of justice with faith and humility.

- We will become exemplary workers for our country through patience and diligence.

- We will serve the weak in strength as their guardian with respect for honor and courtesy.

- We will preserve the spirit of chivalry, exercising our art only for self defense.

For those proficient Vietnamese students desirous of furthering their mastery of TAEKWON-DO, the Korean instructors during off duty hours guide them in the intricacies of the art for progress towards the ultimate award the black belt.

In TAEKWON-DO, there are

*Training starts young if the student is to master completely the Korean art of unarmed self-defense.*



four orders of belt. The WHITE BELT denotes the amateur status followed by the blue, brown and finally the black belt with its corresponding degrees of proficiency.

The students capability is evaluated and graded in terms of a scale which is divided into 17 ranks. For example, there are 9 degrees of the black belt. The 9th degree black belt is the highest that one can attain. There is only one 9th degree black belt TAEKWON-DO holder in the world.

The introduction of TAEKWON-DO has not only prompted the attention of the South Vietnamese, but also that of their enemy. A captured NVA directive reads: "Never defy Korean soldiers without discrimination even when they are unarmed, for they are all well trained in TAEKWON-DO".

# This is...

Less than 100 miles off the mainland of Red China in the Western Pacific, there is a subtropical island known as either Taiwan or Formosa depending on whether the translation "Terraced Bay" for Taiwan or "Island Beautiful" for Formosa evokes your imagination.

The reality of the island is better than imaginative fantasy. There are white sandy beaches, green hills, cool lakes, majestic mountains rising from the plains and many opportunities for memory and desire to blend.

Taipei, the new capital of the Republic of China on Taiwan (or will it be Formosa?) is a city of beautiful women, hundreds of restaurants, hotels and shops which

*Traditions of ancient folk dances are preserved through weekly staged presentations sponsored by the Republic of China, Minister of Culture.*



make the city the center of trading traffic and the pulsebeat of the island.

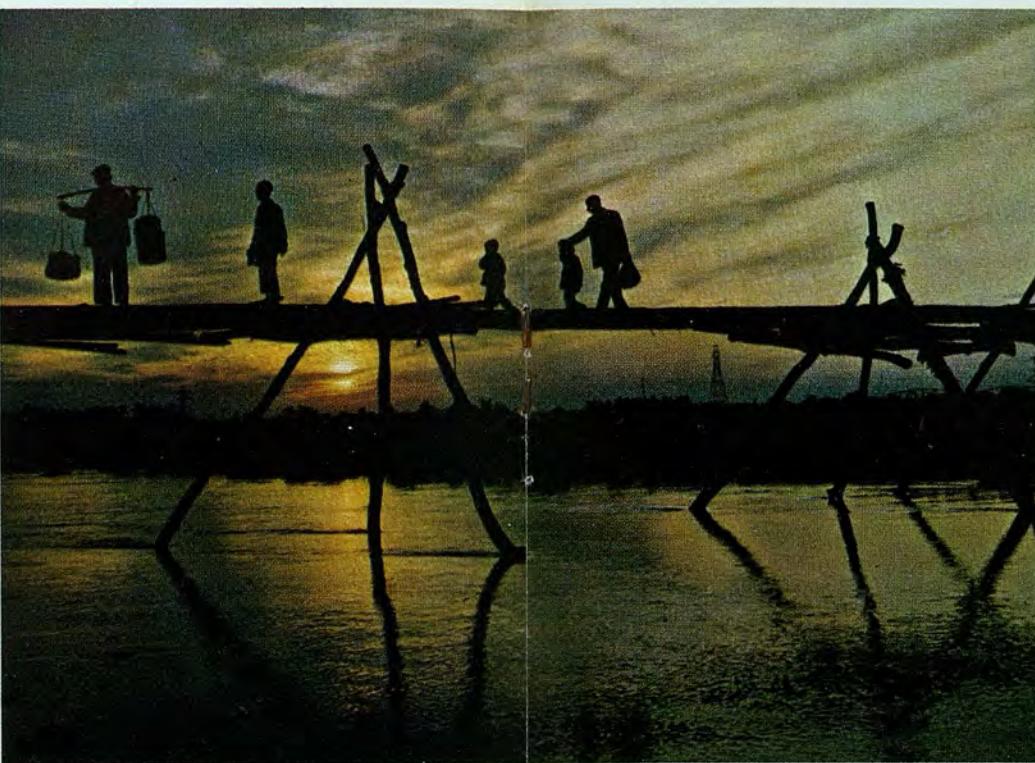
The city is a haven for the rested and the restless. And it is the place where the quiet bar around the corner from nowhere leads to everywhere.

