723rd Maintenance Battalion
articles and etc. found in the Americal Division
Veteran's Association data base.

Above is the 723rd Maintenance Battalion crest.

723rd Maintenance Battalion Articles and related materials compiled from the Americal Division Veteran's Association (ADVA) database.

ADVA Historian for 2021 comments. Compilation documents have been made for veterans who might not have computer skills to search the extensive files for materials about their unit.

This document was made for veterans of the 723d Maintenance Battalion Battalion.

No issue of a 723rd Maintenance Battalion Newsletter has been located to date.., "Photos related to the 723rd Maintenance Battalion were inserted into this document from The Americal Division's Newspaper, the "Southern Cross". However there is a yearbook from 1969 for both the A,B,C,D companies and a yearbook for E Company for 1967 (406 T.C.), 1969 and 1970. There is one yearbook from 1969 for the men of A-D companies that include names and photos of 723rd Maintenance Battalion. E Company 723rd Maintenance Battalion was an aviation support unit. It was more closely associated with the support of the 123rd Combat Aviation Battalion. It was formed to allow direct support maintenance to be performed as the 406th T.C. unit was not authorized. There was a 1967 14th Aviation yearbook for the 406th T.C. Roadrunners. Also there was a 1968 123rd Aviation Battalion yearbook with a section for E/723rd Maintenance. And there was a 1970 16th Combat Aviation Group album with photos from E/723rd Maintenance Battalion. Maps of the Americal AO are available, but not part of the compilation. Other general information that relates to all units of the Americal Division is in the ADVA data base.

Photos related to the 723rd Maintenance Artillery Battalion inserted into the document. These will come from the Americal Public Information Office, mainly came from the weekly "Southern Cross" newspaper.

There are Division and Artillery Operation Reports and Lessons Learned Reports. And Operation reports that can provide insight to the movements of the unit. These will not be incorporated into this document. They can be reviewed online at the AmericalFoundation.ORG website or the Americal Division Portal at the Vietnam Archives at the Texas Tech. University website.

At the end of this document I have inserted examples of Americal Division S2/S3 entries related to the 723rd Maintenance Battalion to illustrate what might be available in the 50 months of Americal Division S2/S3 reports. We also have some S2/S3 reports from the some of the infantry Battalions, but they are not available online. Copies can be requested from the ADVA historian.

A connection will always exist between the veterans who served with Americal Division to the 723rd Maintenance Battalion who among other things repaired our weapons when they broke down.

Stanton Order of Battle Vietnam reference book documentation on the 723rd Maintenance Battalion.

723rd Maintenance Battalion
(Divisional)

Arrived Vietnam: 15 February 1969
Departed Vietnam: 24 November 1971
Previous Station: Vietnam

Authorized Strength	**1969**	**1970**
	298	854

The 723rd Maintenance Battalion served with the 23rd Infantry Division (Americal) during its service in Vietnam.

UNIT CITATIONS AWARDED
TO 723rd Maintenance Battaliion

SOURCE: Department of the Army Pamphlet 762-3

Unit Citation and Campaign Participation Credit Register
(1960-1978) Dated: May 1980

Awards:

723rd Maintenance Bn
RVNGC24 Aug 69 - 31 Dec 69 DAGO 42, 1972
RVNGC31 Mar 70 - 30 Jun 70 DAGO 42, 1972

Hqs & Co A, 723rd Mtn Bn
MUC1 Jan 68 - 31 Aug 69 DAGO 53, 1970
RVNGC1 Apr 71 - 30 Jun 71 DAGO 6, 1974

Co B, 723rd Mtn Bn
MUC15 Feb 69 - 31 Aug 69 DAGO 53, 1970

Co C, 723rd Mtn Bn
MUC15 Feb 69 - 31 Aug 69 DAGO 53, 1970

Co D, 723rd Mtn Bn
MUC15 Feb 69 - 31 Aug 69 DAGO 53, 1970

Less Co E, 723rd Mtn Bn
MUC1 Sep 69 - 31 Jan 71 DAGO 32, 1973
MUC1 Feb 71 - 27 Nov 71 DAGO 32, 1973

Co E, 723rd Mtn Bn
RVNGC24 Aug 69 - 31 Dec 69 DAGO 42, 1972
RVNGC31 Mar 70 - 30 Jun 70 DAGO 42, 1972
RVNGC8 Feb 71 - 31 Mar 71 DAGO 42, 1972
RVNGC1 Apr 71 - 30 Jun 71 DAGO 6, 1974

ABBREVIATIONS:
DAGO: Department of the Army General Order
RVNGC: Republic Of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation
MUC: U.S. Army Meritorious Unit Citation

Operations 723rd Maintenance Battalion:

Operation Finney Hill
Operation Iron Mountain
Operation Frederick Hill
Operation Caroline Hill
Operation Lamar Plain

This list might not be relevant because there are so many operations not listed that should be. The 723 supported almost every unit in every operation. Those listed specifically mentioned the 723rd Maint. Bn. in the operation reports on file.

list update could be continued using the Operation Reports and Lessons Learned (ORLL) report file created for the Americal Division artillery unit article compilation effort.

