

# Marines Seize 1,000 Tons Of Rice

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FIRST IN VIETNAM

## THE OBSERVER

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**MUD BATH** — A member of the 2nd Brigade Psychological Operations team, on an operation with the 9th Infantry Division's 4th Battalion, 47th Infantry, struggles to get out of a muddy stream. The operation was in Kien Hoa Province.

(USA PHOTO By: SP4 Lowell Kenney)

### During Mission Over Long Binh

## Fast Thinking Saves AC-47

**BIEN HOA (USAF)** — What started out as a routine AC-47 Dragonship mission for a 3rd Special Operations Squadron crew ended up with more than 1,000 shrapnel holes in the aircraft and four slightly wounded crew members.

Fast thinking by the loadmaster allowed the battle-damaged aircraft to get back home.

The action took place on a recent mission over Long Binh, 18 miles northeast of Saigon. The Bien Hoa-based gunship and its crew were pouring minigun fire on enemy mortar positions when it was hit by ground fire of unknown caliber. The fire left a gaping three-foot hole and 1,000 smaller holes in the wing, tail and fuselage.

"I've been flying Gooneys (C-47s) for a good many years and I've heard and read about their many exploits," said Major Kenneth Carpenter, the aircraft commander. "This time the aircraft did everything expected of

it. She took her licks, gave out some of her own, and brought us home."

The commander reserved his highest praise for Airman First Class John Levitow, whose quick reaction in throwing out a live flare saved the crew and aircraft.

"When we were hit, there was a violent explosion and the cockpit lit up, momentarily blinding

me. The aircraft tried to roll and spin," said Major Carpenter. "Then everything happened at once as I reacted instinctively to right the aircraft."

"At the same time, a crewman in the back radioed that everyone there was wounded, and that a live flare was loose in the plane."

The major learned later that

## Kit Carson Scout Dislikes Underwater Chores

**CAMP EAGLE (USA)** — A Kit Carson Scout, working with paratroopers of the 101st Airborne Division as they crossed a stream south of Hue recently, has decided that he doesn't care for underwater operations.

Security men had been positioned on both sides of the river, as men of Company C, 3rd Battalion, 187th Airborne Infantry, slipped into the waist-high shallows of a swift river and wrestled their way to the opposite bank.

Sergeant George Marshall was climbing the bank to check the security when he heard the cry of a man behind him.

Wing, the Kit Carson Scout, had lost a battle with the strong current and was floating down the river.

"I dropped everything and

dived into the river after him," Sergeant Marshall said.

As the paratrooper swam to the scout, Wing disappeared into one of the deep holes that mark the river bed. The sergeant dived at the spot where Wing vanished. He surfaced moments later with the struggling scout.

"I had a little trouble with him at first because he was struggling," said Sergeant Mar-

**SAIGON (MACV)** — Significant enemy munitions and food caches — including the second largest quantity of rice found in a single area in the war to date — were turned up in three days recently by elements of the 3rd Regiment, 3rd Marine Division.

The Leathernecks, conducting Operation "Maine Crag" in Quang Tri Province, approximately 11 miles southeast of Khe Sanh, uncovered approximately 1,000 tons of rice and more than eight tons of other food stuffs. Weapons and munitions totaled approximately 31 tons. In addition, three trucks were captured.

The cereal was the largest amount captured in a similar period since January 1967 when more than 1,000 tons were seized in Operation "Cedar Falls" in the III Corps Tactical Zone.

Other than the rice, the caches contained 1,000 pounds of salt, 7,500 pounds of sugar, 100 pounds of lard, 1 ton of canned food, 1 ton of powdered milk, 600 meters of communications wire, 103,280 small arms rounds, 7,500 12.7mm machine gun rounds, 44 122mm rockets, 1,150 pounds of TNT, 4,083 82mm mortar rounds, 3,000 rocket-grenade rounds, 1,600 60mm mortar rounds, 209 individual weapons and 5,000 feet of timing fuse.

Maine Crag, a multi-battalion search and clear operation — which includes the 1st Brigade, (Continued on Back Page)

## 196th Foils VC Voting

**CHU LAI (USA)** — A recent Viet Cong election campaign was in high gear, then a company of "Chargers" from the 196th Light Infantry Brigade stepped into the act and ruined it.

While operating on a search and clear mission 32 miles northwest of Tam Ky, Company B of the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry, was moving over the crest of a knoll when they saw two NVA disappearing into some heavy brush below them.

The Americal Division infantrymen opened fire and wounded both of the fleeing enemy. A soldier and tracker dog from the 48th Scout Dog Platoon followed the wounded pair. One of them, killed by the pursuing infantrymen, turned out to be an NVA officer whose mission was to coordinate an election for the local VC operating in the Hiep Duc area.

He had VC ballots listing the offices and candidates, along with election voting instructions and vote tallying sheets. The second NVA was found in the nearby brush. He had died of wounds from the first contact.

shall, "but once I got him under control it was no problem swimming back to the river bank."

The paratrooper applied lifesaving skills he had learned as a lifeguard on the beaches of Ala Moana and Waikiki in his native Hawaii.

Wing quickly revived and was ready to move on. "I like scouting," he said, "but I don't enjoy underwater operations."

## Editorial Check It Out!

JUDGING by what we see on TV and READ in our major national magazines and newspapers, criticizing the United States of America has become almost a national pastime. Time and time again, we read and hear that America is a "sick" society, tottering on the brink of student anarchy and torn asunder by racial strife and dissent over the war in Vietnam.

Now, is this actually the case? Is "Uncle Sam" sliding downhill, or is the "sickness" simply due to the pains caused by growth and change? Do we have problems? Yep, but what country doesn't?

For the next several weeks, this column will review what is RIGHT about America. We're all familiar with the complaints voiced by the detractors, those small, but loud groups who, seeking "instant Utopia," have ignored the significant, positive achievements made by the United States in the past several years. We think these accomplishments are worth repeating.

The United States is often accused of being a "materialistic" society. We suppose this is at least partially true. But since when has it become a crime for a nation to attempt to provide its citizens with the good things in life?

Never before has any nation offered such a high degree of prosperity to its people as the U.S. does to the vast majority of its citizens. Just check a few facts:

—More than 14 million Americans have abandoned poverty during the past seven years.

—In 1968, median family income reached \$8,000 annually.

—More Americans now own their own homes and at least one car.

—Close to 30 million Americans now share in the ownership of industry through stocks and mutual fund investments.

In the field of education:

—The U.S. has a free public educational system unparalleled in history and unmatched by any other nation.

—More than 50 per cent of all Americans have completed secondary school.

—Six and one-half million students are now enrolled in our colleges and universities.

—The Federal government is pushing harder than ever before to ensure that every child has an opportunity to receive a sound education, limited only by his or her own ability.

These are just a taste of what is RIGHT with America. And yet our nation's leaders are not, nor are the people, satisfied to stand still. We are a restless people, always seeking improvement to better the lot of ALL the people. We have failed sometimes, taken a wrong road, but we have always found the right path and we have never slipped back—never.

In future weeks, we will continue to explore our nation's strengths.

## Just In Case You Have Not Heard

★ ★ ★

### Keep Shots Up To Date

SAIGON (MACV) — Got those shots up to date?