To shop profitably, you must stroll down "Haggle Alley" where the merchandise has no price tag and the purchase price depends upon your skill at fast talking and slow reaching for your wallet. To the masters of this art, the rewards are inspiring. There are wood carvings and ancient scrolls, musical instruments made from snakeskin, lacquer bowls inlaid with mother-of-pearl and figurines sculpted from jade, coral, ivory, brassware, tapestries, coral and procelain.

Evenings on the island are adventures in dining. There are excellent servings (at moderate prices) of duck, pork, fish soup, shrimp or beef. To the more daring palates there are taste thrills in challenging dishes of shark's fin, bear's paw or swallow's nest. If you prefer, however, to remain with Western style food, there is an abundance of restaurants where excellent selections may be found and enjoyed.

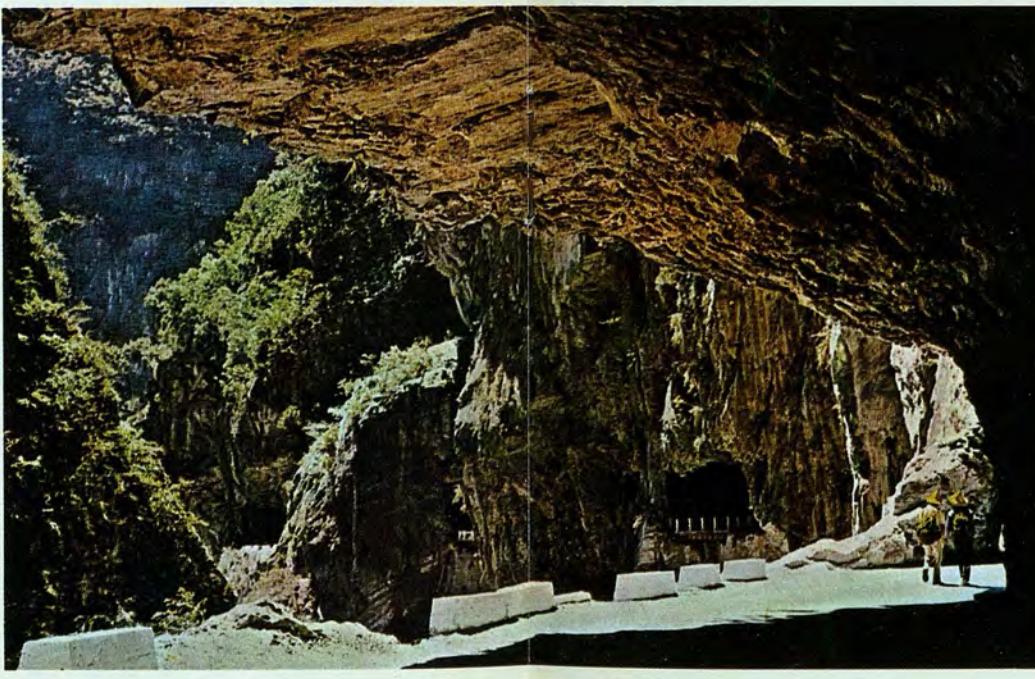
The island is a photographer's playpen. Among the most picturesque attractions are Lungshan Temple, a 203 year-old Buddhist temple whose ornate architecture of gilded idols and stone carvings pillars is an international lure, and on the eastern edge of the island near the city of Hua-Lien, are the stark canyons of Taroko Gorge where deep crevices and winding

*Picturesque insight into engineering technique is seen in the tunnel system of the Cross Island Highway of the Republic of China.*



*A time untouched daily vignette of Chinese life.*

# TAIWAN



HAWK

HAWK

tunnels burrow through walls of swirled marble.

The oriental symbols of religion dot the island's landscape. There is the Temple of the Grand Master, the Temple of the Dragon Hills and the Temple of the King of Green Hills. From a shelf of hills overlooking the rice paddies and irrigation canals at the entrance to the Yuan Tung Temple, there are huge carvings of the temple guards, a lion and an elephant. As you enter the temple, you see the figure of Buddha sitting in a small cove toward the front of the room. Red and black wood lattices, carved into flying arabesques of form, enclose him as he presides there molded in brass and bitter gold with bright flaming hair and rubied lips.

Other camera 'musts' are Sun-Moon Lake, a deep bowl of green hills near the middle of the island, and the hot springs of Peitou, a suburb of Taipei where you can immerse yourself in the healing currents of water drawn from the earth.

Nightlife on the island is an invitation to stockpiling memories. Colorful nightspots and cabarets are reasonable. Mixed drinks run about 50 cents U.S. each. It costs about \$1.00 U.S. to keep your companion sincerely interested in drinking with you.

