

1st Cavalry Div In Action In III Corps



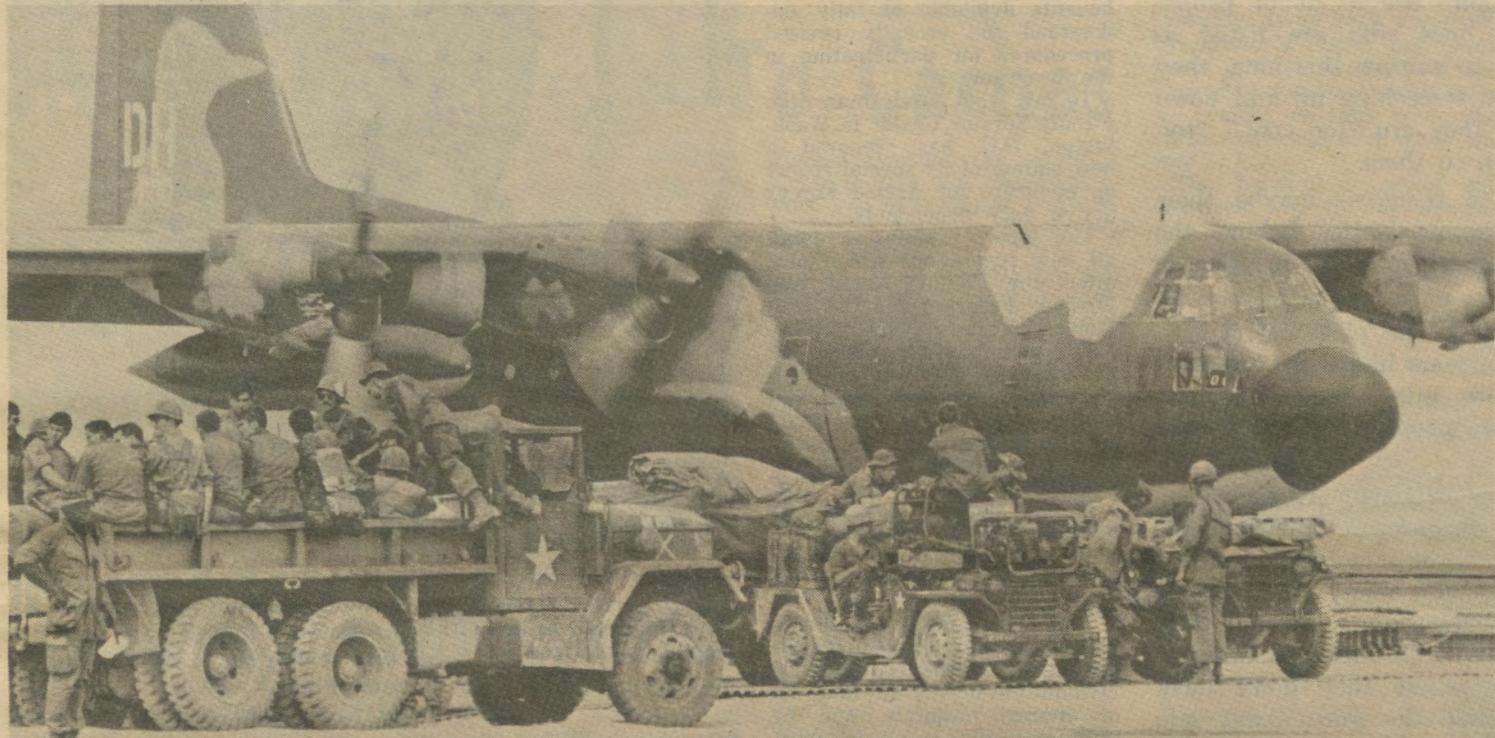
FIRST IN VIETNAM

The OBSERVER

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November 22, 1968



Cav troopers of the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) prepare to load on troop-cargo transports of the 834th Air Division, such as this C-130 Hercules revving up to airlift them from Camp Evans to their new area of operations near Tay Ninh.

(USAF PHOTO By: SSgt Ron Smith)

Operation Liberty Canyon

Troop Move 'Largest of War'

SAIGON (USA) — "The biggest quick response troop movement of the war." This is how Major General Burl W. McLaughlin, commander of the 834th Air Division, described the recent airlift of the majority of the 19,000-man 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) from I Corps to III Corps. The operation was tabbed "Liberty Canyon." General McLaughlin said,

"We must have set all kinds of records in moving the first brigade of the division into III Corps in minimum time."

The general revealed that the only comparable airlift of the war was the switch in September and October of a brigade of the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) and a brigade of the 82nd Airborne Division between I Corps and III Corps in Operation "Golden Sword." Although "Golden Sword" was performed in some six weeks, "Liberty Canyon" was expected to end in mid-November.

Beginning with a dozen sorties a day on Oct. 27 and increasing to more than 30 sorties by the first week of November, C-130 Hercules, C-123 Providers and C-7 Caribous touched down on the narrow, 2,900-foot perforated steel runway at Camp Evans, picked up cargo, troops and their belongings, and transported them south to III Corps.

Air Force combat controllers provided communications between the airlift mission commander at Evans and airlift officials at 7th Air Force Headquarters at Tan Son Nhut Air Base. A five-man aerial port team from Da Nang Air Base's 15th Aerial Port Squadron was at the site in advance to prepare pallets and load them onto the aircraft.

A nine-man maintenance crew from Cam Ranh Bay Air Base brought tools and parts to repair any aircraft troubles.

A tactical airlift liaison officer (TALO) at Evans provided

an on-station link between the Air Force and the Army, helping commanders determine how to get the best use out of the aircraft.

The Navy was also involved in "Liberty Canyon." In addition to the Seabees having built the runway, the USS Princeton floated aircraft — stripped for maintenance — to Saigon, and landing ship tanks moved certain equipment out of Phu Bai.

Commenting on the manner in which aircrews reacted to the demands of the transfer, General McLaughlin said, "Airlift crews know that their job often means life or death to the ground troops. Every time they rush ammunition to an outpost under attack, and every time they lift troops out of a hot area, they see the immediate results of their efforts."



Parcel Airlift
Days Left

PHUOC VINH (USA) — Skytroopers of the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) — after a 500-mile airlift from the northern I Corps to the III Corps Tactical Zone — made their first major contact recently since.

in the Toan Thang Offensive.

They engaged an estimated battalion-sized force of NVA Regulars and Viet Cong and killed 31 enemy in two days of action.

The battle started when Company D, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry received heavy automatic weapons and small arms fire in the jungle near a portion of the Cambodian border known as the "fish hook," because of the sharp curve the border makes, approximately 60 miles north-northeast of Saigon.

Battle Continues

Companies A and B of the battalion were inserted into the contact area and the battle continued into the early evening. There were nine confirmed enemy dead at day's end.

Action broke off during the hours of darkness and flared briefly the next morning. The enemy fled from contact with the cavalrymen just after noon the second day, after losing another 22 dead.

Units of the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) began conducting combat operations in III Corps under the operational control of the 1st Infantry Division on Nov. 1. The cavalrymen killed 109 North Vietnamese Army troops and VC soldiers in actions through Nov. 8.

500-Mile Area

While the 1st Cav's 3rd Brigade led off the 500-mile air, land and sea move, units of the 1st and 2nd Brigades continued to fight the war in South Vietnam's northernmost provinces. During the first few days of November, elements of the world's first airmobile division conducted four separate combat operations, spread out over a 500-mile area, nearly the entire length of the Republic of Vietnam.

The 1st Brigade finished the 171-day Operation Jeb Stuart III Nov. 3, then began the move south.

Comanche Falls

The division's 2nd Brigade continued with Operation Comanche Falls, in the jungle 25 miles south of the DMZ. The brigade,

(Continued On Back Page)

Rice Haul For 198th

CHU LAI (USA) — "Take away their will to fight." This is a saying among soldiers of the 198th Infantry Brigade, and lately the Americal infantrymen have been working rather hard to do just that.

Soldiers of Company D, 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry, discovered and confiscated 29,500 pounds of rice during an operation in an area 10 miles southwest of Chu Lai. They also killed four Viet Cong and detained 12 VC suspects during the operation.

"It took more than three Chinook loads to evacuate all of that rice," said Captain Michael R. Smith, the company commander. "Fifteen tons is a lot of rice."

Varying quantities of the cereal were found in 24 different locations in the area. The largest of the caches was about 2,500 pounds.

Honored Himself, He Gives Awards

CHU LAI (USA) — Lieutenant Colonel Wang Dinh Tho, Quang Tin Province Chief, has been awarded the Air Medal with "V" device for heroic action June 15, 1968. Brigadier General James V. Galloway, Americal Division assistant commander, made the presentation.

At the same ceremony, which took place at Hawk Hill (Hill 29) north of Chu Lai, Lieutenant Colonel Tho, on behalf of the Republic of Vietnam, awarded 38 Crosses of Gallantry to members of the Americal Division.

The citation accompanying Lieutenant Colonel Tho's award read, in part:

"Lieutenant Colonel Tho distinguished himself . . . while directing Republic of Vietnam Air Force elements in an operation in conjunction with Americal forces.

"With disregard for his own safety, Lieutenant Colonel Tho placed himself almost over the bursting rounds to effectively direct artillery fire."

The citation also noted that, on several occasions Colonel

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The fearlessly directed his aircraft to land in the battle zone to confer with his commanders.