MACV officials this week told all personnel to check their immunization certificate and make certain that all entries are current.

If you have not received shots subsequent to the dates which follow, go to the medical facility giving primary medical support. Here are the dates:

Cholera — Sept. 20, 1968; Plague — Sept. 20, 1968; Smallpox — March 20, 1968; Typhoid, March 20, 1966; Tetanus — March 20, 1963; Yellow Fever — March 20, 1959.

If you're going on R&R, leave, TDY, or returning to the United States, officials urge, visit the dispensary at least 20 days in advance of your departure date to assure that immunizations are up to date.

### Hawaii R&R? Check This

SAIGON (MACV) — If you are going on R&R to Hawaii, remember that you are subject to customs requirements.

You are not allowed to take more than \$100 worth of merchandise for personal or household use, one gallon of alcoholic beverages, nor more than 100 cigars. There is no limit on the number of cigarettes that may be imported for personal use.

## Gen. Abrams Renders Holiday Salute

SAIGON (MACV) — Jews all over the world are now celebrating Passover, the Festival of Freedom or Festival of Spring.

Passover commemorates the deliverance of the Hebrews from Egyptian bondage approximately 3,200 years ago. The festival

is called Passover, according to the Bible, because when God visited the tenth and final plague upon the Egyptians, the killing of the firstborn in every household, He "passed over" the homes of the Hebrews and left them untouched.

Freedom is the great message of Passover, summed up in God's words to Pharaoh: "Let My People Go!" This fundamental idea of Judaism is expressed in the opening words of the Ten Commandments: "I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage."

General Creighton W. Abrams, commander of the United States Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, extends the following Passover message to Jewish personnel serving in Vietnam.

"On this occasion of Passover, it is my pleasure to send felicitations for a joyous holiday to all Jewish personnel serving in the Republic of Vietnam.

"The Passover festival commemorating the exodus of the Israelites from ancient Egyptian bondage has always been a source of inspiration to those who cherish liberty, freedom and the pursuit of happiness.

"It is incumbent upon us, serving the cause of freedom in this part of the world, to provide strength and courage to all who yet aspire for liberty and human dignity.

"We pray that the observance of Passover may bring happiness and fulfillment to you and peace to all humanity in the near future."



ONE REQUEST—Ever since station-to-station telephone calls between the U.S. and Vietnam were reduced to \$9 for the first three minutes (\$3 for each additional minute) and \$12 for person-to-person calls (\$3 to \$4 for each additional minute) our pulchritudinous lady has received numerous calls from the troopers in the field. However she has one request—no calls during the evening because this is when she normally takes a shower and it is difficult to hold a conversation and a towel at the same time. Besides, the Editor of your newspaper has checked and found out that rumors about telephones with viewers being installed in 'Nam' is completely false. (PHOTO COURTESY OF PETER GOWLAND)

## Three Clear Traditions Mark Easter Celebration

By Chaplain (LTC) Lloyd B. Troutman, USAF  
Assistant Command Chaplain,  
MACV

Easter is the convergence of three traditions:

**The Pagan** — According to the venerable Bede, English historian of the early 8th century, the word was derived from Eastre, meaning the festival of Spring at the vernal equinox (March 21) when nature is in resurrection after winter.

**The Hebrew** — In Exodus 12 we read of the night in Egypt when the angel of death "passed over" the dwellings of the Israelites, so sparing their firstborn. Hence the passover or Jewish Pesach.

**The Christian** — It was at the feast of the passover in Jerusalem that Jesus, a Jew, was crucified and rose from the dead.

The Christian Feast was simply the elevation of the Lord's Day to an annual celebration, the "Sunday of Sundays." The death and resurrection of Christ were of greater importance to

the early Christians than his birth. The whole proclamation of the early emerging church revolves around the victory cry, "He who was crucified is risen."

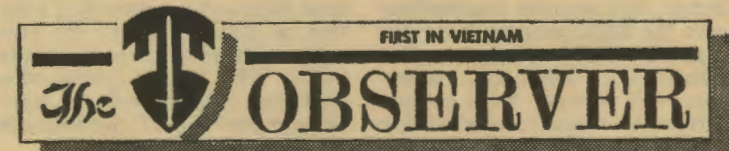
The priority of Easter in the thoughts of the early church is illustrated in the fact that three-fourths of the entire Christian year still turns around the Easter pole, while one-fourth turns around Christmas. This first high festival of Christianity is still the principal celebration of the Christian year in all branches of the universal church.

The early Christians adopted existing folk spring festival customs into the celebration of the day. These took their origin in the natural life of primitive peoples in response to the seasonal rhythm of life.

Christianity thus extends to the spiritual power, a natural aspect of life, and converts the rhythmic recurrence of spring, with its flow of new life, into the immortality of those who, believing in Him, "shall never die."

"... We have endured a long night of the American spirit. But as our eyes catch the dimness of the first rays of dawn, let us not curse the remaining dark. Let us gather the light. . ."

RICHARD M. NIXON  
President of the United States



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# Air, Ground Power Blasts Besieging NVA

**POLEI KLENG (USA)** — One company of the 4th Infantry Division was recently pinned down at their night position on Hill 947, approximately 14 miles southwest of here for a day and a half by NVA rocket, mortar and sniper fire. During the ensuing battle, 139 NVA soldiers were killed.

Earlier in the day, Company D, 3rd Battalion, 8th Infantry met a six-man patrol on a heavily traveled footpath and killed four of them.

As darkness crept in on their night position, occasional movement could be heard along the perimeter. The activity increased at approximately 5 a.m.

"Just as we were beginning to send men out to our observation posts," related Specialist 4 Donald Bosch, "we were hit with mortars, rockets and heavy sniper fire from all sides. We discovered that the early perimeter movement was caused by the enemy setting up claymores facing us. These were also fired in the initial contact."

After the outburst, enemy fire died off somewhat. "There were still snipers in and behind trees surrounding us," reported Sergeant Robert Edwards. "Whenever we tried to move from our holes, they would shoot at us and throw in mortar rounds."

During the entire day, the besieged 1st Brigade company was supported by artillery, gunships and air strikes. The 6th Battalion, 29th Artillery's forward observer with the company, First Lieutenant Hank Castillon, reportedly lay out in the open throughout the entire operation, calling in and adjusting artillery on the enemy positions.

That night, the NVA attempted to slip into Delta Com-

pany's position. They made frequent use of grenades in their short-range probes.

An Air Force "Spooky" gunship spent almost the entire night spraying lethal ordnance in support of the Ivymen.

"Spooky began to fire 400 meters from our location and worked his way in," said First Sergeant Julius C. Smith. "He did a tremendous job for us. . . firing right into the edge of our perimeter."

Specialist 4 Arlan Anderson and other members of the company command post group, flashed lights on the trees nearest the entrenched Ivymen to show Spooky how close he could fire.

Shortly after Spooky moved away from the location at approximately 7 a.m., the enemy attacked the camp with mortar fire.

Light observation helicopters from the 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry came to the aid of Delta Company. "They came in at treetop level and cleaned out the enemy positions. They found and knocked out the enemy mortar emplacement. It was located approximately 200 meters from our perimeter."