Special mention should be paid to the island's wine houses. A wine house is comparable to a Japanese restaurant where a tired businessman or R&R serviceman is served good but inexpensive food by Chinese girls whose JAPANESE counterparts are the celebrated Geishas.

There is a richly oriental beauty about the island whose impressions upon the visitor are as an ancient poet put it... "Light strained through bulbed glass that is smashed, smashed into a thousand dimly sparkling pieces, smashed and infinitely old, lingering and patient.

**Story by SFC  
Edward J. G. Cannata**



*The beauty of the Republic of China's present and the heritage of the past is embodied in the Cheongsan clad youth of the island*

*In spring a young man's fancy turns to . . .*



# Wings of Freedom...



## 212th CSAB

*Story by SP5 Victor B. Lackey*

COACHMEN, ALLEY CATS, BLACK CATS, BLACK ACES, CAT KILLERS, NIGHTHAWKS, and REDEYE. These aren't the names of football teams, nor are they the names of tough motorcycle gangs. They're the names of the units of the 212th Combat Support Aviation Battalion. En masse known to the combat units of I Corps as "The Wings of Freedom."

The 212th Combat Support Aviation Battalion is unique in the sense that it is the only battalion directly under the 1st Aviation Brigade. Units in the 212th are under operational control of III MAF with sub-allocation to 24th Corps, I Corps (ARVN), Americal Division, 2d ARVN Division and the 101st Airborne Division.

"This Battalion is very diversified in its mission. It has numerous types of operational helicopters, and fixed-wing aircraft." These are the words of LTC Bernard W. Bruns, former commanding officer of the 212th Combat Support Aviation Battalion.

The 212th CSAB located at the Marble Mountain complex near Da Nang is the I Corps aviation center. At the Marble Mountain installation is Headquarters Company which provides support for the entire battalion. Also at Marble Mountain is the 282d Assault Helicopter Company, the "Black Cats." Major Val Panzitta, commander of the 282d AHC, is the only aviator in the unit on his second tour in Vietnam. The rest of the company's pilots are first tour men.

The fact that they are first tour men has no real significance, however the fact that they are all new aviators just out of flight school does. Even with 59 aviators on their initial aviation tour the 282d has one of the finest assault records in Vietnam. Major Panzitta believes that the unit owes its great record to his maintenance crews.

In the last 4 months they have been 90% operational. The average for an assault company is around 75%. The "Black Cats" have some

brothers known as the "Alley Cats" who are capable of bearing a little more claw and fang. "Alley Cats," gunship platoon of the 282d, known for their cunning and ferocity, are well respected by the NVA and VC in the I Corps area. They are on 15-minute standby 24 hours a day. In flying ground support missions the miniguns and 2.75mm rockets of the "Alley Cats" can be on their target within 20 minutes of a request from one of the field commanders.

The "Black Cats" and "Alley Cats" of the 282d AHC are respected for their fast service and deadly fire power. They are also known for fine civil action programs.

Operation Silver Lining is their project to support the Sacred Heart Orphanage just 4 miles south of Da Nang. They have written to groups in the states and asked them to donate clothing, soap, cooking utensils, plates, silverware, and used toys. "The response has been tremendous," says Major Panzitta.

"Some of the people back home have even been sending checks to be given to the orphanage."

"Redeye," not the kind you drink, but the type that sees in total darkness is the name of the 245th Surveillance Airplane Company. The 245th SAC, located at the Marble Mountain air facility, is commanded by Major Gordon K. Lee Jr. The Mohawk aircraft of the 245th SAC flew 950 hours in the month of December.

The eyes of the Americal Division, and the 2d ARVN Division in I Corps are the "Black Aces" of the 21st Reconnaissance Airplane Company. The Bird dogs of the 21st RAC as well as the rest of the 212th CSAB are feared by most of the experienced enemy troops in I Corps. "They have nearly gotten to the point that they don't like to fire on the virtually defenseless O-1 aircraft due to the destruction that the Bird Dog can call in on him," says Captain James Wyner, a Bird Dog pilot in the 21st.

Just a few minutes by air from Marble Mountain is the Phu Bai airstrip. Located at the Phu Bai base is the Corps Aviation Company (Provisional) providing lift capabilities for all of 24th Corps. The "Coachmen" as they are known in I Corps, fly 1,000 hours per month or better. Also located at Phu Bai is the 131st Surveillance Airplane Company. The "Night-hawks" who have a MACV-J2 mission are commanded by Major Gary Alton.

"Cat Killers, Guardians of the DMZ, Eyes of I Corps," these are the names of the 220th Reconnaissance Airplane Company. Being the only Bird Dog unit in I Corps from June 1965 until January 1968 tends to give a unit such as the 220th many nicknames.