This section is made up of articles from the Army Reporter.

The largest Army newspaper in the world

THE ARMY REPORTER is published weekly under the supervision of the Information Office. United States Army Vietnam and is an authorized Army publication. The command newspaper has a circulation of 85,000 and is printed by **PACIFIC STARS AND STRIPES** in Tokyo, Japan.

Opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army. This newspaper utilizes the facilities of the ARMED FORCES NEWS BUREAU and ARMY NEWS FEATURES. Contributions are welcome and may be sent to: THE ARMY REPORTER, USARV-IO, APO 96375 or telephone Long Binh 4204/4311.

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14Sep68-**Club is first in north**

Sandpiper hits I Corps scene

CHU LAI (AMERICAL) -

The first service club in Vietnam's I Corps, the Sandpiper, opened recently under the auspices of special services at the Americal Division's **723rd Maintenance Battalion** in Chu Lai.

Major General Charles M. Gettys, Americal Division commander, spoke briefly at the opening ceremonies, congratulating all concerned for a job well done, then cut the colorful ceremonial ribbon. Miss Jackie Sykes, the club director, led the general on a tour of the Sandpiper while the Americal Division band played popular tunes outside, keeping the mood festive.

Miss Sykes described the Sandpiper as "a colorful, comfortable 7,500 square feet equipped with three pool tables, a ping pong table and shuffleboard, all sorts of games, books and magazines." She added, "The three air-conditioned music rooms will probably attract a lot of overheated soldiers into taking up a musical instrument, even if they haven't already done so."

"We'll have something every night," said Jackie, "a film, bingo or tournaments. On a monthly basis, we should be offering USO shows and special activities."

Americal's **160th Engineer Detachment** contributed the major portion of the construction. Many manhours, however were volunteered by division headquarters troops, sailors, Marines and Koreans.

Just a few buildings from the Sandpiper stands the Charger Hotel, an area for the 196th Brigade infantrymen between missions. Thus, the recreation center is also conveniently available to the field troops.

HOW 'BOUT A LIFT? said the LOH to the Huey. A crew member of an Americal Division rescue ship connects a sling to the main rotor socket of a disabled observation helicopter. The LOH rotor blade had been removed to facilitate airlift to Chu Lai. (The white tail cone section and the caption may point to this being the "Roadrunner" recovery ship from E/723rd Maint. Bn. (123rd Avn Bn.)

Army Reporter
08Mar71 **Operation buddy** Page 3

Viets acquire MOS skills

CHU LAI - For quite some time Sfc. Pham Van Diem has been a good Giam Dinh Quan Xa for the 813th ARVN (Army of the Republic of Vietnam) Ordnance Co. Today he is an even better vehicle inspector thanks to his participation in the 23rd Infantry Division's **Operation Buddy**.

Diem is one of 69 soldiers from the ARVN I Corps Logistics Command in Quang Ngai City who have participated in the program since its inception two months ago. "Operation Buddy" is designed to give Vietnamese troops further training on equipment used in their military occupational specialties.

Living and working with the men of **Hq. and Co. A, 723rd Maintenance Bn.** and the **57th Trans. Bn.** for a two-week period, the ARVNs learn U.S. Army methods of organizational maintenance and direct support activities.

To date, Operation Buddy has provided on-the-job training in small arms repair, typewriter repair, generator repair, welding, wheeled vehicle maintenance and inspection, electronics equipment repair, bulk petroleum storage and issue and heavy equipment maintenance.

"Because of the language barrier, we frequently have to communicate with the ARVN's by the show and tell method," noted Spec. 5 Gerald L. Gates. An office machine repairman, Gates has two Vietnamese soldiers assigned to work with him during each training cycle.

"I visually point out the trouble with the equipment," he explained, "and then show them how you go about correcting the problem. So far they've all picked up what I'm trying to teach them really well."

"The ARVNs are uptight about their work and came prepared to learn," commented Spec. 4 Thomas J. Holman, a radio repairman with the **57th Trans. Bn**.

"The program has made our men feel very important," said Staff Sgt. Luong Tri Huong. "They are all very interested in their jobs and eager to learn and improve their skills."

Huong is one of three interpreters from the ARVN liaison office in Chu Lai assigned to Operation Buddy.

Observers have noted the enthusiasm of the Vietnamese as being the key to the success of the program.

"The ARVNs have constantly attempted to make the most of the program and in doing so have made our men more eager to teach them," noted Capt. Philip C. Schlachter, project officer for the **723rd Bn**.

"This has proven to be a fine and valuable program," added Lt. Col. Frank Francois, commanding officer of the **57th Trans. Bn**.

"As we have viewed it, it can work and is continuing to work for the benefit of both ARVN and American forces. I would expect increasing participation in the program as we continue to phase down because it has proven its usefulness in terms of the transfer of American force operations to the Vietnamese," Francois concluded.

CHU LAI - Take five able-bodied men, give them some time, a little working material and what do you get? Another company club? A roof for their outdoor theater? A volleyball court? A chapel?

A chapel? Unlikely as it may seem, in what many people consider an age of creeping materialism, five men of **Hq.** and **Co. A, 723rd Maintenance Bn**., pooled their off-hour resources and built a company chapel.