The Ivymen heard something that had been absent for 36 hours — silence. They cautiously moved from the holes that had provided cover during the attack.

As they moved out to extend their perimeter area, the troops discovered 53 NVA bodies along with weapons and munitions. The next day, they were joined by elements of the 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry in a thorough sweep of the entire area. Additional bodies found brought the total to 139 NVA dead.



TSgt. William Casey, EOD technician at Bien Hoa Air Base, instructs Vietnamese Air Force EOD trainees in methods of disarming a B-40 rocket. (USAF PHOTO By: Sgt. Walley Jensen)

## Yanks, Viets Share Life

**BIEN HOA (USAF)** — Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) men at this air base selected to train Vietnamese Air Force (VNAF) personnel in their specialty have added something extra to their training program.

Unlike most training courses in which students attend class for certain periods of time each day, the EOD men have literally taken the five VNAF trainees under their wings, inviting them to move in and share their living quarters 24 hours a day.

"It has worked out real well for all of us," commented Senior Master Sergeant Calvin W. Dar-

by, noncommissioned officer in charge of EOD.

"We were a little apprehensive at first because we didn't know how they would take to our food and different way of living, but everything has worked out fine. They even do some of the cooking."

Five VNAF members are currently in training — one warrant officer and four enlisted men. Some have had training in the United States but the others have to rely on texts and other aides to learn proper procedures.

At Bien Hoa, emphasis is placed on practical applications in real situations of what they have learned. Under the watchful eyes of U.S. Air Force EOD men, the Vietnamese learn to disarm anything from small arms ammunition to 750-pound bombs.

"This is by far the best instruction we've had," said Staff Sergeant Nguyen Van Nhen who acts as interpreter for the group. "By actually doing what

is in the books, we will be better able to man a shop and take care of ordnance when we go on our own."

"We also enjoy living with the Americans," he continued. "By being together all the time, we are able to understand each other's way of living better and this puts our study on a more informal basis."

The Air Force EOD experts are highly pleased with the interest the Vietnamese have in their work. According to the Americans, their students are extremely safety conscious, they study hard and make up their own texts on notes they take during briefing sessions.

"We've tried to fit them into the actual picture as much as possible," said Technical Sergeant William Casey. "By dividing them into two rotating teams we feel we are giving them the best possible training."

One team answers all calls dealing with flight line emergencies while the other is on call for on-and off-base situations.

## First VN Pilots Finish Course

**SAIGON (ARVN)** — Two pilots from the 74th Wing of the Vietnamese Air Force recently became the first Vietnamese aviators to complete the UH-1C gunnery course.

The pilots, Captain Buu Ngo and First Lieutenant Vo Vanh Minh, were trained by members

of the U.S. 145th Combat Aviation Battalion. The Vietnamese officers qualified on the M-3, M-5 and M-21 gun systems.

Upon completion of the gunnery course, Captain Ngo and Lieutenant Minh were presented Letters of Commendation by Lieutenant Colonel Carl H.

McNair Jr., commanding officer of the U.S. battalion. The Vietnamese officers then returned to their units to instruct others in their newly acquired skills.

In addition to being a gunnery instructor, Lieutenant Minh is also an instructor pilot in the CH-34, having flown 2,450 hours in the light transport helicopter. Presently assigned to the 211th Squadron, the lieutenant also has 100 hours in other troop-carrying helicopters.

Captain Ngo has a collective total of 2,000 hours flying time and has flown both Huey gunships and troop transports. Captain Ngo serves with the 217th Squadron. Both pilots are based at Can Tho Air Base.

Other Vietnamese aviators are presently scheduled to receive UH-1C gunship instruction from U.S. aviation units.

## New Rig Keeps 'Em Dangling

**CHU LAI (USA)** — Dangling from a 150-foot rope fastened to a helicopter which is flying at 80 to 90 miles per hour may seem like a daredevil act to most, but to Americal Division Rangers, it's "real security."

The Rangers, who work in small teams for reconnaissance purposes, often need a method of fast extraction when the enemy is closing in. In many instances, there is no landing zone large enough for a helicopter to land safely and pick up the soldiers.

The answer to the problem is a device known to those who use it as the McGuire Rig.

The McGuire Rig is made up of two loops at the end of a rope into which a Ranger in full field gear can step to be whisked away by a hovering helicopter.

It takes only seconds to effect a successful extraction by use of the Rig. When the chopper reaches a secure area, it simply hovers again while the Ranger climbs out to safety.

The McGuire Rig may not become the most popular means of commercial air travel and not all Rangers enjoy dangling from a swift-moving helicopter. But at times they feel more secure dangling than having two feet on the ground.

## Man And Nature United

**CAMP ENARI (USA)**—Ernest Hemingway, Norman Mailer and Ernie Pyle were all tested by the mental and physical rigors of the battlefield. Their works were attempts to recreate the sense of fear, frustration and danger which are the companions of all soldiers.

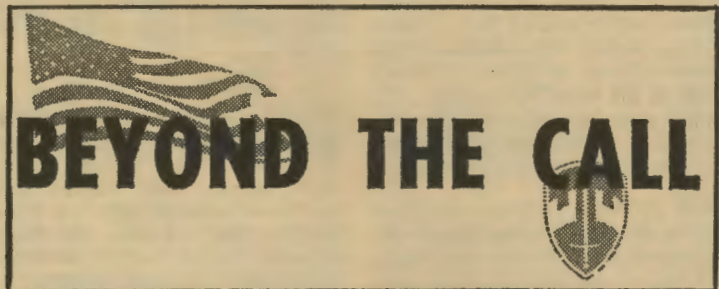
Few pieces of literature have conveyed a young soldier's dedication to a cause or his personal resignation to the possibility of death in combat better than a poem written by a combat-ex-

perienced 4th Division soldier who earned the Bronze Star with "V" and the Purple Heart.

His belief that to die while serving a just cause is not a death that brings a final end is conveyed in the following poem.

*Do not stand at my grave  
and weep  
I am not there, I do not  
sleep.  
I am a thousand winds that  
blow  
I am the diamond glint on  
snow  
I am the sunlight on ripened  
grain  
I am the autumn rain.  
When you wake in the morn-  
ing hush  
I am the swift uplifting  
rush  
Of birds circling in flight,  
I am the stars that shine at  
night.  
So do not stand at my grave  
and cry,  
I am not there—I did not  
die.*

The poem was one of his last and was read at an awards ceremony in the Central Highlands shortly after he was killed in combat.