After receiving his decoration, Lieutenant Colonel Tho, on behalf of the Republic of Vietnam, presented 13 Gold, 7 Silver, and 18 Bronze Crosses of Gallantry to members of the Americal Division for an action west of Tam Ky in late August.

In that action, elements of the 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry, spearheaded a three-day battle against two regiments of the 2nd NVA Division.

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Editorial

What Word?

Judging from all the outward appearances, news reports and statistics available, there are still a great many servicemen and women — too many, in fact — who haven't gotten "the word."

What word? The one on driving safety.

That's right, driving safety. The thing you've been hearing about for years. The thing you've spent hours listening to lectures and seeing films about. Driving safety, the thing that — if you're lucky and it's gotten through to you — has helped keep you alive so you could be gripping now about reading another article on it.

Maybe you've gotten the word and do drive defensively and intelligently. There are a lot of people who haven't. They are the ones who are listed as statistics. If they've managed to survive this long, they are probably the ones who are screeching up and down the roads of Vietnam figuring they are "too cool," "too swift" to have anything happen to them.

Maybe it won't happen to them — maybe their indifferent, inconsiderate, dangerous antics behind the wheel of a car will only cause an accident, injuring or killing someone else.

Time will tell — and this is the place for it . . . the place where it sometimes appears like there are more motorcycles than people; more rain than sun; more bad roads than good; and more people in a hurry than not.

Into the middle of all this careers "Harry Heavyfoot" or "Bob Blankbrain" — unconcerned, unaware and unpredictable. They have watched the safe-driving movies, but they didn't see. They heard the safety lectures, but they didn't listen. They have read the articles, but they didn't comprehend. They are living on borrowed time.

If they're someplace now where they don't have a vehicle, they'd do well to keep the word about safe driving tucked away in their head. It'd be pretty wild to make it through several patrols and firefights and then get zapped on a crowded street in 'Nam.

There's the word — again. See you around — we hope. (AFPS)

Leave Smokes Behind When "Down Under"

SAIGON — Effective Nov. 10, only one pack of opened cigarettes, or one pouch of pipe tobacco, or four cigars will be retained in the possession of the serviceman heading for Australia on R&R.

In addition, no cigarettes or tobacco products will be allowed in stowed baggage. The only

cigarettes, cigars or tobacco which should be taken on board are those intended for in-flight use only.

Prior to debarkation, all remaining tobacco items will be deposited in a container on board the aircraft. No cigarettes or tobacco products will be permitted to enter Australia.

Just In Case You Have Not Heard

Free Military Medicare Pam Explains All

WASHINGTON — Military medicare is one of the major fringe benefits for millions of American service families. But few realize the vast scope of benefits available or fully understand the recently revised procedures for participating in the program.

To aid the serviceman, the Family Service Center in Washington, D.C. has prepared a new edition of its special report on medicare for Armed Forces active duty dependents.

The report explains in detail all new regulations which now affect the Civilian Health and Medical Program for the Uniformed Services (CHAMPUS).

For example, it notes the government's position on "unreasonable" doctor's fees and outlines the steps you must take to insure that your physician is "participating" in the CHAMPUS program.

If you neglect to take the necessary steps, you may be liable for a larger part of the physician's bill than you expected.

The new report covers all phases of military medicare including dependent treatment by civilian physicians in and out of civilian hospitals, and by military medics in service facilities.

The report also explains how much you pay to the doctor or hospital and what portion of the bill the government pays, as well as how to get reimbursed if you've paid too much.

Home nursing is now authorized and the report outlines what is covered.

Also included is a warning against getting treatment in a hospital practicing racial discrimination.

A copy of this report is available free by sending a stamped, self-addressed business-size envelope to the Family Service Center, 475 School Street, SW, Washington, D.C. 20024. Ask for Report Number 100.

Field Artillery Insignia In

WASHINGTON — Separate insignias have been approved for the U.S. Army's two artillery branches.

Officers in the Field Artillery Branch and enlisted personnel assigned to field artillery organizations will be authorized to wear an insignia consisting of two crossed field guns. This insignia was used by the Field Artillery Branch before Jan. 2, 1957.

Officers in the Air Defense Artillery Branch and enlisted personnel assigned to air defense artillery organizations will continue to wear the present Artillery Branch insignia, which consists of the two crossed field guns and a missile.

The names of artillery officers transferred to the new Air Defense Artillery Branch will appear on a special order scheduled for publication in November, with an effective date of Dec. 1. The new insignia will be authorized for wear on the effective date of the order. (ANF)



IS THIS TIGHT ENOUGH? — Miss Lisa Jak is trying to keep a tight lip on classified information. She feels that if "Charlie" gets classified information due to loose talk, it may decrease your chances of going home and seeing her in such TV shows as "Time Tunnel" and "Peyton Place."

(PHOTO COURTESY OF 20TH CENTURY FOX)

viewing vietnam



By 1LT David E. Boudreaux

Last week we saw that the Hat Boi is the traditional theater in Vietnam. This week we

shall look into two more recent types of Vietnamese drama, the Cai Luong and the Kich.

The Cai Luong, literally meaning "modern theater," generally is what we call a "comedy of manners," though there are some tragedies in the repertoire. Whereas the Hat Boi praises traditional virtues (such as loyalty to ones family or respect for elders), the Cai Luong is more realistic. The characters are down-to-earth rather than superhuman heroes.

Costumes

Costumes in the Cai Luong will vary with the nature of the play. Characters will wear costumes ranging from the elaborate dress found in the Hat Boi to modern Western dress, depending, of course, on the play itself.

The Cai Luong makes excellent use of scenery, often elaborate and colorful, to brighten and enhance the play. The scenery, when it is along the lines of classical Oriental architecture, is most fascinating to the Westerner in the audience, especially if the Westerner cannot understand Vietnamese and therefore has more time to study the stage. Light-

The play opens with the characters speaking in normal conversational voices. As the action gets involved, the dialogue becomes more poetic, more rhythmical. Then a character may begin singing in a manner very similar to our musicals. This delights the Vietnamese audience, which loves music.

The Kich, the last type of drama we will consider, is patterned after modern French comedy. Because there is no music in the Kich, this type of play is not as popular as the Hat Boi or the Cai Luong. The "Westernized" Vietnamese, particularly those who have been educated in France, are most enthusiastic about the Kich.

NEXT WEEK: Music in Vietnam.

"We continue to believe that our responsibilities toward others are as important as our responsibilities toward ourselves."

ELSWORTH BUNKER
Ambassador



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"Smokey's" Kind Of Air Pollution Is A Help

CAMP EAGLE (USA) — Like his fury-faced namesake in Yellowstone Park, the 101st Airborne Division's "Smokey" devotes his time to preventing fire.

The similarity ends quickly. The Screaming Eagles' Smokey has no use for water in his fire-extinguishing duties. In the rice paddies, jungles and mountains surrounding Hue, Smokey's quarries are AK-47s, .50 caliber Chicom machine guns and 82-mm mortars forged in Hanoi.

The paratroopers' Smokey is not a bear, but a UH-1 helicopter. Shortly before a division

combat assault, if wind conditions permit, the chopper sweeps in along the selected

the helicopter's superheated exhaust, Smokey lays down a wall of white smoke between the LZ

a dozen troop-carrying Hueys deposit enough paratroopers to secure the LZ for the main

Officer Charles W. Patison.

To lay the best possible smokescreen, Smokey pilots must fly slower than usual and as low as possible.

"Other pilots worry about anti-aircraft fire," said Mr. Patison. "We have that problem too, but we also watch out for such things as rocket-propelled grenades and water buffalo."

Smokey is lightly armed and by no means harmless. As the pilot drops the chopper down to begin the smoke run, he gives the word for his door gunners to begin suppressive fire.

Swivelling their Pedestal Mounted M-60 machine guns, the door gunners spray bushes, hedgerows and creek banks to discourage snipers.

The co-pilot, always ready to take over in case of emergency, searches the area ahead to spot targets for the gunners.

"We don't usually get shot at," said the chief warrant officer. "The noise, the wind, the smoke and all those M-60 tracers flying around shake Charlie up a bit."

Smokey's type of "air pollution" is greatly appreciated.



landing zone (LZ), skimming just above ground level. Using a special oil pump attached to

and likely enemy gun positions. Before the smokescreen has had a chance to disperse, half

landing force.

There is no way to gauge how many possible Screaming Eagle casualties have been prevented by Smokey's cover, but many infantry officers and troops have said they feel much safer on combat assaults when the smoke-billowing bird leads the way.

The handful of pilots and crewmen who fly the Smokey missions for the 101st Assault Helicopter Battalion have become aviation's equivalent to the infantry point man.

"If it turns out to be a hot LZ, we're the first to know about it," said Chief Warrant

Hoi Chanhs Lead To Caches

LZ SALLY (USA) — A former Viet Cong company commander led paratroopers of the 2nd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division to a sizeable weapons cache recently.

At the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) Intelligence Center in Hue, the file of the ex-commander had been carefully studied and compared with that of another Hoi Chan.

Both files gave identical detailed information of a large cache in Quang Dien province.

The two Hoi Chanhs were immediately flown to the Quang Dien district headquarters

where they were questioned by a Popular Forces intelligence team.

It was revealed that weapons were buried in sand drifts several miles northeast of the headquarters. A platoon commanded by Lieutenant John F. Hay was notified and the ralliers were flown out to join them.