Under the direction of Sfc. John G. Saldivar, the men volunteered their services to construct the 30-seat interdenominational chapel.

"The chapel we used to go to was too far away from the company," Saldivar explained, "and with this chapel we don't have to be away from our work area for so long."

It took the men two months to complete the stained, wood-paneled chapel. The chapel is one of but a handful of air-conditioned religious facilities for American troops in the Republic of Vietnam.

In addition to working together on the chapel, the five men - Spec. 5 Alfred Jones, Spec. 4 Daniel Oviedo, Spec. 4 William Rockford, Spec. 4 James Williams and Spec. 5 James Winn - are in close contact on their regular job. They all are employed in the **armament section** of the **723rd**.

Army Reporter

13Dec71- **Americal units complete standdown Page 12**

By MSG Bill Pickett

CHU LAI - The actual standdown of the 23d Inf. Div. (Americal) was accomplished Nov. 27, when the division command group escorted the colors to Fort Lewis, Washington for the official deactivation of the unit and retirement of the colors.

The action brought to a close an enormous redeployment task which began in earnest with the announcement of the standdown of the **3d Bn. 18th Arty**. and the **71st Assault Helicopter Company** on Sept. 8.

Planning for the entire operation began much earlier under the supervision of the Keystone Operations Center whose personnel were responsible for the coordination and scheduling of all standdown activities.

A personnel out-processing center was established adjacent to the Chu Lai Airfield, and this operation, although deterred one day when Typhoon Hester leveled the center, averaged 200 persons per day through its doors, destined for reassignment in-country or return to CONUS for further assignment or ETS.

Also in September, units of the **23d Med. Bn**. and maintenance and engineer companies began standdown, many utilizing the facilities of the Division Combat Center of [or?] the former **27th Surgical Hospital** area through which most of the division members would pass during their standdown period. These locations were provided exchange and club facilities to serve Americal soldiers during their standdown.

On Sept. 17 **H Troop, 17th Cav**. began its standdown, and during October most maneuver elements of the division also began their standdown operations.

It was during this period that Task Force Americal began to take shape under the command of Col. Robert J. Malley, former DIS COM commander. Mission of Task Force Americal (TFA) was to prevent the enemy from establishing bases from which to rocket Chu Lai Combat Base and to keep the enemy from massing troops for attack.

Between Oct. 24 and 30, those units of Division Artillery which had not begun standdown were returned to rear areas to begin processing, and on Oct. 30 Headquarters and Headquarters Battery of Division Artillery closed out its mission as it received standdown instructions.

The 1st Bn., 6th Inf.--which had been replaced in the mountains west of Chu Lai by **the 3d Bn., 21st Inf**. -- became the last infantry maneuver element to commence standdown when it was ordered to the rear on the last day of October.

Division support units, including the **23d Supply and Transportation Bn., 26th Engineer Bn, 723d Maintenance Bn**. and **Division Support Command** began standdown during the first week in November.

Division Headquarters and Headquarters Company was the final unit to conduct standdown activities, and as the colors were escorted to COMUS [CONUS?] late in November, only the 196th Inf. Bde., under the command of Brigadier General Joseph C. McDonough remains.

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Field Enterprises
PACIFIC
STARS AND STRIPES

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The appearance of displays in this newspaper concerning commercial publications does not constitute an endorsement by the Department of Defense, the Military Departments or the Commander-in-Chief, Pacific.

Pacific Stars & Stripes

14Jul69-**Masons to Meet**

The Chu Lai by the Sea, Square and Compass Club, Free and Accepted Masons, are holding regular meetings on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month at 3 p.m. in the Americal Div. Court Room. Bring your dues card and visit, as many Lodges are represented and yours is invited. For further information contact: CWO Don Talbot, A Co., 723rd Maint. Bn., Chu Lai, Tel. 3270.

Pacific Stars & Stripes
01Apr71 Page 7
Thursday

5 Armorers Build 30-Seat Act of Faith

CHU LAI, Vietnam (Special) – Take five able-bodied men, give them some time, a little working material and what do you get? Another company club? A roof for their outdoor theater? A volleyball court? A chapel?

A chapel?

Unlikely as it may seem, in what many people consider an age of materialism, five men of **Hq2. and A Co., 723rd Maintenance Bn.**, pooled their off-hour resources and built a company chapel.

Under the direction of St. 1.C. John G. Saldivar the men volunteered their services to construct the 30 seat interdenominational chapel.

"The chapel we used to go to was too far away from the company," Saldivar explained, "and with this chapel we don't have to be away from our work area for so long."

It took the men two months to complete the stained wood-paneled chapel. The chapel is one of but a handful of air-conditioned religious facilities for American troops in the Republic of Vietnam.

In addition to working together on the chapel, the five men – Spec. 5 Alfred Jones, Spec. 4 Daniel Oviedo, Spec. 4 William Rockford, Spec. 4 James Williams, and Spec. 5 James Winn, are in close contact on their regular job. They all are employed in the armament section of the **723rd Maintenance Bn**.