"The most rewarding command I've ever had," states Major James M. Wisby, commanding officer of the 220th. The 220th serves almost every type of unit in I Corps. Third Marine Division, 101st Airborne



*A slick from the Corps Aviation Company, 212 CSAB, lands on the deck of the Battleship New Jersey.*

# ...providing the guidance for I Corps guns...



*A slick of the 282d Assault Helicopter Company flies high in the sky over Marble Mountain.*

Division, 1st ARVN Division, 108th Artillery Group, 1st Brigade, 5th Mechanized Division, and the Naval Task Force off the coast of Vietnam all utilize 220th spotters.

When fire direction missions

were needed north of the DMZ, the 220th was there first with their O-1 aircraft. They served as the eyes for the guns in the south. In flying over 850 missions per month the "Cat Killers" locate the enemy

and call in the firepower to complete the job.

Waging war is not the 'only mission of the 220th. Their civil action programs are on their way to being some of the most successful in the I Corps area. Thanksgiving day, 1968, 50 children from one of their orphanages in Hue had a complete Thanksgiving dinner with the men of the 220th. The men of the 220th RAC lend support in the way of food, clothing and other gifts to 3 orphanages in the provincial capitol of Hue. The unit is well rewarded for their kindness by the smiles of the young children of the orphanages, and the sisters who operate the homes for the homeless children of war.

On January 1, 1969 LTC Bruns turned the command of the 212th CSAB over to LTC Jack L. Mullen, formerly with the 17th Combat Aviation Group. LTC Bruns envies LTC Mullen. "He is taking over the finest command I've ever had the pleasure of serving."

*A helping hand is given to a young Vietnamese girl as members of the 282d AHC pitch in to give children of the Sacred Heart Orphanage a party.*



*One of the "eyes of I Corps" takes off for an aerial reconnaissance mission.*



# Safety in the GLOOM:

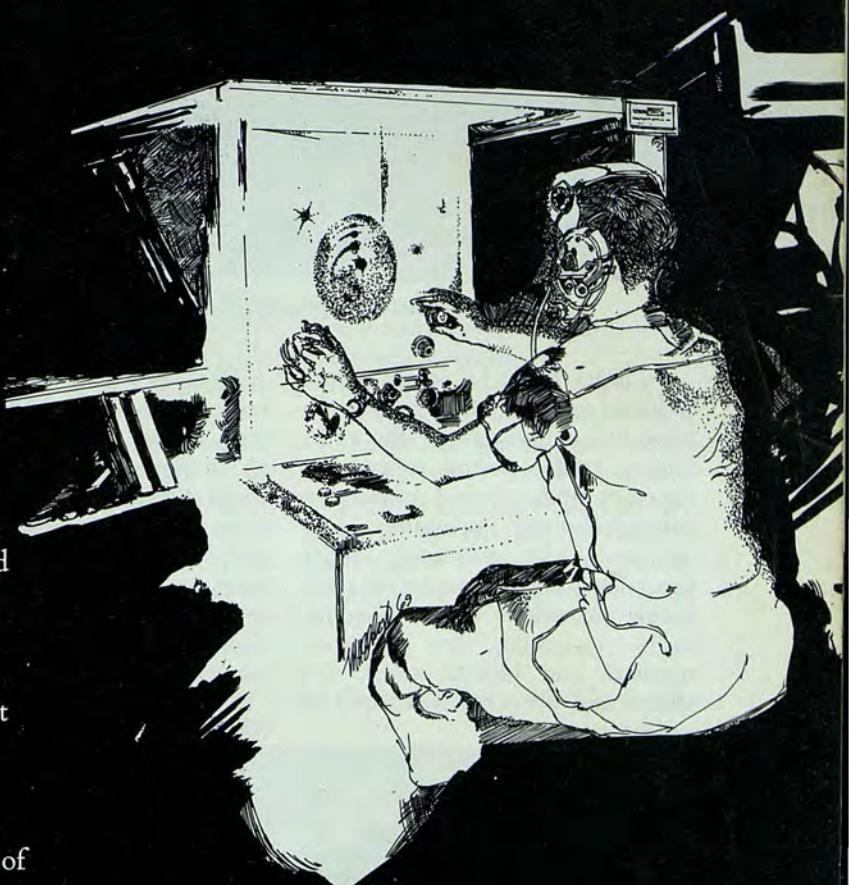
Heavy driving rain of the Southwest monsoon season turned the earth to mud and made the sky an impenetrable curtain of gray. Black puddles of water lined the runway and were driven to a frenzy by the force of the falling water. Ceiling zero. Visibility 200 feet.