### SILVER STAR

Hairston, Richard M. Jr. CPT USA  
Ludowese, Joseph J. SFC USA  
Smith, James P. SFC USA

### BRONZE STAR MEDAL WITH "V" DEVICE

Condon, Vincent M. SGT USA  
Grimmett, Robert F. SFC USA  
\*/1  
Gundelfinger, Richard A. 1LT USA  
Joecks, David K. 1LT USA  
Kade, Larry E. SP4 USA  
Kuntzman, George A. SSG USA  
Lane, Robert T. SP5 USA \*/1  
Macon, Robert Charles SFC USA  
Minear, Kenneth R. 1LT USA  
Moore, Robert J. MAJ USA \*/1  
Olenn, Stanley F. 1LT USA  
Quinn, George L. LTC USA \*/1  
Shough, Robert C. HM USN  
Simcizen, Stanley SSG USA

Sinayi, Edward M. 1LT USA  
Smith, James E. L/CPL USMC  
Waters, Douglas T. CPL USA  
White, Larry S. 1LT USA  
Wilson, James L. CPT USA  
Wuebker, Larry E. SP4 USA  
Young, Ronald R. SFC USA \*/1  
**ARMY COMMENDATION  
MEDAL WITH "V"  
DEVICE**

Alexander, Gary L. 1LT USA  
Brown, Charlie L. 1LT USA  
Cook, John L. 1LT USA  
Corkill, James M. CPT USA  
Evans, Gary W. 1LT USA  
Falco, Richard J. 1LT USA  
Foster, Anthony F. SSG USA  
Karvonen, David W. 1LT USA  
Kleinman, Jeffery K. 1LT USA  
Lynch, Thomas J. CPT USA  
Saunders, John Jr. SGT USA  
Smith, James E. 1LT USA  
Stone, Wentworth L. CPT USA  
Warden, Doug G. SSG USA

# VC-Controlled Village Rallies To Government

BAN ME THUOT (USA) — A Viet Cong-controlled village near here recently rejoined the Government of Vietnam, marking the first time in the Central Highlands' Darlac Province that an entire Montagnard village has voluntarily returned to the government.

The village of Buon Tor, 10 miles south of Ban Me Thuot, had been a continual source of supplies and manpower for Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army units.

## Ex-Cong Is Happier As Writer

LAI KHE (USA) — A Viet Cong who realized the futility of his cause and rallied to the government recently now writes Chieu Hoi leaflets for the 6th Psychological Operations (PSY-OPS) Battalion.

Vo Van Man approached a 1st Infantry Division fire support base north of Saigon holding a large piece of white paper over his head and surrendered to "Black Lions" from the 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry.

From Staff Sergeant Nguyen Van Hieu, an ARVN interpreter, the Big Red One soldiers heard how Man served as a supply representative for the enemy, retrieving supplies from a village near the fire support base, after being seized from an ARVN unit a year ago.

Man quickly became discouraged with the Viet Cong when he wasn't paid or fed. After his unit had several fateful encounters with the Black Lions, Man picked up a Chieu Hoi leaflet and walked toward the Allied position.

The leaflets Man now writes are in his own handwriting and bear his picture. They say, in part: "...I have been well treated and live in happiness... I sincerely appeal to all you to return to the GVN as I did. I do not want to live through the hardships such as sickness and lack of food in the VC ranks... I am sure that the National Liberation Front is wrong and certainly will be defeated."

Man's decision may well be an inspiration to others. Certainly, the Black Lions have created one less enemy soldier without having fired a shot.

Once the people's intention to rally became known, advisors felt the enemy would not allow this vital source of support to escape without a fight. Officials believed that a large enemy force which had been depending on the villagers for food and other support was still within striking distance, making overland evacuation impossible.

Leaving behind their livestock, crops, homes and all belongings except what they could carry, the Rhade tribesmen were evacuated by U.S. Army CH-47 Chinook helicopters. While the evacuation was in progress, friendly artillery ward off the possibility of a reprisal attack by the enemy.

Within three hours of the first helicopter landing, all had been safely transported to the Ban Me Thuot Chieu Hoi center.

The villagers indicated their desire to rally after a Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) unit had penetrated the area.

"When we first entered the village," explained First Lieutenant D. M. Eggleston, U.S. Special Forces advisor to the CIDG unit, "the people were hostile and refused to admit there were any enemy forces in the area. But we noticed they had slaughtered some cattle and were obviously preparing a meal much larger than they could possibly eat themselves."

Later the CIDG unit encountered the enemy outside the village and killed 25 of them. The result of this contact helped persuade the villagers to rally.

Officials designated 41 of the village's 83 inhabitants as Hoi Chanh (returnees under South Vietnam's Chieu Hoi, or Open Arms Program). The remainder were detained for further interrogation.



APPREHENSIVE—Montagnard children stand amid family possessions as they prepare to move to a new centralized village. (USA PHOTO By: Sgt. Ronald Johnston)

## Civil Affairs Teams In Central Highlands Consolidate, Pacify Montagnard Villages

HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS (USA) — Just as early American forts provided security and a base for pioneers to push farther into the frontier, so do the 4th Inf Division's 2nd Brigade-sponsored consolidated villages provide a staging area for civil affairs teams helping Montagnards in the wilderness of the Central Highlands.

The area where the villages of Plei Chi Teh, Plei Kong Brech and Plei Brel Dor now stand once contained many small hamlets where Montagnards lived in close-knit units. Their remote

and widely scattered hamlets made them prey to Viet Cong taxes and terrorism.

### Ponder Problem

Civil affairs officers from the Ivy Division had pondered this problem for a time. A program of consolidation seemed to offer the best hope.

Captain Robert A. Dobson, officer-in charge of the 2nd Brigade villages, talked about some of the problems involved:

"Our basic problem simply was that the villagers had never worked together. They had developed an idea that the village was the important political

structure, and often you would find two villages geographically close to each other, but with no economic or social ties.

### Accepted

"Thanks to the Viet Cong, however, most of the village chiefs were willing to try anything. When we proposed the consolidation program, they accepted the idea."

Security was the foundation on which these villages were built, so it became the first problem to solve.

In Plei Chi Teh, for instance, the Vietnamese government selected a group of men from each

of eight hamlets comprising the village and trained them in the use of modern weapons.

This gave the village its own home guard, and it finally became secure with the completion of an elaborate system of barricades — also built by the people.

### Team Moves In

Once security was established, an eight-man civil affairs team made the center of the village their home. They started programs of medical help, which included the training of Montagnard nurses, the organization of schools, and agricultural instruction.

### Progress Continues

The "frontier" was pushed back a little farther with the founding of Plei Kong Brech a few miles away. Again a civil affairs team set up the previously tested program and the village began to prosper immediately.

### Mistakes

"We made mistakes at Plei Chi Teh, but we learned as the Montagnards were learning and, as a result, the consolidation of Plei Kong Brech went smoothly," said Captain Dobson.

The program has just recently pushed forward one more step with the establishment of Plei Brel Dor, again bringing peace and hope for a better life to a section of the Vietnam frontier.

## Bubonic Plague Appears In Hue-Phu Bai Area

PHU BAI (USA) — Bubonic Plague, the Black Death of the Middle Ages, has appeared in the Hue-Phu Bai area. Forty-four cases were reported recently in the Hue hospital.

Joint efforts of U.S. medics from XXIV Corps, the 172nd Preventive Medicine Detachment and local civilians are being directed against the spread of plague in nearby communities.

Bubonic Plague was once the scourge of civilization, devastating Europe during the 14th century. With the development of modern sanitation and immunization, the plague has all but disappeared in Western countries, but it lies dormant in Vietnam. During cool, wet weather

bacteria thrive and disease-carrying rats are driven indoors, and the plague can suddenly erupt.

The spread of the disease largely depends on the movement of rodents, especially rats. They carry fleas which transmit the plague by biting a victim. When rats seek shelter in living quarters, they bring the fleas and the dread disease.