Whether it is due to a sudden influx of religious spirit on the part of the men in the company, the chapel's strategic location – directly across from the company mess hall – or the air-conditioner, the fact remains that church attendance is up.

Pacific Stars & Stripes

06Oct71 – Page 7

Top Kick Kashner: He's a Tough, Fair 'Lifer'

By PO 3.C. ROBERT JOFFEE
S&S Staff Correspondent

CHU LAI, Vietnam – the First Sergeant's heavy voice and no-nonsense manner doesn't belie his 23 years in the Army but then George Kashner says he doesn't want to appear as anything but a "lifer".

Kashner assumed his post as top sergeant in **Hq. Co. of the Americal Div.'s 723rd Maintenance Bn.** in February. At that time, he said, the unit was plagued with drug abuse, insubordination and racial discord.

Heroin was the root cause of the unit's problems, he said; "and if you want to cut down on heroin use, you have to eliminate the source: the pusher."

Kashner made personal calls at the offices of the Criminal Investigative Division, the Provost Marshal and the Judge Advocate here. Within six months five men in the unit had been referred to general courts martial.

Three of the cases still are pending and one was dismissed, but the fifth resulted in a sentence to five years' hard labor and a bad-conduct discharge.

"That conviction really made an impression on this unit and the company commander, it showed we meant business."

Other steps were taken to remove men the Top calls "duds" from the unit through administrative as well as legal action.

Kashner admitted his approach is heavy-handed but added that he uses as much tact as possible. "I always say you shouldn't just tell a man to go to hell," he said. "You should tell him in a way that will make him look forward to the trip."

Pfc. Jackie Washington, a ration truck driver whom the Top busted to his present rank from Spec. 4, has caught on to the tactic. "The First always seems to be trying to help," he said, "but he's always suspicious."

Washington was busted for being AWOL in Da Nang, where he was trying to get out of the 723rd and back into his old unit. He is now trying to help a friend avoid a transfer.

"I've got the job I want, and I'll make Spec. 4 again next week," he said. Ï still don't like it here, but at least they know me as a man of my word and they're giving me some respect."

"Washington and I pretty well hate each other," said Kashner, "but he's doing a good job and he knows he'll get a fair deal from me."

The first sergeant tries to give his men a fair deal. He has air-conditioned their club and arranged for them to get time off to use their day room and go to the beach.

Kashner works 14 to 20 hours a day because, as he said, "You have to be available at all times if your men need you."

Only wary respect, however, is a likely reward for the Top's dedication.

"I'm used to this unit now but it's a big change from anything I've had in the Army before," said Washington.

"I can read the Top now and the Top can read me," he said. "But he knows if he slips, I'm going to give it to him."

Photo Caption: 1ST SGT. GEORGE KASHNER

Pacific Stars & Stripes
14Oct71 – Page 6 Thursday

Angry Viets Delay Convoy

DA NANG, Vietnam (AP) – A U.S. Army convoy forced a minibus full of disabled Vietnamese Veterans off a road south of here **Tuesday** ***[12OCT71],*** injuring eight. A crowd of Vietnamese held the whole six-truck convoy for more than eight hours and demanded reparations.

The veterans had been returning southward from the funeral here of Nguyen Ngoc Tan, leader of an antigovernment faction of disabled veterans who was killed by a gunman during demonstrations Sunday.

Authorities said the convoy from the Americal Div., was traveling northward Tuesday morning on route 1 seven miles south of Da Nang when the three-wheeled minibus was forced off the road.

Other vehicles with veterans returning from the funeral were in the area and reportedly took over the trucks, releasing the 14 Americans manning the convoy.

Americal Div. helicopters lifted out the injured for medical treatment.

A crowd of about 100 veterans and civilians surrounded the vehicles and demanded that U.S. authorities pay nearly $10,000 in damages.

Later negotiators, including U.S. military officers, military police and the local province chief had worked the sum down to about $700.

In Saigon, a U.S. command spokesman said the money paid was a solarium-expression of sorrow—and not compensation. He said any payment of claims from the incident would take time and be made after investigation and processing.

The spokesman, Maj. Richard Gardner, said one of the trucks of the U.S. convoy "ran into the rear" of the funeral procession at about 11 a.m. on a road south of Da Nang.

He said three Vietnamese were seriously injured and five more sustained minor injuries.

[Historian Note: Americal Division Tactical Operations Center report for 12OCT71 entry# 23: 23d Inf, LT Wilson, PMO, BT093596, 121050H. 1xVN funeral procession was traveling S on QL#1, and a 23d S&T convoy consisting of 4xtrucks (semi), 3x2 ½ ton trk, 1x5 ton trk, 1xV-100 and 1x 1/4 ton trk (gun jeep). ***23 S&T convoy*** *has picked up* ***6xA/723 Maint Bn veh*** *consisting of 6xS&T (semi) which took up the rear of the 23 S&T convoy. All were mov N. The 1st lowboy fr* ***A/723 Maint Bn*** *forced a VN bus (Lambretta) off the road res in 4xVN civ WNB(E) to Hoi An and4xVN civ WNB(E) to DNG Hospital. VN vets let air out of one tire on lowboy and fired shots into the air. Concertina was placed around vehs & across road. 1xMP ptl (US) and 1xjeep w/3xpers fr MACV and 1xLOH on sta, they report a min of 14xUS are enclosed in concertina, neg civ in area. Vets claim 2.5 million P for bus & injured. Update: LOH over scene reports an est 100xvets still around concertina. They have 6xtractor and trailer trucks, 1xV-100, and 2xjeeps enclosedin concertina. US pers are gathered around V-100 which is last veh. Update: The vets claim they represent the injured people. The injured people claim that they do not. Update 1900H. Confrontation has terminated in 200,000 P paid, and170 cases of salad oil and 150 cases of CSM Food for Peace was paid. Convoy closed DNG at 1953H.*