Above the staccato sound of the pounding rain the whop-whop-whop of a distant CH-47 Chinook could be heard. Although the pilot of the Chinook could not see the runway and the Air Traffic Controller could not see the big Hook, both men knew the exact position of the Army aircraft.

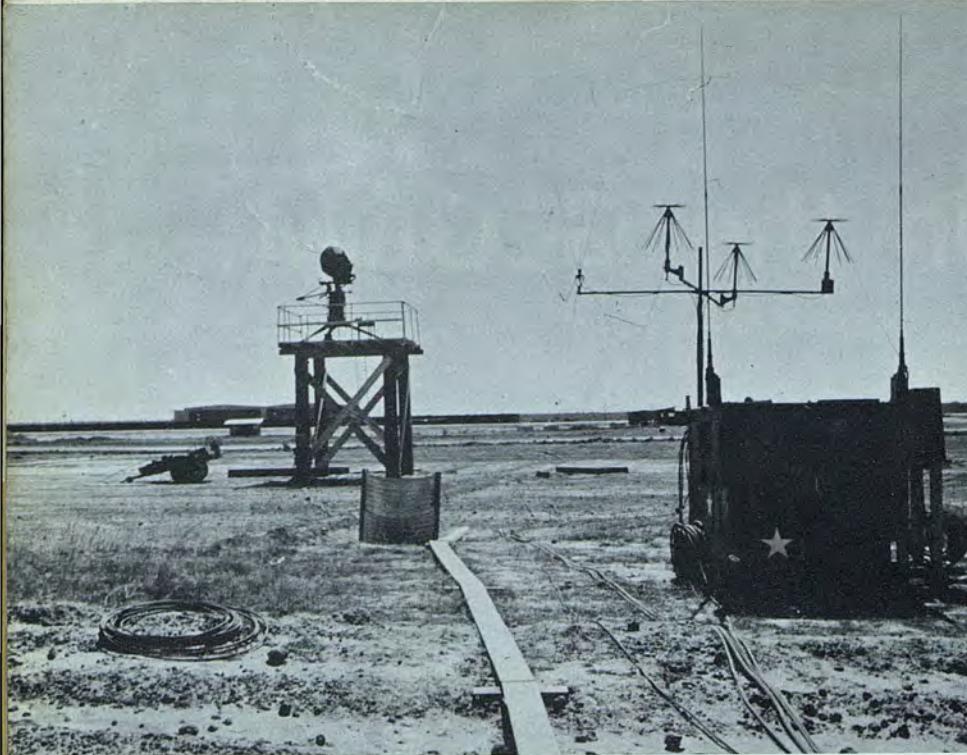
In a darkened room adjacent to the control tower a man silently tracked the aircraft on his radar scope. Swiftly and confidently he guided the aircraft to a safe landing on the rain-slick runway, turning a hazardous situation into a routine landing. The man who accomplished this was the seldom seen, but ever present ATC Ground Approach (GCA) Specialist or 93J20.

The job is a demanding one with no room for the amateur or the irresponsible. The man behind the radar scope must possess vast amount of technical knowledge as well as the knowledge of his geographic area and the physical limitations of his airfield. It is a job in which mistakes or misunderstandings of the slightest nature can do what "Charlie" so often cannot. Endanger a mission. Down an aircraft. Take valuable lives. There can be no margin for error.

Responsibilities of the GCA operator are many and varied. Officially he operates the landing control radar system for ground approach of aircraft during minimum visibility conditions by GCA scope interpretation and relating appropriate landing instructions to pilots. He alerts pilots to pending hazards such as areas of heavy intensity rainshowers and thunderstorms.



## GROUND CONTROL APPROACH



*Ground Control Approach system radar tower.*

In order to do his job in a professional and competent manner he must know basic air traffic rules, airport traffic control procedures, air route traffic control procedures, communications operating procedures, flight assistance service procedures and principles of navigation to include dead reckoning, radio navigation, use of aeronautical and tactical maps and charts and operational features of radio beacons.

*The GCA specialist takes a close look at his scope in preparation for yet another bad weather landing.*



He must know radar phraseology, how to use and write flight progress strips, FAA and US Army air traffic rules and regulations, visual flight rules (VFR), instrument flight rules (IFR), FCC rules and local facility regulations. He must be able to write a weather sequence and plot direction and approximate speed of aircraft movement.

There are two types of GCA controlled approaches. The Surveillance approach is used when weather conditions do not permit the pilot to see the airfield until he is in close proximity to it. It would be unsafe for him to depend upon his eyesight and that of the tower operator so the GCA specialist takes over giving the pilot recommended altitudes until the aircraft reaches surveillance approach minimums. At this time the Air Traffic Controller takes over and the remainder of the landing is made under VFR conditions.