Control of the plague is a three-step process: first, an active immunization effort for persons who might be exposed to the disease; secondly, the use of insecticides to kill the fleas; and finally the elimination of feeding and nesting places for rats, such as open garbage and dumps.

To combat the disease locally,

medics stationed in Phu Bai immunized all Vietnamese working on the compound and the 172nd Preventive Medicine Detachment "dusted" nearby communities with insecticide.

In the villages of Phu Long, a team from the 172nd tackled the flea problem under the direction of Captain Arthur Webb. They supervised 24 Vietnamese using motorized and hand-operated dusters.

An interpreter from the 7th Psychological Operations (PSY-OPS) Detachment, using a public address system, explained to the villagers what the "dusters" were doing. Then six teams of four men each covered the area with powdered insecticide. With

full cooperation from the people, the dusters entered homes and work-shops in addition to the normal nesting spots of the rats. Describing the details, Captain Webb said, "We dust places where the rat travels at night. The insecticide coats his fur and kills the fleas. No fleas — no plague."

War conditions have brought more than 30,000 persons to the tiny village just outside Phu Bai compound. Living nine or ten to a house with inadequate sewage and sanitation, they are highly vulnerable to disease. But with prompt attention from local authorities and with aid from American soldiers, the threat of an epidemic should be eliminated.

Vietnam Easter:

## Issued Bonnets

*He plods in dust and tropic heat,  
Through jungle paths and narrow streets;  
Wearing proud his Issued Bonnet—  
Frills of combat spread upon it.  
He fights in plains and mountains steep,  
In valleys, rivers, tunnels deep;  
Wearing proud his Issued Bonnet  
Words of humor scraped upon it.  
He goes where're the battle's fought,  
He's ready-Johnny-On-The Spot;  
Wearing proud his Issued Bonnet—  
Service symbols pinned upon it.  
For he's the U.S. Serviceman,  
Wearing proud his Issued Bonnet—  
Hopes of peace marked upon it.*



Poem By G. A. Olson, USA

Art By Bruce A. Morgan, USAF

# Advisor S

**DI AN (MACV)** — The USARV Advisor School here, established in February 1968, has trained and deployed members of all the 353 Mobile Advisory Teams spread throughout the country.

These teams, moving from unit to unit, sometimes staying as long as 60 days, work on a round-the-clock basis to improve the operational capability of the Regional and Popular Forces. They provide guidance when necessary and coordinate Amer-

ican fire support and helicopter resources when needed to support their operations.

The Mobile Advisory Teams, tabbed MATS — consist of the noncommissioned officers, including a medic, and two officers. The teams train and grade each unit in combat effectiveness and patrol and ambush techniques. They also teach both in the classroom and in the field, the use of weapons currently in the U.S. inventory and the weapons used by the



School Commandant Lieutenant Colonel Vernon Staum, Operations Officer Major Joe Jenkins and Vietnamese Liaison Officers Captain Phan Van Binh and First Lieutenant Nguyen Nhu De, walk through the school on an inspection visit.



Students listen intently as they study in the school's language laboratory. They receive 36 hours of language training.

Story By TSgt. Jerry Fears, USAF  
Photos By SP5 Tom Tynes, USA



Captain Bern Collins, a senior advisor, gives instructions to a Regular Forces gunner at a camp near the USARV Advisor School at Di An. Advisors spend as long as 60 days at another.

# School Graduates Help PFs

helicopter  
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Teams —  
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ntory and  
by many

RF/PF units such as the M-1 rifle, M-2 carbine, BAR, .30 caliber machine gun and the 60mm mortar.

The students are prepared with training in personnel, intelligence, guidelines to good relations and other subjects the future advisor will need to know in order to render effective assistance to his Vietnamese counterpart.

Although an interpreter is provided for the teams, each man receives instruction in Vietnamese. This gives him a familiarity with the language, enabling him to carry on simple conversations.

The language instruction is spread over 36 hours. This includes two hours of vocabulary and one hour of language laboratory training each day.

In the lab, the students hear ethnic Vietnamese being spoken. They then get a chance to repeat it into a microphone. By listening to the replay of his tape, the student can compare his efforts with the authentic Vietnamese.

Lieutenant Colonel Vernon E. Staum, school commandant, speaks highly of his staff and faculty. "These are highly motivated men," he says. "Our students go into the field well prepared for this important mission. This is easily the best, single effort that has ever been made to upgrade Regional and Popular Forces. We are current and experienced with what is going on in the field right now — today," he concluded.

The school faculty members are selected from MACV Advisory Teams in the field and have been advisors to RF/PF units themselves. They are sent on temporary duty to the school to pass on information on current programs, problems the advisors will face and techniques they have found to be successful in their advisory efforts.

language  
ing.



One of the Vietnamese language instructors, Second Lieutenant Jon Gunderson, gestures as he teaches a class. The students learn approximately 400 words of Vietnamese and are able to speak the language conversationally upon graduation.



0 days with a RF unit before moving to

Three students go about reassembling a machine gun during 12 weeks of training at the school. Before being graduated, the trainees fire the weapons at the school's range as they prepare to take their new-found skills to RF and PF camps.

# National Police Train To Protect And Defend



Small obstacles are designed to improve the agility and build stamina of police candidates.

SAIGON (MACV) — The Vietnam National Police shield is an emblem of distinction worn by socially conscious individuals who uphold the rights and privileges of their people, defend and promote their government and seek an ultimate peace for their war-torn country.

The Rach Dau National Police Basic Training Center, located on the outskirts of Vung Tau, prepares volunteers to fulfill that desire.

The center offers a 12-week program designed to provide the tools of law enforcement and to teach the people how to use them.

The candidates, all volunteers, are given formal instruction in the many aspects of law enforcement. They learn investigation procedures, public and political relations and psychological warfare techniques. The trainees study and qualify with the weapons they will use in their work.

The classroom education is supplemented by a rigorous physical training schedule. The men learn self-defense and disarming procedures. Many of the 528 hours of training are devoted

to drill and military tactics.

The center aims for three goals: to train the young recruits to physically bear the task before them, to show them how to win the cooperation and respect of the people and to instill in each individual respect for himself and his unit.

Every man is graded as an individual and as a member of the class for the entire 12 weeks. The trainees must pass rigorous mental and physical final examinations. No person is allowed to become a member of the National Police if there is any doubt of his ability.

All training is carefully watched by the directors of the center, Major Nguyen Van Sach, acting director, Nguyen Van Kim, training supervisor and by Carlos S. Caseavantes, the American advisor.

The Rach Dau Center has graduated more than 27,000 National Policemen since 1964. The school plans to expand its operations in the near future with a course for women. The Vietnamese National Police represent a guarantee of civic order and protection for the people of Vietnam.

Story By

SP4 C. Feldpausch, USA

Photos By

Sgt. E.J. Sargent, USMC



Portions of the final examination test physical endurance.



Long, hard hours in the classroom are spent in learning various aspects of law enforcement.



Candidates qualify with weapons they will use as policemen.



Trainees soon find out that double-timing is the only way to move from class to class.