This was found in the Americal Division Daily Newsheet:

AMERICAL NEWS SHEET
MG S.W. Koster, Commanding General
MAJ Gerald D. Hill jr., IO
Telephone: Chu Lai 3212 or 2414
This News Sheet is published daily under the supervision of the IO, Americal Division APO96374 as an authorized Army publication. This News Sheet is solely for personnel in the Americal Division and may not be duplicated or released to the news media.
Vol. 2. No. 44 Sunday June 2, 1968 MIRACLE WEATHER REPORT

Partly cloudy Monday with intermittent rain and thundershowers in the afternoon and evening. Winds east-northeasterly at 10 knots. High Monday 96. Low Monday night 76.

-------Americal Division News-------

ITENERARY FOR "THE MERCY ROCK SOUNDS"

From 2 June to 6 June, "The Mercy Rock Sounds", a popular jazz band will be appearing in the Chu Lai area.

2 June

0830	Arrival from Saigon
0900-1000	Meeting with AG,G1
1030-1230	Show Div Arty
1230-1330	Lunch Div Arty
1400-1600	Show 2nd Surg Hospt
1700-1900	Dinner Americal NCO Mess

3 June

0830-1030	Show LZ Baldy
1100-1230	Show Hill 29
1400-1600	Show Bunker Hill, D Co., 26th Eng Bn
1640-1730	Dinner 176th AVN, 14th AVN Bn area
1800-2000	Show 176th AVN, 14th AVN Bn area

4 June

0930-1130	Show USO
1200-1330	Lunch C Btry, 2d LAAM
1400-1600	Show C Btry, 2d LAAM
1630-1730	Dinner HHC 39th Eng Area
1800-2000	Show 39th Eng Bn Area

5 June

0930-1130	Show 23rd Med Bn Area
1200-1330	Lunch 23rd Med Bn Area
1430-1630	Show Duc Pho
1630-1730	Dinner Duc Pho
1830	Return to Chu Lai

6 June

0930-1130	Show 198th Area
1200-1330	Lunch Americal NCO Mess
1400-1600	Show **723d Maint** Area
1630-1730	Dinner Americal Combat Center
1800-2000	Show Americal Combat Center

These references to the 723rd Maint. Bn. came from the "Americal Magazine" This was the Americal Division Public Information quarterly publication that began in May 1968 and 12 issues later stopped after the division stood down in November 1971. Except for the first issue, all publications were printed with bright colorful presentations on glossy paper.

From the May 1968 issue of the Americal Magazine:
B&W photo - Man's hands shown tightening a bolt on a small engine with a crescent wrench. Photo credit - guerrant

The **Americal Support Command,** whose units provide operational support to elements of the Americal Division, was activated in Vietnam on December 8, 1967. It is comprised of the **23rd Supply and Transportation Battalion, 723rd Maintenance Battalion** and the 23rd Medical Battalion.

The **23rd Supply and Transportation Battalion** supports the division and attached units by providing a controlled flow of supplies and essential goods. The battalion is commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Hiram K. Tompkins.

Lieutenant Colonel William H. Alfonte commands the **723rd Maintenance Battalion** which supports field maintenance operations on much of the division's material. Personnel are well-trained in numerous areas of equipment service and preventative maintenance.

Division-level medical service as well as unit level support on an area basis is directed by Lieutenant Colonel William S. Augerson, commander of Americal's 23rd Medical Battalion.

The multi-battalion support force is headed by Colonel Robert M. Rose with headquarters in Chu Lai. Members of the Americal Support Command are not only giving vital assistance to units of the division through medical, supply and transportation duties but they are currently forming a band to fulfill the division's music needs.

Americal Division Magazine - Fall, 1968

THE 196th TAKES STAND-DOWN

By SGT FRANK ELSTON
196th Inf. Bde

What does an infantryman dream about? Hot showers; thick steaks and beer; maybe just a chance to relax and forget about war for a while. And that's exactly what he's going to get if he's a "Charger" of the 196th Inf. Bde. on stand-down.

Periodically, every line company of the brigade is given a three-day respite from the rigors of the field and sent to Chu Lai for a short stay at the "Charger Hotel." There's no charge at the "Charger," and no extra duties for the men. All they are required to do is rest and enjoy themselves.

Bde. Special Services Officer 1LT Gerry Kohl explained the program. "During their stay, the infantrymen have a chance to relax, enjoy recreational facilities, replace or repair worn or damaged equipment, and iron out various financial and personnel problems they have."