The Precision approach is used when the ceiling and visibility is so near instrument minimums that any type of VFR flying is hazardous. The GCA specialist identifies the aircraft and through a series of

## Story and Photos by SP4 J. Lee Moreland



*A CH-47 Chinook must carry its vital load in spite of the bad weather conditions prevalent during the Southwest monsoon season.*

heading and altitude recommendations literally talks the aircraft down. Both glidepath and center line information is given so that at any point both the pilot and the controller know the exact position of the aircraft, its altitude and its position in relation to the runway.

In addition the Ground Approach (GCA) specialist can vector aircraft to any predetermined grid co-ordinate. For example, a pilot at point A wants to go to point B. If he has the grid co-ordinate of the desired LZ, he can radio it to the GCA and the radar operator will give him a heading for the site. As the helicopter nears the LZ the GCA will track him and, if need be, give additional headings and corrections until the pilot is over the Landing Zone.

In order to qualify for this MOS an individual must undergo extensive training. This is normally

Brigade. Men from any unit in Vietnam who have requirements for 93J's may be trained here.

According to SFC Gordon D. Faulkner, NCOIC of the school and 93J himself, "The GCA radar system and the men who operate it have saved countless aircraft and lives during the course of the Vietnam conflict. An aircraft can be lost just as readily by bad weather and sloppy handling as by accurate ground fire by 'Charlie.' Thanks to the GCA specialist, however, these noncombat losses are kept to a minimum."

The Army considers men in this MOS so valuable that they have assigned them a Variable Reenlistment Bonus (VRB) multiplier of four, the highest VRB multiplier available at this time. In addition they are authorized Proficiency Pay in the category P-4, also the highest authorized currently.

The importance of men trained in these skills is not limited to the Army alone. Related civilian occupations include Air Traffic Controllers, Air Traffic Control Station Specialists and Air Traffic Control Supervisors. These jobs are high-

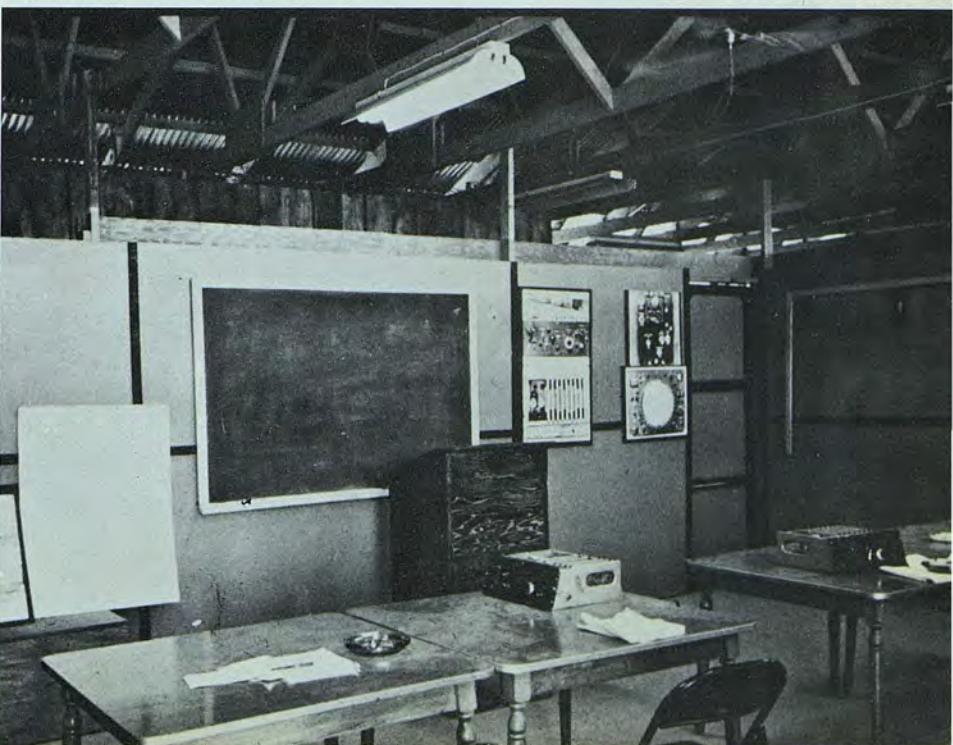


*The Air Traffic Controller cannot always see the aircraft he is controlling and so must turn to the GCA specialist to bring in the aircraft.*

paying and prestigious and are uncommonly abundant.