Major Bui Van Sam, 2nd Ranger Group commander, directs his men as they begin work at the 71st Evacuation Hospital. (USA PHOTO)

## A Smile Is His Sword

# Marine Fights A Different War

**DONG HA COMBAT BASE (USMC)** — Marine Staff Sergeant Jack E. Wettig looks quite unlike the typical Marine fighting in Vietnam — the Leatherneck loaded down with battle gear and an M-16 rifle slung over his shoulder.

But Sergeant Wettig is indeed fighting a war. His weapons include an ever-present smile, patience, a handful of soap, scrap lumber and 14 hours of hard work — seven days a week.

He's a member of Force Logistic Support Group Bravo's (FLSG-B) Civil Affairs Section, headquartered less than eight miles from Vietnam's demilitarized zone.

## Saigon Tour Scores High With Students

**DI AN (USA)** — Tan Dong Hiep School is only 10 miles north of Saigon, but only one out of 50 sixth-graders in the school had ever visited the South Vietnamese capital.

Thanks to efforts of the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry, school children from the Di An District are now able to take field trips to the Saigon Zoo as part of the 1st Infantry Division's pacification program.

On the first visit, 50 students and two teachers were packed into a bus for the trip. With heads turned in a thousand directions, the students were amazed with the sights and sounds of the large city.

The tour of the zoo grounds was conducted in an orderly fashion by Captain Thomas C. Witter, squadron S-5.

The highlight of the day was a party luncheon served on the zoo grounds. After lunch, the children had the opportunity to tour the National Museum.

"It's an education for them just to see their own capital," said Captain Witter. "We're going to continue these trips on a weekly basis until every school child in our district has visited the zoo."

For more than two months now, Sergeant Wettig and three other Marines have been working with the Vietnamese people in three small hamlets close to the base, and an orphanage in a nearby city. The Marines are helping more than 200 families rebuild their homes.

Being in the business of supply, FLSG-B is able to provide the Leathernecks with truckloads of scrap wood used in packaging and crating combat supplies. Sergeant Wettig and his crew take the wood and bags of cement to the hamlet chiefs who distribute it equally as needed.

"If we were not able to help these people," the sergeant explained, "they'd be rebuilding with grass and bamboo."

So far more than 30 homes have been completed, but Sergeant Wettig says, "We've just started."

"When we first went into the hamlets, people used to shy away," he said. "Little things, like just taking off our shirts and climbing up on a roof with a Vietnamese to help him lay tarpaper — that's how we gained their confidence."

When Sergeant Wettig talks about the orphanage his group supports, his eyes twinkle and his smile broadens. He always refers to the 70 orphans as "my kids," and rarely does a day go by when he doesn't find at least an hour to spend playing with them.

"If I can make them laugh and smile, if I can show them a little affection," he said, "that's what they need — affection."

The orphanage also gets material help. The original home was constructed early last year by "Bravo" Marines. This year, a second story was added to provide needed additional space.

"But our primary goal in helping the orphanage is to make it self-supporting as soon as possible," explained the sergeant.

Besides helping the Vietnamese materially, the Marines also provide medical aid in the form of Medical Civic Action Programs. Twice a month, FLSG-B's doctor and medical corps-

men pack up their bandages and medicines for a "house call" at each hamlet and the orphanage.

Another aspect to the civil affairs program in which the sergeant is active is called "personal response."

This program helps American servicemen better understand the Vietnamese people and their culture. Sergeant Wettig takes 20 Marines a week on a "tour" of the three hamlets and orphanage.

"We've had great response so far," he said. "There have been guys who have asked to go again because they learned so much and want to learn more. And that's what we're trying to do — foster human relations — that's what it's all about."



SSgt. Wettig primes a new pump in Luong An hamlet, near the DMZ. (USMC PHOTO BY: LCpl. Trygg Hansen)

# ARVN Rangers Aid US Medics

**PLEIKU (USA)** — Many "helping hand" projects are underway in Vietnam, but until recently Americans were not the ones on the receiving end.

The tables were turned when the 2nd Ranger Group, Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN), decided to lend a hand to U.S. medics in Pleiku.

The idea was born when Major Bui Van Sam, 2nd Ranger Group commander, discovered that the nearby U.S. 71st Evacuation Hospital could use some help building new bunkers and defensive fortifications. The work was going slowly because medics were more urgently needed in the hospital wards than on the bunkerbuilding project.

At one point, the hospital's commander, executive officer and first sergeant were logging regular hours on the sandbag detail to free medics for patient care.

Remembering the many times the 71st Evac had provided care for wounded Rangers and their dependents, Major Sam decided to help. He visited Colonel Jack B. McClure, hospital commander, and explained what he wanted to do. Colonel McClure welcomed the assistance and the Rangers went to work.

Every day, Major Sam sent a five- to 12-man detail to work on the fortifications alongside the Americans. As a result, the hospital corpsmen went back to their wards and the commander and his staff went back to their offices.

The men who work with the Rangers are enthusiastic about the arrangement. "They're really doing a great job," said Specialist 4 Ronald Scott, one of the Americans who stayed with the project. "The Rangers have saved us an awful lot of work, and it's been going twice as fast as before," he added.

Specialist 4 Gary Buck is with the 937th Engineers in the area and has been supervising the engineering aspect of construction.

"These guys work like the devil," he said. "They won't even take a break unless we tell them to."

Another enthusiastic reaction to the ARVN assistance came from Master Sergeant James Kolbay, chief wardmaster at the hospital. "Not having so many medics on detail has made it much easier to staff the wards and provide better medical care. Having the Rangers here has been a big help all the way around."

The Rangers are glad to be of assistance. According to Major Sam, "There have been many cases where the 71st Evac have treated my men and their families. This is our way of saying thanks and expressing our appreciation."

In the meantime, the work goes on. And this American unit in Vietnam knows what it's like to be on the receiving end of an assistance program.

## Sick NVA Chieu Hoi's For A Pill

**CAMP ENARI (USA)** — A North Vietnamese Army (NVA) soldier recently rallied to the Government of Vietnam (GVN) after finding a Psychological Operations (PSYOPS) leaflet which he felt realistically depicted the futility of his plight.

Following a lengthy bout with a high fever that sapped his body of strength for weeks, the enemy soldier found a leaflet picturing a member of the NVA supporting his weary and diseased body against a tree along a jungle trail.

He read the accompanying message which urged him to rally to the government (Chieu Hoi): "Malaria and other diseases will follow you like shadows . . . Your leaders cannot save you from disease, but GVN can give you the . . . medicine you need."

Convinced the promise would be kept, he decided to Chieu Hoi at the earliest possible moment.

Upon rallying, the returnee (Hoi Chanh) revealed that more than 50 per cent of his unit suffered from malaria during their infiltration south. He and his comrades feared the deadly anopheles mosquito.

NVA units throughout South Vietnam, he reported, were wanting in their supply of malaria control tablets, and the disease had been rapidly taking its toll within the NVA ranks.

The leaflet was one of the 150,000 prepared and dropped recently by the 4th Division's G-5 PSYOPS Section, headed by Captain Gary Olsen.

"The NVA's powerful fear of the disease," explained Captain Olsen, "had not been exploited previously in the Central Highlands. We had long suspected that malaria was rampant among the NVA, so we decided to develop this particular leaflet, hoping it would succeed in doing what other leaflets could not."

"We have finally succeeded in implanting the hope of relief from the dreaded disease in the mind of the enemy."