After several minutes of walking through heavy sand, the Hoi Chanhs stopped and pointed to the ground. The paratroopers, slightly skeptical, began to dig.

Suddenly, a shovel struck something solid. A little more

digging revealed the tip of a 60mm mortar tube. Within minutes, two of the tubes and several high explosive rounds lay on the sand.

After a short walk, the Hoi Chan pointed to another spot. This time, the paratroopers dug up a light Russian machine gun, a Browning automatic rifle and several thousand rounds of ammunition.

The Hoi Chanhs were flown back to Quang Dien for the night, but the paratroopers continued their probe.

A few moments later, a discovery was made in a water-filled bomb crater. Half buried in water and sand were 12 new Soviet SKS rifles, still in the packing cases. Digging deeper, the soldiers found 40 new North Vietnamese Army rucksacks, numerous ammunition pouches, cleaning kits and first aid packets.

Simultaneously, a rocket propelled grenade launcher and several Chicom claymore mines were pulled from wet sand on a crater's edge a few meters away.

"If I wasn't here to see it, I never would have believed it," concluded Lieutenant Hay.



DENTISTRY GOES TO THE DOGS — "Sarge," a four-year-old sentry dog, was plagued by a fractured tooth which had become abscessed. Captain Charles W. Norwood, a dentist from the 518th Medical Detachment at An Khe, was called in to provide the dog with a gold tooth. Now, "Sarge" boasts of his command unit every time he opens his mouth. Imbedded in the gold tooth is a detailed green and gold replica of the 18th Military Police Brigade insignia.

(USA PHOTO BY: SP4 JACK F. PASKVAN)

Suspect Yields Info

TAN TRU (USA) — The operations of a Viet Cong demolition team which has been operating along the road leading from this 60th Infantry, 2d Battalion, 9th Infantry Division base camp since July, have been uncovered from information supplied by a detained VC suspect.

The suspect — with the legend, "Hero — Kill American GIs" tattooed on his chest — was detained by elements of an ARVN intelligence squad on an ambush patrol near Binh Thanh hamlet, about one mile west of here.

According to First Lieutenant Philip Poynter, 2d Battalion intelligence officer, the suspect is one of a four-man team which has been mining the road from the base camp.

The suspect admitted that a VC soldier, killed by small arms fire from a helicopter, was the leader of the demolition team.

"The mines have been of two types," Lieutenant Poynter stated. "One type was 10 kilos of

TNT and the other was six kilos of a plastic charge. In all cases, the explosives were detonated by blasting caps connected to several hundred feet of wire."

The command-operated detonators were fashioned from two flat pieces of bamboo. Barbed wire ends were wrapped around one end of each piece. The bamboo was separated by a twig, and a rubber band was wrapped around the opposite ends to keep the wires apart.

The VC suspect explained that the mine was usually placed in a hole three feet deep. The wires were then run off behind cover, usually a dike. One man was always used as an observer from the time the charge was set until it was detonated.

Two or three of the men would remain behind to aid in the escape, usually accomplished by means of a sampan.

According to Lieutenant Poynter, the saboteurs were being supplied from a pagoda approximately one mile north of here.

ROKs Win Decoration

NHA TRANG (USA) — General Creighton W. Abrams, Jr., Commander of the United States Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV), presented unit and individual decorations recently to Korean troops at Headquarters, Capital Republic of Korea Infantry Division, Tiger Town, Vietnam.

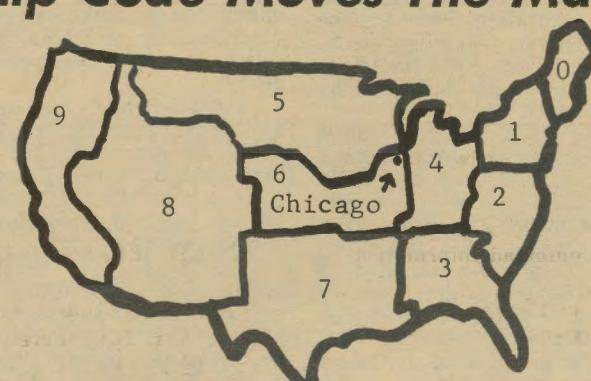
The general presented the Presidential Unit Citation and 11 individual decorations.

The Presidential Unit Citation was awarded to the 9th Company, 1st Cavalry Regiment, Capital Division. The company distinguished itself by extraordinary heroism and outstanding military professionalism while defending Landing Zone 27 Victor, Pleiku Province.

In the same ceremony, seven members of the 26th Regiment and four from the 1st were presented U.S. awards for valor. The awards included seven Bronze Stars with "V" Device, one Air Medal with "V" Device and three Army Commendation Medals with "V" Device.

Fifteen recently departed members of the division will be awarded U.S. decorations in Korea. Those awards include four Silver Stars, nine Bronze Stars with "V" Device and two Army Commendation with "V" Device.

Zip Code Moves The Mail



Zip code is a five-number code for every mailing address in the United States. Here's how the zip code works: Suppose the zip code is 60635. The "6" says it goes to the Midwest; the "06" narrows it down to Chicago; "35" pinpoints a local post office. This eliminates many handlings. The letter is sorted faster and sent more directly to its destination.

BEYOND THE CALL

SILVER STAR

Kendall, Floyd W. SFC USA
Miles, Peter D. MAJ USA
Pacheco, Robert S. 1LT USA

BRONZE STAR MEDAL WITH "V" DEVICE

Bouknight, Bobby R. SGT USA
Copeland, J. B. 1LT USA
Eads, Samuel H. SSG USA
Hoff, Laurence B. 1LT USA
Jamieson, Victor E. SFC USA
Maples, David C. SSG USA
Riddle, Walker M. Jr. CPT USA

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL WITH "V" DEVICE

Butterworth, Robert F. SSG USA
Good, Frederick E. SFC USA
Gray, James S. SFC USA
Hough, Henry MAJ USA */2
Matsumoto, Stanley Y. SFC USA */1
Nelson, Ronald R. CPT USA
Norman, John S. SFC USA
Olemn, Stanley F. 1LT USA
*/denotes Oak Leaf Clusters

Dinner Invite Marks Success

DA NANG (USN) — "Moi cac anh di an." Freely translated this means, "You brothers are invited to dinner."

For four U.S. Navymen, the invitation was an indication of acceptance they had been striving for since last March.

A Vietnamese village chief had invited them to a community dinner celebration. They are now part of the village.

The four sailors comprise a Navy Village Assistance Team (VAT). They have been living and working six miles south of Da Nang in the fishing village of Nam Tho. Their mission is to assist the fishermen in any way possible.

They built their own home near the middle of the village. It lacks plumbing and their drinking water has to be carried in from a nearby base. A portable gas generator provides power for their radio, TV, tape recorder and refrigerator. Showers are from a well dug by the team members.

Technical Know-How

VAT-7 is one of 14 teams that comprise the Civic Actions Section of the Naval Support Activity at Da Nang. The members of VAT-7 are Yeoman First Class Robert Wilks, Boatswain's Mate Third Class Eugene Burris, Signalman Seaman John Rinehart and Seaman Walter Maring.

The VATs bring technical know-how to the village level. Yeoman Wilks said, "You cannot help men by doing for them what they can do for themselves."

The teams have learned to capitalize on the Asian community spirit which is especially strong at the village level. The

villagers do the work.

The VAT program was started two years ago to help Vietnamese achieve military, social and economic victories over Communist forces.

VAT-7 advises the people of Nam Tho on construction, procurement of materials and defense of their village. The team also provides limited medical assistance.

Since March 1968, VAT-7 has helped the people of Nam Tho village construct a two-room addition to their only school, a six-room village office building, four homes and 30 wells. Da Nang VAT teams have 167 similar self-help projects underway this month.

Materials used by the villagers consist of shipping crates from the American base at Da Nang, concrete, metal sheeting and small tools provided by the Agency for International Development (AID). At Da Nang, the Civic Action Section has grown to include its own warehouse, a covered storage area and a lumber yard.

Bonus

VAT-7 sailors often accompany the village defense force on night patrols.

Language poses no serious problems for VAT-7 sailors. Two of the men had extensive Vietnamese language training in the United States prior to coming to Vietnam. Those who have not had this training attend language classes conducted by their teammates six nights a week.

"The invitation to have dinner with village officials was a highlight for us," Seaman Maring said. "Then we knew that we had been accepted."

ARVN, US Artillery Officers Exchange Useful Tactical Tips

DAK TO (USA) — The first exchange of officers between units of the 4th Infantry Division and the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) took place recently.

Two ARVN officers of the

PBR Crew Helps PFs

SAIGON (USN) — U.S. Navymen from River Division 514 turned their river patrol boats (PBRs) into cargo haulers recently to help rebuild a Popular Forces operating base on the Bassac River, 70 miles southwest of Saigon. The buildings on the base were destroyed by fire recently.

During the nine-day operation the sailors hauled in tin roofing, lumber, cement, nails and cooking utensils. The Navymen provided technical help to the Popular Forces in the rebuilding effort. They also supplied a field radio and ammunition in response to a request from the village chief. The Catholic Relief Society provided homeless families with clothing.

Taking part in the operation were Navymen from the Game Warden support ship USS Harriett County (LST-821), the Naval Support Activity Detachment at Binh Thuy, and PBR sailors from River Division 514.

22nd Infantry Division Artillery at Qui Nhon spent two weeks of observation and study of American artillery techniques with the 6th Battalion, 29th Artillery.