The ATC Ground Approach (GCA) specialist has a difficult but rewarding job. His are the difficulties which make flying hazardous for the men equipment that go into the air daily. His are the rewards which come to the who through his skill saves an aircraft, a mission or a life.

*Classrom at the 58th Aviation Groups' GCA Radar school at Long Thanh where 93J's receive an orientation to Vietnam.*



# Cav Units Find No Crackers, So... Close the Country Store

An ancient military axiom states that an army is only as good as its logistical and supply system. No military force can function efficiently without the weaponry needed to wage war, the food needed to nourish the men or the clothing needed to protect them.

Some of the greatest armies ever assembled were actually brought to defeat by the brilliant leadership of their commanders and the ferocious fighting quality of their men. This was so because the armies won victories and advanced faster than their supply lines could accommodate them. In the end they were defeated because they lacked the supplies and weaponry needed to wage war.

In Vietnam a different kind of war is being fought. A war with no front lines and safe, secure rear areas. A war in which a piece of real estate is not the main concern, but rather the lives and minds of the individuals living on that real

estate which is of paramount importance. A war of concealment and ambush, of booby traps and the terror of rockets in the dark of the night.

In spite of all this the basic axiom remains the same. The enemy cannot fight without essential war supplies. He has a long and tenuous supply system with no strong base camps immune to the reconnaissance-in-force tactics of Free World Forces. He is forced to rely on concealment of this precious war supplies.

In an effort to shorten their nearly 1,200-mile-long supply route, the Viet Cong constructed a munitions factory deep in the Mekong Delta over nine years ago. Transporting the raw materials by motor vehicle, oxcart, bicycle and sampan, the VC built a complex capable of producing yearly over 50,000 grenades, thousands of mortar rounds and small arms ammunition.

This 'end run' enabled "Charlie" to appreciably shorten his stretched supply line and produce locally enough war goods to keep his Delta troops in the field.

The 1st Avn Bde.'s 7/1 Air Cav Sqd combined with ARVN's put an end to this enterprise, however.

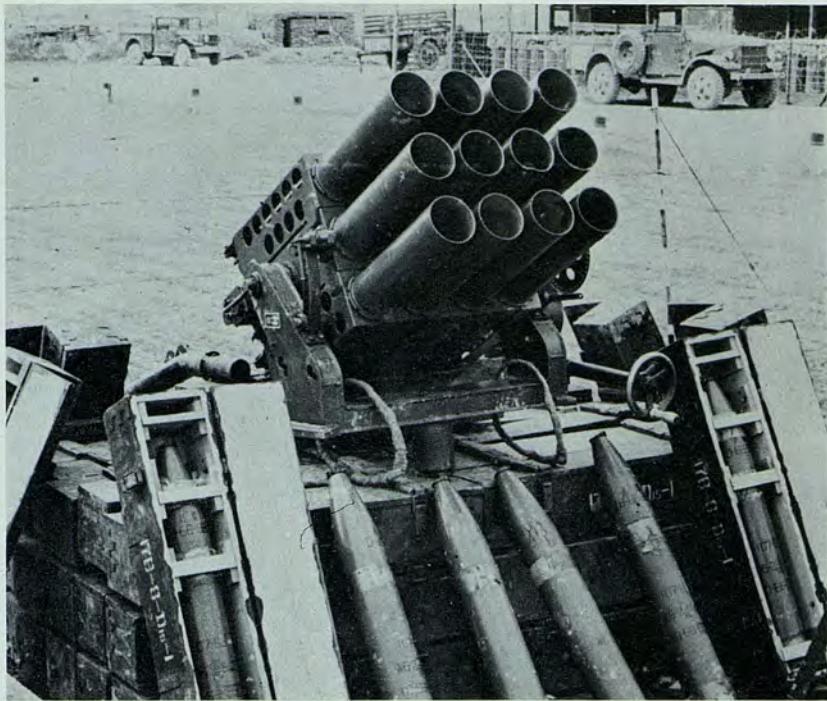
Culminating a search which had lasted several years, elements of the 164th Combat Aviation Group's 7/1 Air Cav and the 44th Special Zone Advisory Detachment, IV Corps, discovered the expertly camouflaged complex whose exact location has been the enemy's Top Secret project in the Delta since 1959.

The beginning of the end for the munitions factory occurred when A Troop, 7/1 Air Cavalry Squadron and 44th Special Zone troops began a concentrated reconnaissance sweep of the area in and around Chi Lang which is located near known enemy supply routes.

Ambush teams were set up dur-

*Troopers of the 7/1 Air Cav hit an LZ on their way to looting another of "Charlie's" supply caches.*





*Twelve-pod rocket launcher captured in an Air Cav raid on the VC'S country store.*

ing the night hours, special air mobile units were flown in to check out suspected areas and A Troop was frequently airborne seeking out traces of the Viet Cong.