After the men have left the helicopters that picked them up in the field, they board two-and-one-half ton trucks for the short trip to the stand-down center. The hotel staff greets the men and gives them a briefing on what to expect and where everything is located.

Weapons and equipment are then turned in for inspection by a detachment from the **723rd Maint. Bn** , and all defective items are repaired or replaced. In addition, a medical team from the **196th's C Co., 8th Spt. Bn.** is on hand to take care of any medical problems, and bring shot and medical records up to date.

In the afternoon, the men are offered the chance to visit someone many of them have not seen in a long, long time...the Chu Lai barber. After the haircut, the men have the rest of the day of to enjoy the varied activities available in the "Charger Hotel" area.

These include pool and ping pong tables, a basketball court, and an area for playing cards.

"The shower room also gets plenty of first-day use," said LT Kohl. "For most of the men, this is the only time they ate able to get a teal hot shower except on R&R."

The second day, clerks from Finance and AG Personnel strive to help the men solve any problems they may have. They may make out new allotments, review their 201 files, and have all their records screened. New dog tags and identification cards also are available to replace those which have been lost or damaged in the field.

At least once during the company's stay, religious services are conducted by brigade chaplains.

One very popular activity during stand-down is a visit to the Americal Central Post Exchange. Through special arrangements with the PX officer, it is pre-stocked with a number of hard-to-get or scarce items, such as cameras, watches, and tape recorders. The doors of the exchange are opened one-half hour early for the company, and no one else is allowed in till normal operating hours.

On the final day at the "**Charger Hotel**", a trip to one of the Americal beaches is organized. In addition to being able to swim and sun, the infantrymen are treated to a cookout with all the steak and side dishes they can eat. There is also plenty of cold beer and soda for the "Chargers" to drink.

(continued)

(continued)

The evenings during stand-downs are a busy time for the men at the hotel. There are many forms of entertainment available, such as TV, movies, live shows, or just lounging around in their two-man rooms.

The live shows are the most popular form of entertainment and generally draw the largest crowds. As one "**Legionnaire**" from the **2nd Bn., 1st Inf.** said, "This is the first real live show that I've seen since I've been over here, the girls are really wild!"

"Disbelief is the continual reaction of the soldiers from the time they first see the hotel until they leave to go back to the field," commented SGT Sam Leehe, NCOIC of the stand-down center. "When they see a two-story building with all these facilities they just cannot believe their eyes," he added.

In praising the hotel, also known to the men as the "Chu Lai Hilton," CPT John Wolfe, CO of **B Co., 4th Bn., 31st Inf.** said, "The hotel and aims of the program are beautiful. My men really enjoyed this rest, and they certainly deserved it."

The 196th obtained the facility in December, 1967 and the first unit to use it was **D Co., 3rd Bn., 21st Inf.** "Few companies were able to use the hotel at first because of the constant heavy contact during the Tet offensive. Since the 196th moved back from Camp Evans in May, the stand-down area has really been busy" said LT Kohl. "If all goes well, each line unit should return every 90 days," he concluded.

The 196th stand-down program and "Charger Hotel" give the infantrymen of the brigade something to really look forward to. It builds morale and gives them a chance to relax before returning to the field as more effective fighters. AMERICAL

From getting you paid, To getting you home, 23rd Admin. Co. does the job

Story and Photos by SP5 Thomas Maus

How much does money mean to the Americal soldier? Or how about DEROS orders?

At Division Headquarters in Chu Lai, nearly 800 men of the 23rd Admin. Co. work at the massive job of caring for these administrative needs of 25,000 fellow Americal soldiers.

The 23rd Admin. has three main missions: (1) Provide necessary personnel and administration to support and sustain the division, including replacement support and centralized personnel service for all units assigned and attached to the division; (2) Serve as a carrier unit that provides support for certain elements of the special staff; (3) Act as the rear echelon for division headquarters.

The Staff Judge Advocate, Inspector General, Division Chaplain, Adjutant General, Special Services, Finance, and Information Sections of **23rd Admin.** work toward carrying out these missions.

Special staff sections like the Staff Judge Advocate Office (SJA) provide valuable legal assistance for Americal soldiers.

The claims section of SJA handles property loss or damage cases. "We process claims submitted by soldiers on personal property destroyed or lost which occurred due to no fault on the part of the claimant," said SP4 Kevin G. Roche (Coventry, R.I.). "The claimant musthave taken proper measures to insure the safety of his property prior to the violation."

The legal assistance section of SJA offers everything from tax consultations to legal assistance in general court martial cases. SP5 William K. Stratvert (Albuquerque, N.M.), an enlisted attorney with SJA, deals with military justice and legal assistance matters.

Legal assistance provided by SJA is a valuable aid to soldiers with domestic problems. The word of a qualified attorney comes in handy before signing a legal document.

Another 23rd Admin. section, the Inspector General Office (IG), serves as a link between the service-man and problems he cannot solve at a lower echelon.

"We are here to serve when the chain of command is no longer effective," said MAJ Thorton S. Saperstein (Leavenworth, Kan.), deputy division IG. "The IG is here to answer the soldier's every whim, but we will not interpret an Army regulation, simply relate what it says."