In the first days of the exchange, Lieutenant Colonel William Maurer, battalion commander, explained the organization of a 105mm howitzer battalion.

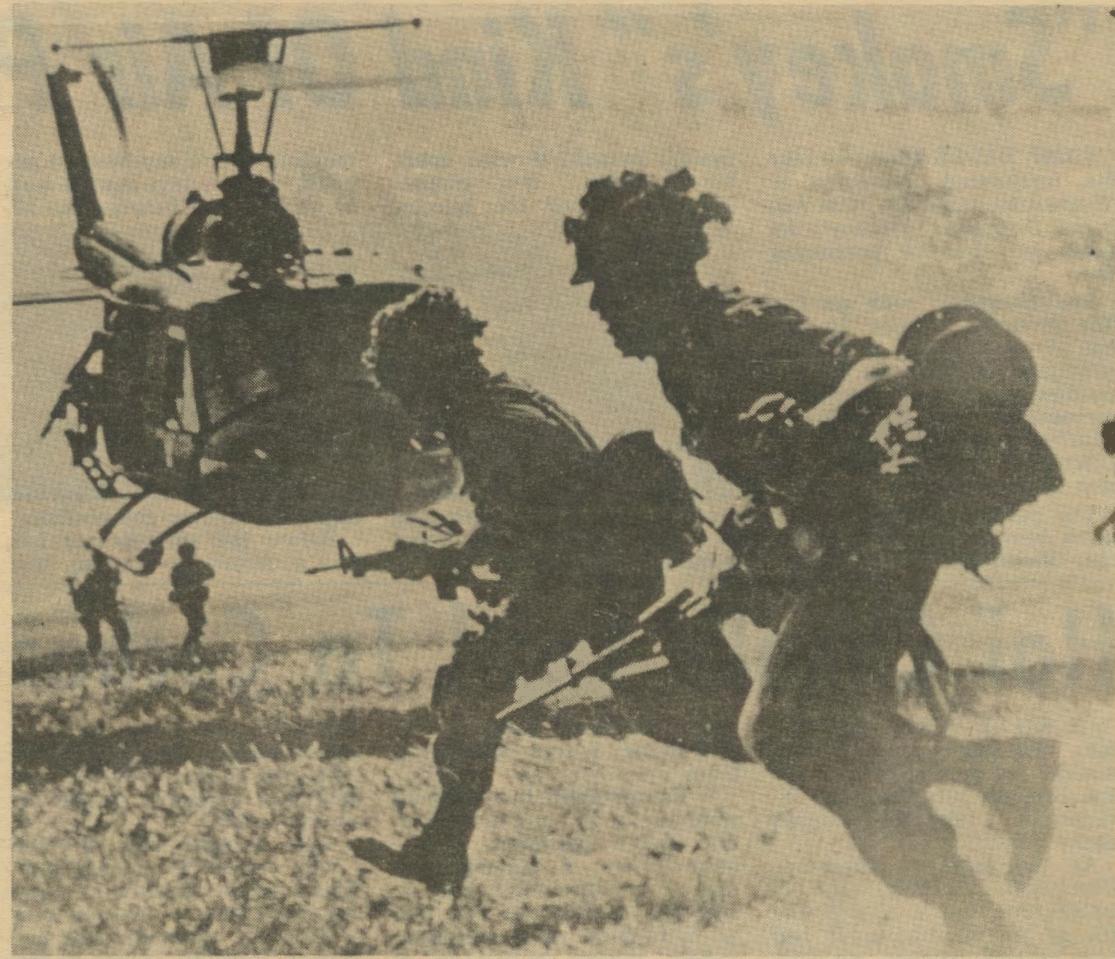
The officers took part in a battery move from Firebase 31 to Dak To and spent several days with Battery A.

Although the ARVN and United States artillery batteries are similar, Colonel Maurer said, "I feel the officer exchange will make significant contributions to their professional knowledge as well as to ours."

First Lieutenant Ted Dieumegard, the battalion reconnaissance officer, visited the ARVN 22nd Division Artillery and kept a record of tactical tips and lessons learned while involved in the program.

"The reason for this," explained Colonel Maurer, "is so we can provide 4th Division artillery and other battalions a report of Lieutenant Dieumegard's observations while with the ARVN."

The officer exchange, which involves men from the 4th Division, Republic of Korea (ROK) Infantry Division and the 22nd ARVN Infantry Division, was developed to increase effective-



QUICK TIMING — Paratroopers of the 173rd Airborne Brigade move toward their positions in a combat assault near Tuy Hoa. (USA PHOTO)

Dental Assistant Now Learning Art Of 'Easy' Extractions

DAK TO (USA) — Captain Robert A. Carmichael, a dentist with Company B, 4th Medical Battalion, commanded by Captain Stephen Bell, is doing more than his duty.

Besides his regular dental assignments at 1st Brigade headquarters, he is training a dental assistant for the local people.

Mrs. Tuyen is a resident of Tan Canh near Dak To. Until a few months ago she had been supporting herself and her children as a midwife. Her income was so small that she had to send two of her three children to live with their paternal grandmother near Saigon. Her husband is serving in the Vietnamese Army.

Captain Carmichael had been running MEDCAPS to Tan Canh and found that to meet the needs of the people, he needed to spend more time there than he had available.

Extractions

Few of Tan Canh's residents would see a dentist until they had a toothache. By then it was usually too late to save the tooth. Therefore, Captain Carmichael's duties in Tan Canh consisted almost entirely of extractions.

Strict Purchase Rules Protect PX Privileges

SAIGON (MACV) — "All military and civilian personnel have an obligation to protect their Post Exchange (PX) and Commissary privileges," a MACV spokesman said recently. He listed some of the rules governing these privileges:

Any item purchases in a Vietnam Post Exchange must be for the sole use of an authorized patron. PX merchandise purchased by military personnel or authorized civilians cannot be resold or exchanged in barter.

PX merchandise may be bought for persons who are not authorized patrons if such merchandise is presented as a gift.

It is illegal to receive money or other goods in return for PX items. Offenders risk losing PX and Commissary Store shopping privileges.

Regulations applying to Commissary purchases are even more strict than PX regulations. Commissary purchases must be for the use of authorized patrons and they cannot be given or sold to anyone else.

The rules governing PX and Commissary purchases protect and preserve the privilege of using those facilities. Abuse of the military resale system is illegal and results in shortages of hard-to-get items.

Experience

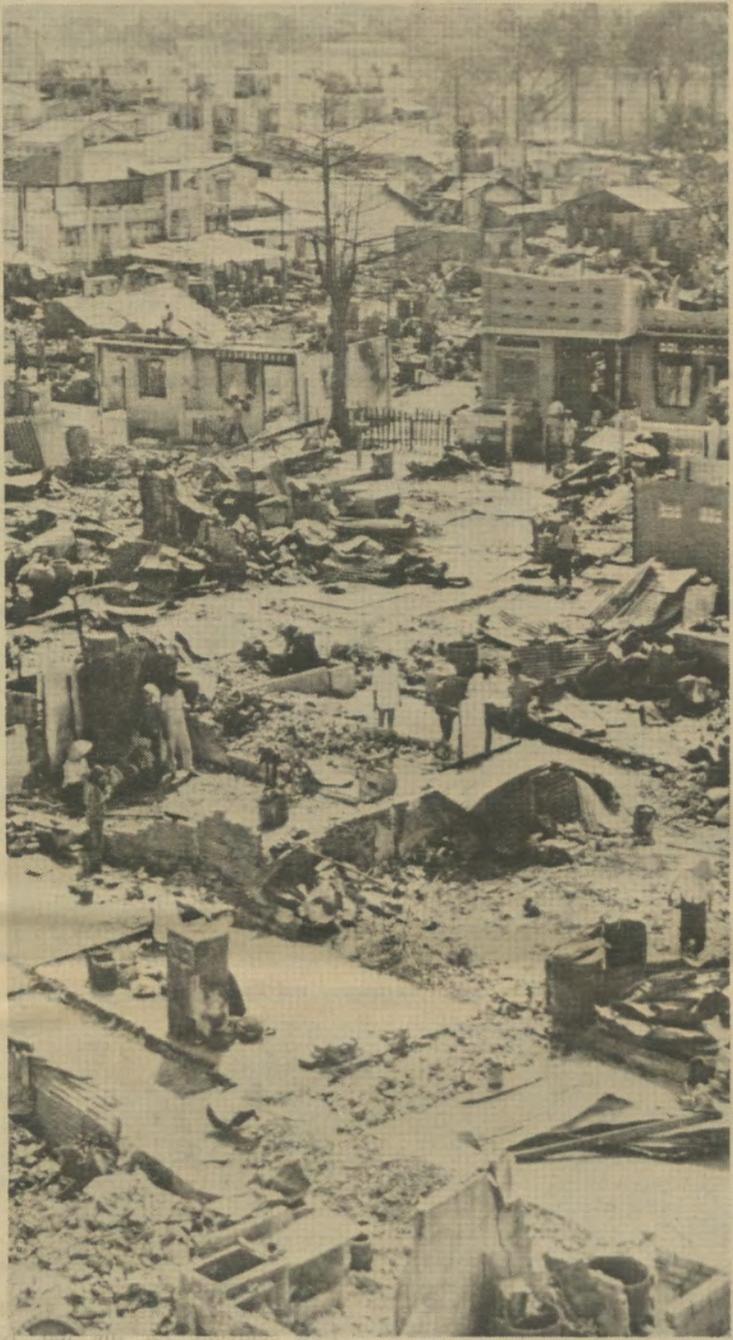
Mrs. Tuyen gained practical experience by extracting teeth of villagers who came to the 4th Medical Battalion. The work was supervised by Captain Carmichael.