During the daily A Troop visual air reconnaissance missions, it became apparent that enemy forces had occupied an area west of Chi Lang and were probably planning to use it as an extensive operations center.

A more intensified search and sweep was ordered and resulting reports confirmed the suspicion that this might be the long sought after munitions factory network.

Within three days, the enemy was routed and the largest cache of munitions found up until that time was seized. Among the more prominent supplies captured were 70 tons of scrap metal, 500 hand grenade molds, 75 melting furnaces, 3,500 tons of TNT, several thousand assorted types of grenades and small arms rounds, a ton of food supplies, a complete machine shop, a modernly equipped electrical power plant and an arsenal of

small arms and crew served weaponry.

Another significant find was 601 pounds of documents, training manuals, maps, medical and personnel records and battle order.

Less than one month later elements of the 7/1 Air Cavalry Squadron once again struck out at the enemy's logistical system.

Deep in the Delta, 30 to 35 kilometers worth of Vinh Long, the Blackhawks of the 7/1 claimed over 110 enemy killed in action in one day.

The "Apaches" of A Troop confiscated two cases of gas bombs, two cases of gas masks, five 107-mm rockets, six AK-47 rifles, commo wire and military clothing.

The "Dutchmasters" of B Troop collected one heavy machine gun, two light machine guns, four B-40 rockets with launcher and 17 AK-47 automatic rifles.

Meanwhile, the "Comanches" of C Troop destroyed eleven enemy

*Bolt action rifle, throw back to another era, still find a place in the enemy's arsenals.*





*Just of few of the hundreds of mortar rounds confiscated during recent raids on enemy's jungle warehouses.*

## *...Cav blitz puts shutters on enemy supply centers and throws kink in Charlie's morale...*

huts, five sampans and a tractor used by the Viet Cong.

By the end of the day the 7/1 claimed 110 enemy killed, 23 suspects detained, 16 enemy structures destroyed and 14 sampans demolished.

The "Blackhawks" also confiscated a twelve-pod rocket launcher, 47 rockets, eight cases of hand grenades, 22 land mines and two sampan engines.

Keying on the success of the 7/1, three rifle platoons of the 7/17 Air Cavalry Squadron, 17th Aviation Group, Dragon Mountain, working in the II Corps Tactical area, combined to uncover more

than 20,000 pounds of rice in three days.

The rice cache was discovered by the Aero Rifle Platoon of A Troop, but the find was too big for them to handle alone so elements of D and C Troops were called in to assist.

More intensive searching produced only 200 more pounds of rice, but 150 pounds of salt was captured as well as a Viet Cong flag and sewing utensils.

Not to be outdone, Aero Rifle elements of A Troops, 3/17 Air Cavalry Squadron, 12th Combat Aviation Group, operating in the III Corps Tactical area, uncovered

*Over-all view of some of the loot captured in a series of Air Cav strikes against Charlie's supply system.*





*Captured automatic weapons seized in a lightning raid by the 1st Aviation Brigade's Air Cav units.*

a large enemy ammunition cache 32 miles Southwest of Saigon.

Acting on a sighting by the Navy's 515th River Division, the troop's Huey Cobra gunships, Cayuse scout ships and Huey lift ships swept into the area and inserted the Aero Rifle Platoon.

The uncovered ammunition included 209-60mm and 184-82mm mortar rounds, 19,800 AK-47 rounds, 8,800 SKS rounds, 300 pounds of C-3 explosive, 48 cans of mortar charges and 12 land mines.

Navy PBR boats on the scene transported the cache to the 9th Division's 3d Brigade Headquarters at Tan An for disposal.

Due to the swift and powerful mobility of the three Air Cavalry Squadrons of the 1st Aviation Brigade, these air mobile units are well equipped to quickly discover, capture, and destroy before the enemy has a chance to relocate the cache.

Employing their own version of "lightning warfare" the brigade's three Air Cav Squadrons have taken a devastating toll on the enemy's supply system in II, III and IV Corps Tactical areas.

Working on the principle that they can't shoot you if you take their weapons away, the Air Cav units have done much to squelch future Viet Cong offensives before they had an opportunity to begin.

As a result the enemy in South Vietnam has not only suffered a serious dent in the ever precious supply system, but has also undoubtedly been given a serious morale problem. It must be terribly discouraging to realize that long hours of concealing important war supplies have come to nothing as the men of the Air Cavalry come swooping down in a rapid insertion to take them away.

*Troops of the 7/17 slog through axle deep mud in the never-ending hunt for enemy supply caches.*