SFC Fred S. McFerren (Grand Rapids, Mich.), complaints NCO, deals with a dozen complaints in an average week. "Most of the gripes I get have not gone through the company, so 90 percent are turned back for review," McFerren said. "But we still treat each and every problem as a real problem."

The IG also performs the well-known job of seeing that the division is standing tall. The annual IG inspection digs deep into areas such as living conditions, office functional filing systems, and every day upkeep of vehicles.

The Division Chaplain's Office also falls in 23rd Admin. Chaplain (LTC) Jack C. Randles (Rogersville, Tenn.), former acting division chaplain, coordinates division religious activities. "A soldier's personal problems present a real challenge to us," Chaplain Randles said.

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"During a recent three-month period, we handled 4,874 cases, most of them marriage problems."

During the same three-month period, over 62,000 people worshipped in 24 chapels located throughout the Americal operational zone.

The Chaplain's Office also oversees the Americal Choral Club. Under the direction of SP5 Larry Mason (Joliet, Ill.), the 25-man group visited Saigon in June to-appear on AFVN-TV's "Interlude."

Keeping track of men in the Army's largest division is the responsibility of the biggest single section in 23rd Admin.-the Adjutant General's office (AG). LTC James R. Ralph, Jr. (Seattle), Americal AG, heads a 462-man staff.

AG's Personnel Actions Branch (PA) controls all commission and warrant officer applications, hardship discharges, and compassionate reassignments. On the other side of the wall from PA, personnel records are in- and out-processed through AG's **Personnel Management** (PM).

SP4 William Murray (Chicago) works in PM's redeployment section. "This is one of the most hectic jobs around," Murray said. "With only so many seats available on one airplane, we have trouble accommodating all the guys going home. But we do all we can to make sure a man doesn't have to stay longer than he has to."

AG also sees that the bushbeaters and rear echelon personnel get the greatest morale booster of all-U.S. mail. "The amount of mail that comes and leaves this post office is astronomical," said APO clerk SP4 Art Taylor (Alturas, Calif.). "For example, we processed 433 tons of mail during June."

Thanks to the **Special Services Section of 23rd Admin.**, Americal fighting men receive another morale lift-live entertainment.

Special Services sponsors numerous shows-Korean, Philipino, and even Americal's own group, the "Joint.
Chiefs of Staff." Last summer, celebrities such as AFRS's Chris Noel performed in the division area.

Special Services beach facilities in the Chu Lai area include tennis, miniature golf, horse shoes, even a barbecue by the sea. Every month the Sandpiper Club at **723rd Maint. Bn.** boasts a full slate of recreational activities.

"In service we excel" is the motto of 180 men of the **Americal Finance Office.**

A man is in Chu Lai only a few days before **Finance** has his records and pay voucher for the up-coming month. After this, all pay records are converted to a skeletonized military pay voucher and put in an accessible master file where adjustments can be made more easily.

American Express's Chu Lai branch office offers division soldiers the chance to deposit their monthly pay into a checking account right here in Chu Lai. SP4 Roby Brown (Powhattan Point, Ohio) transfers military pay to this unique combat check facility. "Salting away money in a checking account is a real benefit, especially to the guy in the field," Brown said. "Money is within easy reach when he needs it."

Another **23rd Admin.** section, the **Division Information Office** (IO) keeps the folks back home and Americal troops informed of division activities.

IO processes a hometown news release on every man entering the division and sends it to hometown papers. Working with brigade information offices, IO also prepares general news stories and photos of Americal soldiers for release to military and civilian news media.

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The Daily News Sheet published by IO brings the soldier up to date on combat action; and the weekly SOUTHERN CROSS newspaper and AMERICAL magazine present in-depth coverage of division news.

MAJ James W. Dobyns (Kingsport, Tenn.) **23rd Admin.** commander (since succeeded by MAJ Robert J. White), summarized the objective,of the company: "In essence, we are simply an administrative or controlled headquarters.
Each special staff section has their own job to do, and they do it very admirably."

Thanks to efforts of the division's administrative nerve center, the complex paper machine keeps turning, helping men of the Americal get paid, informed, processed, spiritually replenished, entertained, legally assisted... and home.

Americal Division Magazine - January, 1970

16th CAG Metal Angels Of Hope & Mercy
By SP4 CRAIG COUTURE

16th Cbt. Avn Grp.

Nineteen Hueys cast dark silhouettes against the lava-red South China Sea. The early morning sky was blazed scarlet and clouds formed delicate designs that a carefree mind could mold into anything it fancied. But to a number of men of Americal's 16th Combat Aviation Group (CAG) the significance of their mission left little time for such pleasant diversions.

On this particular morning, 500 infantrymen had to be lifted into an area where the Viet Cong were suspected of hiding. The operation was a fairly large one; there would be two assaults. The first involved carrying over 200 men of the **1st Bn., 6th Inf.**, 198th Inf. Bde. into a valley 15 miles west of Chu Lai. The second was an assault involving more than 300 men from the **1st Bn., 6th Regt., 2nd ARVN Div.** into the same general area.