"She has learned her work better than I had ever hoped for," Captain Carmichael said. "Within two weeks she'll be able to work on her own in Tan Canh."

Her only duty will be "easy" extractions. If a tooth shows signs of being impacted, the patient will be treated by an Army dentist or a civilian dentist in Kontum.

The only promises that Captain Carmichael "extracted" from her are that all ARVN soldiers and their families aren't charged. If a licensed dentist begins practice in town, she will become his assistant.

South Vietnam—Nine Months Later



Residents dig out after Tet offensive launched on Saigon.



Following restoration of mainlines of communication, food again flows into markets.

SAIGON (VFS) — A viable and independent South Vietnam is emerging from a crucible of strife.

The scars of the communists' Tet offensive of February and the "second wave" or "mini-Tet" offensive of May 1968 are mostly healed. The Saigon government, having faced up to a situation that amounted almost to a do-or-die challenge, has brought to a conclusion its Operation Recovery to restore pre-offensive conditions — an operation that turned out to be a major success. The government has thus fulfilled its promise of help to the people victimized by the Viet Cong terror offensives.

"The facts speak for themselves," said Ambassador Robert W. Komer, former advisor to the Central Recovery Committee. "More than 100,000 damaged and destroyed homes have been repaired or rebuilt. There is an abundance of food. Lines of communications are open. In short, the economy is moving."

Not only is it moving, but it is growing. The nation's resources remain rich and varied; the labor force has been trained at a rapid rate; there is a dynamic private sector in the economy; and the educational level of the population is improving substantially.

Despite nearly \$40 million damage inflicted on 105 industrial plants during the spring offensives, rehabilitation has been rapid in most fields. Textile production is recovering, and notable successes are being scored in cement, paper and pulp, chemicals, lumber mill products and construction industries. Agriculture is holding its own, and for the first time since 1965 the downward trend

Story & Photos
By
Vietnam Feature Service



This 2,300-unit refugee complex is one of many in Saigon.

in rice production is being reversed.

Unemployment has virtually vanished. Peasants get more for what they produce and generally pay less for the essentials they consume.

Public faith in the ARVN has increased dramatically as a result of its effective performance in repelling the Tet and mini-Tet offensives, and the soldiers of the Popular Forces and Regional Forces are reaping just praise. The Saigon government, the most stable of any since the Ngo Dinh Diem days, bolstered its public support by demonstrating a high degree of determination, adaptability and efficiency in standing up to the Tet assaults and moving rapidly to heal their wounds.

Under Operation Recovery, care was provided to 750,831 persons forced from their home during Tet and another 140,000 evacuated during the mini-Tet offensive. Most now have returned to their homes, many of which have been rebuilt.

More than 66,000 tons of construction materials and 5,000 tons of clothing, blankets, food packages and other relief commodities were released from warehouses in Saigon and the provinces to meet the needs of the offensives' victims. About 483 million piasters (\$US4,093,220) in relief and resettlement allowances were paid by the government to nearly 60,000 families throughout South Vietnam.

Nearly 590,000 bags of cement and 664,000 sheets of metal roofing were distributed to 64,000 families so they could repair or rebuild their homes. Twenty-eight free world countries, the

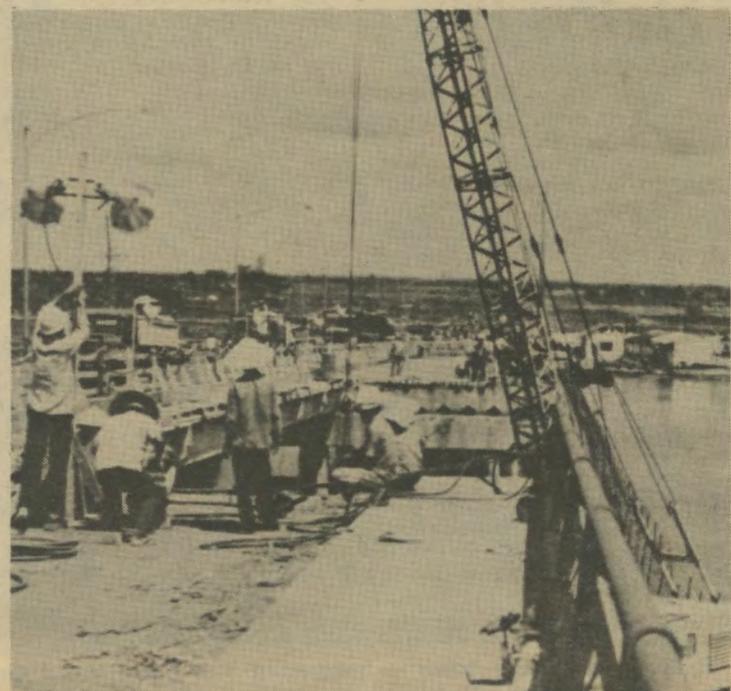
Red Cross, UNICEF, WHO, and other volunteer agencies operating in Vietnam contributed the equivalent of 738.8 million piasters (\$US6,261,017) in funds or commodities.

Along with the buzz of saws and the tap of hammers, there is a rising spirit of unity among the people, a new sense of allegiance to the government that came to their aid in time of catastrophe. From the psychological as well as the military standpoint, the communists lost the battle of Tet.

Progress is being made. This year emphasis is being given a relatively unfamiliar program—the government's Phung Hoang or Phoenix program. This is designed to root out the communist infrastructure, the underground apparatus by which the Viet Cong plague the lives of South Vietnamese living outside secure areas.

Operatives of Vietnamese intelligence services, the Police Special Branch, ARVN and others are working in tandem out of District Intelligence and Operations Centers in about 200 key districts this year. More than 9,600 members of the VC shadow government have been captured, killed or forced to flee their posts so far, but there remain thousands still burrowed in. It is the task of Operation Phoenix operatives to identify and root them out.

The name of the operation is significant, for the phoenix, or phung, is a legendary bird that emerges reborn and revitalized from the ashes of destructive fire. And so is the Republic of Vietnam now emerging reborn and revitalized from the arson and terror tactics that marked the communists' spring offensives.



Construction crew repairs bridge north of Saigon's dock area.

Advisors' Prime Goal: Pac



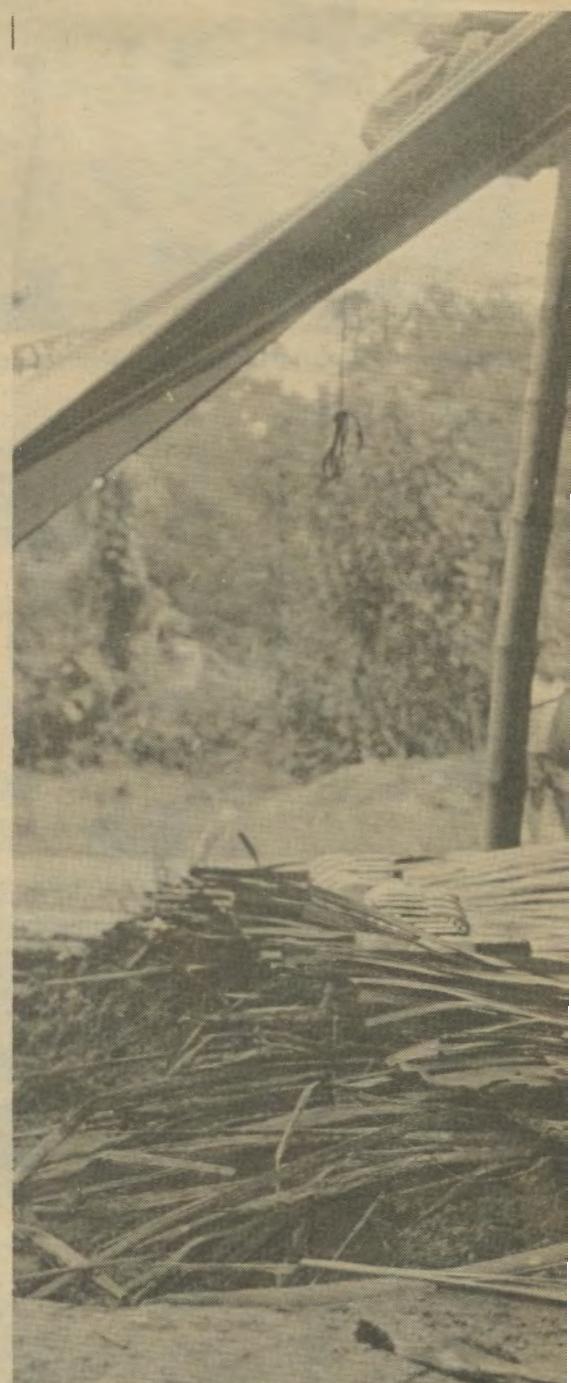
Lieutenant Mouny Kien, Tra Cu District Chief, is briefed by RF/PF cadre members.



The team's light weapons advisor, SFC High, gives tips.



Results of one operation — suspected Viet Cong await questioning at district headquarters in Tra Cu.