**BUNKER BUNNY OF THE WEEK**—says, "Hi there! I just came down to the pool to try out the Army's new 'Meal, Ready-to-Eat, Individual' freeze-dried food packet. If you're tired of the same thing to eat every night, you ought to try this out. Just add some of this 'ol water to the delicious morsels and they reconstitute to nearly normal size, shape and consistency. Also, there are no cumbersome tin cans to bother with, making the meal much easier to handle. I'm going to have mine tonight. Would you join me?" (PHOTO COURTESY OF PETER GOWLAND)

# ON TOUR

BY SP5 MACCLAIN



YOU PLENTY SMOOTH TALKER GI  
YOU JUST WIN ME OVER...

## American Forces Vietnam Network - Channel 11

(Programs Subject To Change Without Notice)  
(Guide For Week Of April 4-10, 1969)

### FRIDAY, April 4

1330	Turn On	1900	To Be Announced
1413	What's Happening	1930	Evening News
1415	Sign On News	2000	Weather
1430	Big Valley (Re-Run)	2006	Kraft Music Hall
1530	Dean Martin (Re-Run)	2100	Gunsmoke
1630	Star Trek (Re-Run)	2200	Late News
1730	The Monkees	2300	Joey Bishop
1800	Perry Mason		
1930	Evening News		
2000	Weather		
2006	Brigitte Bardot Special		
2100	Combat		
2200	Late News		
2210	Rowan And Martin		
2300	Feature Movie		

### SATURDAY, April 5

1230	Turn On	1900	Beverly Hillsbillies
1313	What's Happening	1930	Evening News
1315	Sign On News	2000	Weather
1330	CBS Golf Classic	2006	Carol Burnett
1430	Since Wars Began 2	2100	Star Trek
1500	Melody Ranch	2200	Late News
1600	Rowan and Martin	2210	Rowan & Martin
1700	Gunsmoke	2300	Perry Mason
1800	Nashville Vietnam		
1830	Wrestling From Buffalo		
1925	Weather		
1930	Evening News		
2000	Jackie Gleason		
2050	Let's Speak Vietnamese (Advanced)		
2100	To Be Announced		

### SUNDAY, April 6

1130	Turn On	1730	To Be Announced
1213	What's Happening	1800	Monkees
1215	Religious Hour	1900	Wide Wide World
1315	Early News	1930	Evening News
1330	Carol Burnett Show	2000	Weather
1430	Perry Mason	2006	Dean Martin
1530	Kraft Music Hall	2100	Mission: Impossible
1630	Information Feature	2200	Late News
1730	21st Century	2210	Sports
1800	Window On Vietnam		
1810	In Town Tonight		
1830	Jerry Lewis Show		
1930	Evening News		
2000	Special		
2050	Let's Speak Vietnamese (Advanced)		
2100	College Basketball		

### MONDAY, April 7

1330	Turn On	1830	Jackie Gleason
1413	What's Happening		
1415	Sign On News		
1430	Bonanza (Re-Run)		
1530	Richard Diamond		
1630	Honey West		
1700	Wrestling		
1800	G.E. College Bowl		
1830	Jackie Gleason		

1900	To Be Announced
1930	Evening News
2000	Weather
2006	Kraft Music Hall
2100	Gunsmoke
2200	Late News
2300	Joey Bishop

### TUESDAY, April 8

1330	Turn On	1830	Jerry Lewis
1413	What's Happening	1850	Let's Speak Vietnamese #7 (Re-Run)
1415	Sign On News		
1430	Kraft Music Hall (Re-Run)		
1530	Jackie Gleason		
1630	Gunsmoke		
1730	To Be Announced		
1830	Jerry Lewis		
1850	Let's Speak Vietnamese #7 (Re-Run)		
1900	Beverly Hillsbillies		
1930	Evening News		
2000	Weather		
2006	Carol Burnett		
2100	Star Trek		
2200	Late News		
2210	Rowan & Martin		
2300	Perry Mason		

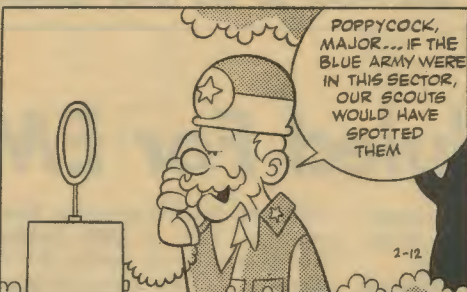
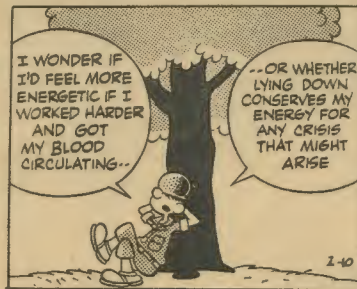
### WEDNESDAY, April 9

1330	Turn On	1730	To Be Announced
1413	What's Happening	1800	Monkees
1415	Sign On News	1900	Wide Wide World
1430	Movie	1930	Evening News
1630	Star Trek (Re-Run)	2000	Weather
1700	Wide Wide World	2006	Dean Martin
1730	To Be Announced	2100	Mission: Impossible
1800	Monkees	2200	Late News
1900	Wide Wide World	2210	Sports
1930	Evening News		
2000	Weather		
2006	Dean Martin		
2100	Mission: Impossible		
2200	Late News		
2210	Sports		

### THURSDAY, April 10

1330	Turn On	1830	Jackie Gleason
1413	What's Happening		
1415	Sign On News		
1430	Carol Burnett (Re-Run)		
1530	Dean Martin (Re-Run)		
1630	Mission: Impossible (Re-Run)		
1730	Wide Wide World		
1800	Bewitched		
1830	Hollywood Palace		
1850	Let's Speak Vietnamese (Advanced) (Re-Run)		
1900	Gentle Ben		
1930	Evening News		
2000	Weather		
2006	Jonathan Winters		
2100	Big Valley		
2200	Late News		
2210	Boxing		

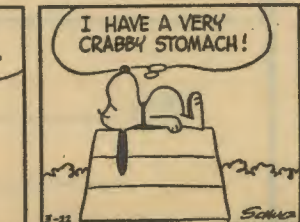
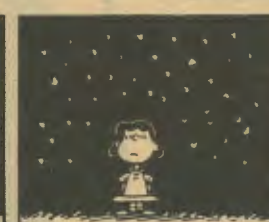
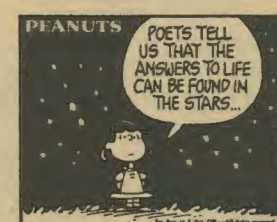
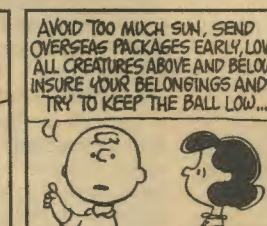
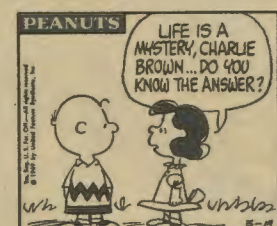
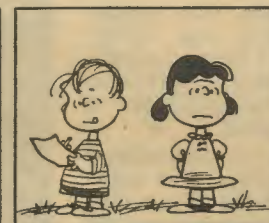
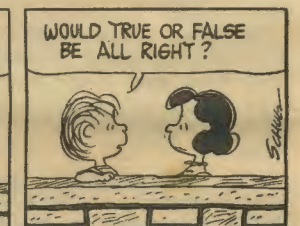
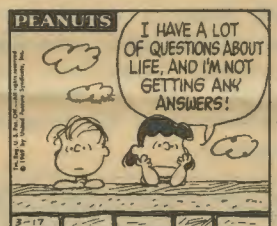
## Beetle Bailey



## By Mort Walker

## Peanuts

## By Charles M. Schulz





**SMOKE SCREEN** — A chopper lays down a screen of smoke to conceal the landing zone as troopers of the 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, make a combat assault. As "Smokey" rolls in, destructive fire is placed on both flanks of the incoming choppers by Cobra gunships of the "Rat Pack" platoon, 187th Helicopter Assault Company.