A village protector prep

'ication Of Forty Hamlets

SAIGON (MACV) — From the air, the face of the Mekong Delta is a chain of rice paddy squares.

Wherever the sun may shine it seems to strike water.

One of the richest rice producing provinces of this region is Vinh Binh. Some outstanding American advisory efforts are taking place in this province. One of them — Tra Cu District — has a pacification Program to pacify 40 hamlets by the end of the year.

"A lot of effort is going into this project," said Major Jimmy Sloan, district senior advisor.

"Regional Force companies and Popular Force platoons provide security for the hamlets. And we have seen some good results," he said.

Major Sloan is working closely on the project with Lieutenant Mounty Kien, the District Chief.

There is a remarkable degree of rapport between Major Sloan and the district chief. Lieutenant Kien has the respect of the troops, the district civilians and the American advisors.

"The people have supported this campaign wholeheartedly," Major Sloan said. "And our advisory team members are doing a tremendous job."

"We started a week ago by going into a village," Major Sloan said.

It was the village of An Quang Huu.

Mobile Advisory Team (MAT) 42 had moved into this village with Regional and Popular Forces (RF/PF) and cleared it of Viet Cong control. For five months prior to the move, the Viet Cong had held the village and also boasted of control over 7,000 meters of the road running from the village to the district capital of Tra Cu.

The MAT team immediately advised the villagers on the construction of an outpost made of bamboo and dirt. The villagers completed the task in only three days. The outpost stands in a field flanked by rice paddies on the village perimeter. From a bamboo pole fly the yellow and red of the Republic of Vietnam flag.

Work began on improving the road to the district capital.

Native villagers who had left their homes during the VC reign returned. The market place was crowded again. Children ran in the streets.

"You live with the people . . . advise them . . . you become one of them."

Captain Donald E. Dick, senior advisor with Mobile Advisory Team (MAT) 42, was commenting on his mission and that of his team members.

"We are basically interested in security," Captain Dick said.

The proximity of the Government of Vietnam forces to the village has inspired enough confidence in the people for them to return to their homes, clean up the village and improve their road. An Quang Huu is returning to normal.

"We received 14 Hoi Chanh in five days," said Captain Dick. "The reason? They've wanted to return to control of the South Vietnamese government under the Chieu Hoi program but, without security, they were afraid."

Captain Dick and his team members, First Lieutenant Kenneth Kron, assistant senior advisor, and Sergeant First Class James High, light weapons advisor, had been working in An Quang Huu for several days.

The team members performed their mission: "Advising and instructing Regional and Popular Forces within Tra Cu District," Captain Dick explained.

"This includes such things as field fortifications, barrier systems, adjustment of indirect fire, small unit tactics, medical evacuation, weapons implantation and training."

The advisors, going out on every operation with the RF/PF at first "felt they were firing too high and didn't use the correct firing positions," Captain Dick remarked.

"So we concentrated on teaching them the basic positions. We developed a field fire course for them to zero their weapons."

"We made sighting bars out of local materials — tin and wood — to use during our rifle training."

According to Captain Dick, supplies are received primarily through Vietnamese channels. "We have a mission in this area also," he said. "This is advising and assisting the Vietnamese in improving their administrative and logistical support."

The MAT Team advisors live in a village hut with the Vietnamese forces they advise. They begin the day with a sweep of the road to Tra Cu.

"We found a 20-kilo mine on the road this morning," said Captain Dick. "The Viet Cong lost a mine and we gained one. It did absolutely no damage. This is important."

The advisors accompany the RF/PF on night ambushes. "We've been sniped at every night. The VC, I think, are just letting us know they are still around," commented Captain Dick.

Major Sloan said, "After we have completed the work in this village we will move on to other villages in the district. We hope to open all the roads to the nine villages."

So MAT Team 42's work in An Quang Huu was only a beginning. In the weeks and months to come they will extend their mission to other hamlets and villages.

There is always work to be done. It is demanding work. The members of MAT Team 42 have focused all their energies and efforts to meet those demands.

Story & Photos By
SP5 Joe De Priest, USA
&
Sgt. E. J. Sargent, USMC



A PF soldier field strips an M-16 under the supervision of Lt. Kron's watchful eye.



The women sew and make clothing while the men defend.



Village children listen attentively in school where Rangers serve as part-time teachers.

ARVN Rangers Fight And Build

PHU LOC (USA) — The 21st ARVN Rangers are one of the great hopes in South Vietnam's quest for peace. Like the Minutemen of the American Revolution, they are building for the future. They stand alert and ready to defend their land and homes against the enemy.

Home for the 21st Rangers is the hamlet of Phu Loc, seven miles northwest of Da Nang. Commander of the distinguished unit is Major Vo Vang, one of the nation's most highly decorated heroes.

Phu Loc is a growing, progressive community in which the rangers build as well as protect their homes and families. The soldiers have erected a new community center, church and school to continue their children's education. They even teach in the school when they are not on combat operations.

Off-duty life in the hamlet is astir with activity. Wives and daughters sew and make clothing for the family while husbands build and teach. For just a moment, the war is far away.

The village's security demands a constant alert status, however.

The company commander having local security duty for the day is responsible for giving instructions for sweeps around the hamlet and for posting of the night sentries.

The rangers realize that vigilance is a part of the war. Yet they continue to find time to build a better way of life for the future.

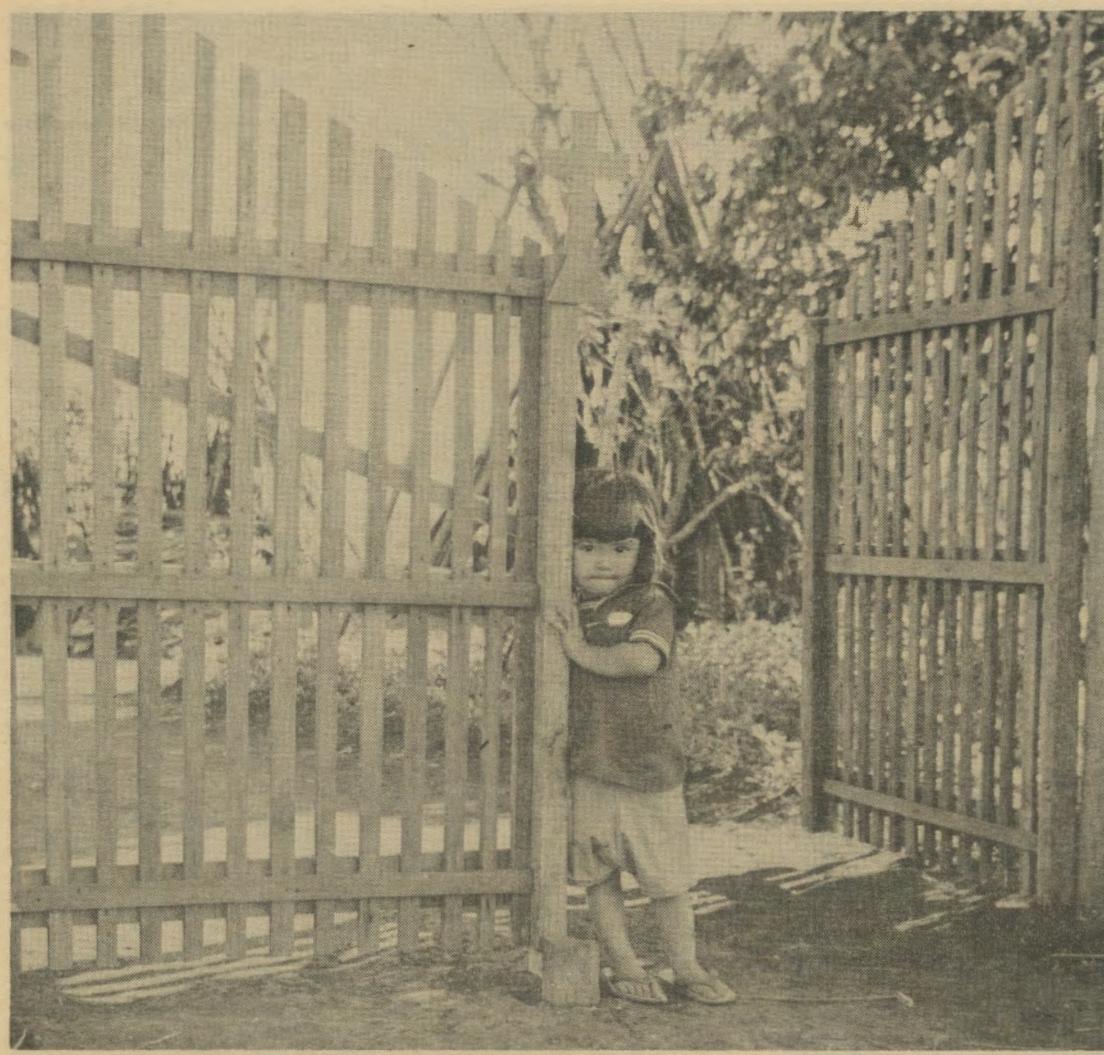
Story & Photos
By
GySgt Harold Shipp, USMC



A ranger lends a hand to an injured friend. Their task is the defense of their hamlet.



When not on combat operations, the men of the 21st Rangers spend their time constructing homes, a church and a school for the children of Phu Loc.



A tiny girl greets soldiers bringing books to La Son Orphanage in the Central Highlands.

During MEDCAP Operation

Students 'Take Over' For GIs

LONG BINH (USA) — Two 199th Light Infantry Brigade medics conducting a MEDCAP (Medical Civic Action Program) for civilians were surprised recently when South Vietnamese students took over and ran the operation as the medics looked on.

"We thought we were going to have a routine MEDCAP," said Private First Class Donald Wood, "when a busload of Vietnamese students pulled up and took over right under our noses."

"This is actually the best MEDCAP I've pulled," Specialist 4 David H. Laughrie said as he stood, looking somewhat helplessly, in the treatment room of a Catholic seminary

They Train For Future

QUI NHON (USA) — Six Vietnamese women are attending a nurses' aid training program initiated recently by the 85th Evacuation Hospital (Semi-Mobile) here.

Chief instructor is Sergeant First Class David Singer, a 20-year veteran and wardmaster of a surgical intensive care unit in the hospital.

Eligibility to attend the new course was determined by the students' previous performance as ward attendants.

"We're here for a year and then gone," said Sergeant Singer. "Why not teach capable individuals the responsibility of being nurses' aids, with the hope that lessons learned will be passed to others?"

With the help of a Vietnamese interpreter, the class learns in the three-week course to make occupied and unoccupied beds, take pulse and temperature readings and practice general hygiene.

The successful nurses' aids will return to the wards after completing the course.

near Saigon.

The 15 Vietnamese students were from high schools and universities in Saigon and belonged to a voluntary service organization called Congregation Mariale Universitaire. Their president, Dr. Ta Thanh Minh, said approximately 150 students have volunteered their free time for work to help needy countrymen. Most are pre-med, medical, or pharmacy students who devote Saturday afternoons to service at various locations near Saigon.

While Specialist Laughrie and PFC Wood observed, the students lined up the patients, interviewed them, diagnosed ailments and prescribed and administered treatment as well as medicine and advice.

"We think only of helping our poor people," said Dr. Ta. "Vietnam is a poor country and we try to do what we can for our people, even though we are limited by resources." Dr. Ta said that medical supplies are difficult to get and, further, "We've lost a lot of male members because of military obligation. Two-thirds of the volunteers are girls."

In addition to their own MEDCAPs, the students take part in organizing social activities among the underprivileged. Students have also visited leprosy colonies and distributed gifts to orphans.

Money for activities is raised through fund drives, by showing movies, from contributions, and from the apostolic delegation of the John Baptiste de la Salle mission in Saigon. The 199th Infantry Brigade's 4th Battalion, 12th Infantry, provides the group with medical supplies each week for the MEDCAP.

Nguyen Thi Nguyet, a sixth year medical student at Saigon University, says that, "The association not only gives us an opportunity to help our own people, but does so in a way in which most of us can use our medical knowledge. We consult directly with the people and

learn their problems firsthand."

An attractive first-year French language student, Tran Thi Nhan sees her non-medical field of study as no hindrance to her desire to help. "I always wondered what I could do for my country in its distress," she said. "This program gives me a chance to do something for my people."

The men of Company E, 704th Maintenance Battalion, commanded by Major Charles H. Grayson, came to this opportunity by other means, but they too are now fully integrated

Children Receive A Helping Hand

CAMP ENARI (USA) — A stranger to compassion might not have understood the author who said, "A man never stands so tall as when he stoops to help a child."

But, the tiny orphans of La Son see a giant no matter which way they turn. They understand.

Hungry, sad and in ill health, the youngsters have come from all over Vietnam — both North and South — to this small village in the Central Highlands, only a few miles from Pleiku.

Their hunger is being stilled, their health problems are being treated, and their smiling faces say even the sadness may be going away.

Father Minh is taking care of them with a helping hand from a group of concerned 4th Infantry Division soldiers.

The children's admiration for these men is expressed in their voices. Phur, an eight-year-old boy orphaned by a Viet Cong terrorist attack, asked the Father to, "...help me, give food, teach school."

Despite his plight, Phur is thankful to the "tall" people for what they are doing to help him. The bright-eyed youngster said, "GIs nice to us, build us school, give candy."

Father Minh, a Catholic priest educated at Hanoi University in his native North Vietnam, traveled the towns and village of Vietnam until he found La Son had a need for him.

The men of Company E, 704th Maintenance Battalion, commanded by Major Charles H. Grayson, came to this opportunity by other means, but they too are now fully integrated

into the development of the La Son Orphanage and its 150 children.

Recently the men presented 385 books for use in educating the youngsters. The books, for grades one through seven, include the same subjects children throughout the world are studying.

"I made the trip to Saigon to purchase the text books," explained Warrant Officer Walter Emery, "because we thought this was the most pressing problem facing us."

Although the school might be considered complete by Vietnamese standards, the American soldiers aren't satisfied and are planning to step up their aid program.

"We finished the school building in late summer," said Major Grayson, "but we feel there is still work to be done so we intend to make improvements."

Those 4th Division Infantrymen not able to visit La Son have still maintained a deep interest in the project and have contributed more than \$1,000 to help keep the orphanage in operation.

Soon, Company E's aid will extend into the school's curriculum.

"We are searching now for the right man in our company to come out here three days a week to assist Father Minh with English lessons," explained Mr. Emery. "The Father speaks adequate English, but has told us he needs someone who speaks it well."

"There are several college graduates in Company E and we already have enough volunteers to fill several schools," smiled the major.

To the orphans of La Son, Father Minh and his American friends stand tall. They have stooped to help a child.

Hawaiian Soap Brightens VN Village

LAI KHE (USA) — Through the courtesy of the Chinese Junior Chamber of Commerce in Honolulu, 3,000 bars of soap have been donated to residents of the village of Long Vinh, about five miles south of here.

Captain Edward M. L. Yee of Honolulu, the civil affairs officer for 3rd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, contacted Mr. Glenn Chang, a friend of his with the Honolulu Jaycees, and told him of the shortage of soap among the Vietnamese.

"Almost immediately, the campaign to round up the soap was started and the people displayed great enthusiasm for the project," reported Captain Yee.

The soap traveled to Vietnam aboard a jet to Bien Hoa Airbase, where it was picked up by 3rd Brigade representatives and taken to Lai Khe.

From Lai Khe, a team headed by First Lieutenant Thomas Shannon took the soap to the village. Children gathered quickly around the American soldiers, as they nearly always do when the men enter a village.

Nearly everyone in the area eagerly tried to get one of the sweet-smelling soap cakes before the supply was exhausted.

The soap distribution was only one phase of an extensive civil affairs program conducted by the 3rd Brigade. Medical Civic Action Programs have frequently operated in the Ben Cat complex of hamlets which includes Long Vinh.



First Lieutenant Thomas Shannon distributes soap in Long Vinh.



BUNKER BUNNY OF THE WEEK — Sez, "Don't take on more than you can handle. In order to make life more memorable and pleasant, don't overcommit your resources. An inability to meet your obligation can cause a great deal of embarrassment. It can even ruin your career, home life and future. So remember, practice moderation and good judgement if you intend to use credit to meet your Christmas obligations." (PHOTO COURTESY OF PETER GOWLAND)

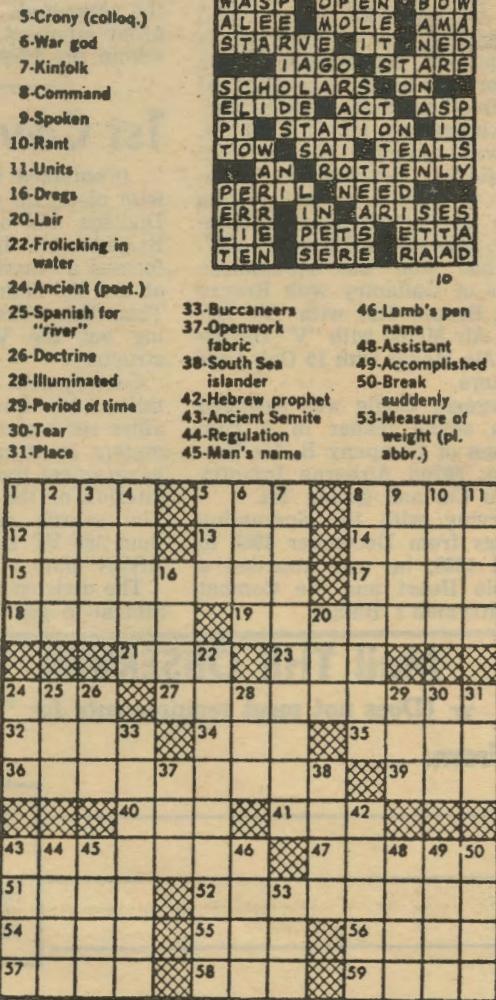


ISN'T THAT CUTE *ooo*
10 LBS OF PLASTIC EXPLOSIVES

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Answer to Previous Puzzle

ACROSS
1-Wine cups
5-Equality
8-Philippine Moslem
12-Clan
13-Exist
14-Island off Ireland
15-Correspond to
17-Part of church
18-Gravestone
19-Seats on horses
21-French plural article
23-Afternoon party
24-Silk worm
27-Slivers of wood
32-Speech impediment
34-54 (Roman number)
35-Great Lake
36-Controls
39-Suitable
40-Things, in law
41-Total
43-Inhale and exhale
47-Burdens
51-Relative
52-False impression
54-Century plant
55-Penpoint
56-Girl's name
57-Fewer
58-Aeriform fluid
59-Leak through



DOWN
1-Snakes
2-Flesh
3-Land measure
4-Bog down

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BEFORE GOING on R & R, leave, TDY, or returning to CONUS, personnel should visit the dispensary at least 20 days in advance of departure date to insure that immunizations are up-to-date.