(USA PHOTO By: SP4 David Demauro)

## 5th Sweep Operation Smashes NVA Camp

**QUANG TRI (USA)** — A minor hangup on a seemingly routine patrol three miles south of the demilitarized zone recently helped men of the 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized) to discover a major North Vietnamese Army base camp.

More than 110 enemy soldiers were killed and numerous weapons captured in the sweep operation.

Cavalrymen from Troop B, 3rd Squadron, 5th Cavalry, were moving along a ridge line through the dense undergrowth when the lead tank, commanded by Sergeant Harold Fowler, got a log jammed into its final drive sprocket.

Sergeant Fowler told his loader to man the .50 caliber. "I started working on my track," the sergeant said, "then the loader yelled, 'I see a Charlie!' so I jumped up on the .50 and looked to where he pointed. All I could see was a helmet, but it was moving. I fired and called the lieutenant.

"I didn't see anyone at first, but I turned all the vehicles in the direction of the enemy and went to work. The brush was so thick that we just put down a lot of firepower. If we had waited until we saw someone, he would have sneaked up on us and put an RPG right through the track."

Sergeant Fowler's tank was unable to move so the other tank led out toward the enemy with the Armored Personnel Carriers

(APCs) close behind.

After a few minutes of thrashing around in circles, Sergeant Fowler managed to break free from the log and join the fight. As he moved forward, an enemy RPG anti-tank round hit the turret of the other tank, disabling the main gun.

"With us out there in front," Sergeant Fowler said, "the VC were climbing all over the tank trying to get at us, but the guys on the APCs kept hosing us down with .50 caliber and M-60 machine gun fire and blasting them off. We continued to fire until they hit us with an RPG round which knocked out our main gun. The only thing I could do was to get my men out of the tank. We jumped out and stayed low for about five minutes until the lieutenant got to us with an APC to try and get us out."

With both tanks' main armament out of action and most of the APCs damaged, the platoon had lost much of its maneuver capability. The only thing they could do was defend in place until relief columns led by Captain James Pitts arrived.

Spotter planes were called and they in turn directed air strikes.

In a few minutes the relief columns rumbled in. "When we got into the fight," Captain Pitts said, "the NVA just dropped their weapons and ran."

"We had hit a regimental base camp and staging area," he continued. "When it got dark I moved back to our base camp and let artillery, air strikes and naval gunfire pound the area all night."

An aerial body count revealed 60 enemy dead.

The next day, the cavalry, reinforced by elements of the 1st Battalion, 11th Infantry and the 4th Squadron, 12th Cavalry of the 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized), moved out.

They managed to surround the enemy base area with only sporadic fighting. The units consolidated on the hilltops and ridge lines during the day and waited through the night, calling artillery fire into likely routes of enemy escape.

The continuing search, later taken over by the 1st Battalion, 61st Infantry of the Brigade, uncovered more enemy bodies, 16 individual weapons, 13 crew-served weapons, 50 rockets, 18 120mm mortar rounds, 92 82mm mortar rounds and quantities of rice.

## Fast...

(Continued From Page 1)  
one of the gunners was about to drop a flare when the aircraft was hit. The flare rolled to the front of the aircraft.

"The fuse was set to go off in 10 seconds and if that flare, which puts out 2 million candle power, had gone off, that would have been the end of us," Major Carpenter continued. "I had the aircraft in a 30 degree bank and how Airman Levitow ever managed to get to the flare and throw it out, I'll never know."

The tremendous heat and smoke from the flare would have consumed the aircraft and knocked out the entire crew in a matter of seconds.

Only 10 minutes elapsed from the time of the hit until the aircraft landed back at Bien Hoa Air Base.

## Program Starts Next Year

# MECCA Scheduled For EM

**WASHINGTON (ANF)** — In January 1970 the Army will begin a program which will centralize the management of career enlisted personnel.

The program has been named MECCA (Management of Enlisted Careerists Centrally Administered).

Initially, about 23,000 senior enlisted personnel (grades E-8 and E-9) will come under the new career management system at the Department of the Army level.

The management program will eventually include all enlisted personnel in grades E-5 and above, who have completed more than three years active federal military service.

The centralized management system will be established in three phases, beginning with E-8s and E-9s. Phase II is planned to extend career management to grades E-7, and it is expected that grades E-5 and E-6 will be added during Phase III.

## Marines...

(Continued From Page 1)  
5th Infantry Division (Mechanized) — started March 15. It is under the control of the 3rd Marine Division.

Participating forces are attempting to locate and destroy enemy forces, materiel and installations within the operational area. As of March 23, a total of 43 enemy have been killed and two suspects detained.

U. S. casualties were 10 killed and 64 wounded.

Total time for the implementation of all three phases is expected to take several years.

It is planned that the Office of the Assistant Director for Enlisted Career Management will be created within the Enlisted Personnel Directorate to organize procedures for career development and to supervise the operating divisions.

Career managers within the various divisions of the directorate will use assembled data regarding an individual's training, schooling, evaluation, previous assignments and efficiency reports to assist them in making assignments.

Individuals who have demonstrated efficiency and ability will be provided more challenging assignments, advanced schooling and the possibility of rapid advancement.

The first steps toward enlisted career management were taken when the Enlisted Evaluation System was established in 1958 and centralized control of enlisted assignments on a by-name basis was begun when the Office of Personnel Operations (OPO) was established in 1962.

In 1966 an Intelligence Section was organized to provide career management for intelligence personnel of all grades comparable to that provided for officers by the Officer Personnel Directorate.

Late in June 1968 the chief of staff approved the plan for centralized promotion to grades E-8 and E-9.

The first selection board for centralized promotion to grade E-9 met in Washington, Oct. 14,

1968, and the E-8 selection board convened Dec. 2, 1968. Centralized promotion to grades E-9 began Jan. 3, 1969 and centralized promotion to E-8 began March 3, 1969.

Further information on the various personnel actions involved, such as classification, career training and schooling, assignments, promotions and evaluation, will be developed and examined as the program materializes.



**LONELY JUNGLE** — The morning sun finds SP4 Dennis Dunn on patrol. He and other members of the recon platoon of Company E, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Airborne Infantry, 101st Airborne Division, were on a mission near Camp Eagle.

(USA PHOTO By: SGT Fred Monk)

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