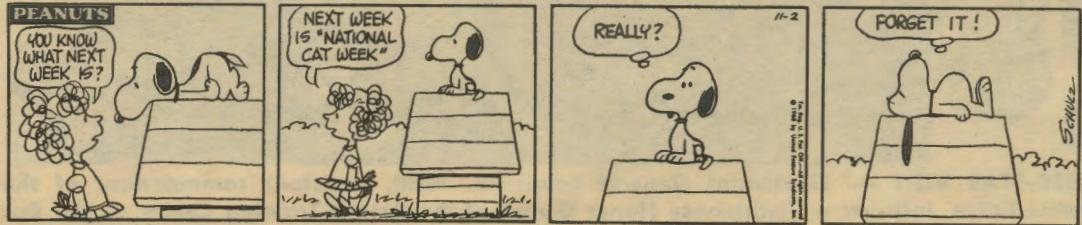
Beetle Bailey

By Mort Walker



Peanuts

By Charles M. Schulz



A Welcome Addition To 1st Infantry Troops

DI AN (USA) — Le Van Det, a Kit Carson Scout, has become an outstanding addition to the 1st Infantry Division's 2nd Battalion, 18th Infantry.

Three years ago, Mr. Det, then a Viet Cong rifleman with two

25th Finds VC Hosp.

DAU TIENG (USA) — A deserted rubber plantation 50 miles northwest of Saigon yielded a sprawling Viet Cong hospital complex with the capacity for an enemy battalion.

The hospital also housed a massive munitions factory in which the enemy used to manufacture hand grenades and bangalore torpedoes.

The 200 bunker complex, interlaced with numerous tunnels, was filled with more than 1,000 pounds of medical supplies. Four enemy bodies still lay inside, apparently left behind as the enemy left. It was estimated that the hospital and arms shop had been deserted for less than a week.

The complex was discovered by Company B, 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry, as they conducted a reconnaissance-in-force in an area approximately 11 kilometers west of Dau Tieng.

The 25th Infantry Division unit discovered an assortment of small items including a typewriter and nine bicycles.

"Apparently they were driven out by our artillery fire, or they had to abandon the complex for lack of manpower," said Captain Lawrence F. Rubino, company commander.

decorations for valor, went into Ben Cat, the village of his youth, and turned himself over to government troops.

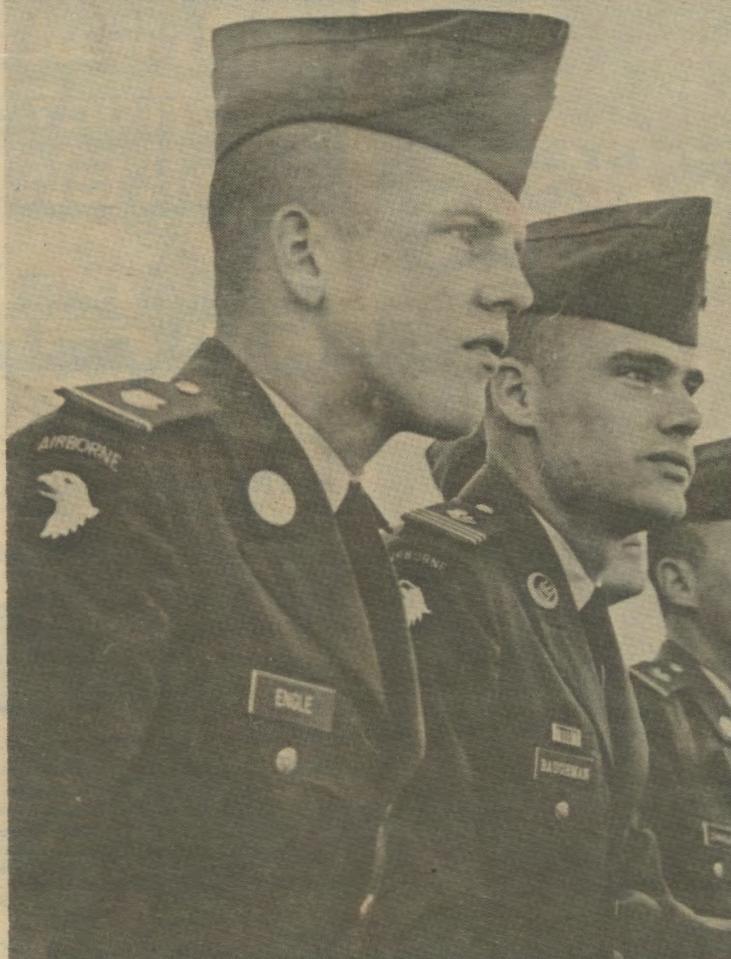
"When I was a boy in Ben Cat, I did not understand things yet," says Mr. Det. "The Viet Cong came into the village and I did what I was told." Responding to pressure, he became an active member of a local VC force.

During the months he has been a scout with the 1st Infantry Division unit, Mr. Det has displayed a knowledge of the enemy which could only have been acquired by having been one of them himself. In the heat of a battle, Mr. Det will go running forward alone, racing right around the enemy's lines of fire. He knows just where they can fire and where they cannot. He can singlehandedly silence enemy firing positions and lead his comrades through safe avenues of approach.

"He saved my life on several occasions, particularly once when he pointed out a mine I was about to step on," said Private First Class Christopher Podgus, an infantryman with the battalion. "I saw him personally blow three live bunkers which were spraying automatic fire during a recent contact," he added.

On another occasion, while a 1st Infantry Division company was moving forward, Mr. Det observed three enemy moving along the flank of his platoon. Without hesitating, he moved ahead and engaged them. His squad leader reported seeing two fall and the third disappear into the brush.

During the day-long battle which followed, he continually moved through heavy enemy fire to assist in any way he could.



Two former Screaming Eagles, Sergeants Engle (left) and Baughman, watch a football game at the United States Military Academy Preparatory School, Ft. Belvoir, Va.

(USA PHOTO)

West Point Is Goal Of Ex-Screaming Eagles

CAMP EAGLE (USA) — Aiming at admission to West Point next summer, two Vietnam veterans of the 101st Airborne Division are continuing their educations at the United States Military Academy Preparatory School at Ft. Belvoir, Va.

Staff Sergeant Michael W. Baughman and Sergeant Thomas D. Engle are undergoing intensive study in English, mathematics and military subjects. The school provided 121 students for the Academy's plebe class this year.

Sergeant Baughman served with the 101st from December 1967 to July 1968 as a squad leader and platoon sergeant in Company E, 1st Battalion, 502nd Airborne Infantry, operating at Landing Zone Sally north of Hue.

On a previous tour in Vietnam, he was assigned to the 52nd Pathfinder Detachment from May to July 1966 and to the 170th Assault Helicopter Company, July 1966 to February 1967. He has won the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Bronze Star, Bronze Star with "V" Device, Air Medal with "V" Device and Air Medal with 15 Oak Leaf Clusters.

Sergeant Engle was assigned as a squad leader in a rifle platoon of Company B, 1st Battalion, 502nd Airborne Infantry at Cu Chi and Quang Tri.

Serving with the Screaming Eagles from December 1967 to April 1968, he was awarded a Purple Heart and the Combat Infantryman's Badge.

Quotas Up In Prep School

FORT SHAFTER, HAWAII (USARPAC) — Many more Army enlisted men assigned to the Pacific area will have the opportunity to enter the U.S. Military Academy Preparatory School during 1969.

The West Point Cadet Corps has been enlarged and the Department of the Army has taken this opportunity to increase its Preparatory School quotas for outstanding enlisted men.

There are no hard and fast rules which apply for admission to the school. Basic standards, however, are set forth in Army Regulation 350-55. No tests of any kind are required. After interview and endorsement by his commander, application is made to the USMA Preparatory School, Fort Belvoir, Va., where the individual students are selected on the basis of their records.

Courses at the school prepare students to compete for appointments to West Point and provide additional preparation for those who win appointments to the Academy.

The program will be actively supported within U.S. Army, Pacific, with strong encouragement from General Ralph E. Haines Jr., USARPAC commander-in-chief.

Cadet enrollment at West Point is expected to increase to more than 4,000. More qualified enlisted men will find an opportunity to enter the USMA Prep School and compete for an appointment to the Academy.

Commanders at all levels will be the primary contact point for those enlisted men who wish to enter Prep School. Only men with outstanding motivation and qualification can achieve the objective, but there are great numbers of such soldiers within the USARPAC ranks.

1st Cav...

(Continued from Page 1) with elements of the 1st ARVN Division and a unit of the 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division, formed a massive cordon aimed at the My Chanh District in the Thua Thien Province and weeding out the Viet Cong infrastructure.

Cavalrymen of the 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry, and their allies set a cordon some 16 kilometers in circumference, while government troops searched the interior of the cordon for VC. The search resulted in more than 300 VC killed by U.S. and ARVN units.

The division is now fully operational in the III Corps area.



THREE-STAR VISIT — Lieutenant General Lewis W. Walt, assistant commandant of the Marine Corps, inspects a Vietnamese Honor Guard at the Recruit Training Center at Thu Duc during his recent visit to the Saigon area.

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