Gunships approached the LZ first, firing their rockets and miniguns at any suspicious areas. The command and control ship dropped down and marked the LZ with smoke grenades. The smoke ship, affectionately called "Smokey" followed and circled the area with a protective ring of heavy smoke to conceal the approaching troop-carrying "slicks."

Despite small arms fire that kept bursting from the bushes of the surrounding hillsides, both assaults flown by the **176th Avn. Co.** were successful in bringing Americal and ARVN soldiers to the enemy's doorstep.

Providing such air mobility and direct air support for the Americal and 2nd ARVN Div. is only one of many services the 16th CAG renders to allied forces in the I Corps Tactical Zone.

The 16th Group was first activated and organized on Dec. 20, 1967 and became operational on Jan. 23, 1968, at the Marine Marble Mountain Air Facility, DaNang. This was just one week before the 1968 Tet Offensive exploded throughout Vietnam. The 16th Group, as their motto implies, was truly "Born in Battle."

Originally part of the 1st Avn. Bde., the 16th CAG was attached to the Americal Div. on Dec. 1, 1968. Within a week, the Group relocated from Marble Mountain to its present location at Chu Lai. The unit has the distinction of being the only aviation group in the U.S. Army assigned to an infantry division.

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Intent upon carrying out its mission, the **16th CAG**, commanded by COL D. Townsend (Danbury, Neb.), is composed of a Hqs. and Hqs. Co., the 335th Trans. Co., and two battalions: the 14th CAB with units at Duc Pho and Chu Lai, and the 123rd CAB with units in the Chu Lai area.

The 14th Cbt. Avn. Bn. moved to Chu Lai from the Phu Bai Valley in 1967 to support Task Force Oregon. The battalion, commanded by LTC Jerry L. Teague (Alexandria, Va.), is comprised of the [**71st was omitted**] **174th** and **176th** Aslt. Hel. Companies (AHC) and the **132nd** and **178th** Aslt. Spt. Hel. Companies (ASHC).

The **71st** Avn. Co. known as the "Rattlers" arrived in Vietnam in 1964. Three years later, the company moved to Chu Lai with the 196th Inf. Bde. as part of Task Force Oregon and have consistently supported that unit in the Americal's northern area of operations. In recent months, the "Rattlers" have supported the 196th Bde. in numerous operations in the Que Son, Hiep Duc, Phouc Chau, and Phouc Cha Valleys.

Commanded by MAJ William M. Price (Fayetteville, N.C.), the **71st** set an envious record of 25 consecutive months of flying and over 50,000 combat hours without an accident in 1968.

Another unit with an envious safety record is the **174th AHC**, located at Duc Pho. The company has the best accident free record in the Americal Div. with not a single accident in the current fiscal year. The pilots have a combined total of 10,500 accident free flying hours. In that time, the company has carried 75,000 passengers and 2,500 tons of cargo. To the soldier in the field that means a hot meal everyday and a quick trop to the rear when stand-down comes. While compiling its record the **174th** has flown nearly 50,000 sorties, including night combat assaults, "dust-off" missions, and emergency ammo resupply.

Under the leadership of MAJ Virgil E. Blevins (Beeville, Tex.), the **174th** has three flight platoons and boasts a motto of "Nothing Impossible" in carrying out its mission to support the 11th Inf. Bde. The troop-carrying aircraft are called "Dolphins" and the gunships called "Sharks."

To the infantrymen, the sight of the "**Shark**" gunships working out on the enemy while the "**Dolphins**" bring in the much needed ammunition is a vision long remembered. As one infantry officer said, "The Sharks give a morale boost to us and scare the devil out of the enemy. After the Sharks shoot up an area, you can count on it being quiet the rest of the night.

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Another constant source of support for troops on the ground are the "Minutemen" of the **176th AHC** commanded by MAJ O.R. Hite (Staunton, Va.). Since 1967, the **176th** has been supporting the 198th Inf. Bde.

During August 1969, aviators of the **176th** averaged 94 flying hours and was awarded the Americal Accident Prevention Award for the month.

To provide tactical air movement of combat, combat support, and combat service support units in the Americal area of operations is the mission of the **132nd ASHC**. The company, commanded by MAJ William Jones (Glendall, Calif.), started operations with its Boeing-Vertol CH-47B Chinooks in May 1968. Since then the **"Hercules"** Chinooks of the **132nd** fly an average of 1,000 hours a month lifting over 10,000 passengers and over 5,000 tons of supplies. Their motto of "Versatility, Reliability, and Endurance" describes the support the **132nd** gives daily to the Americal.

Invaluable support is also given to the combat soldier by the **178th ASHC** commanded by MAJ Robert W. Parker (Secane, Pa.). The **"Boxcars"** arrived in Vietnam in April 1966 and moved to Chu Lai as part of Task Force Oregon.

The **178th** have to their credit the distinction of being the first unit to move a complete 155mm howitzer battery in one lift. Once the troops are safely in a combat area, it is up to the "Hercules" Chinooks to keep them supplied and combat ready.

123rd Cbt. Avn. Bn., like its sister battalion, provides air mobility and direct air support to elements of the Americal Div. The battalion, led by LTC Richard K. Dietsch (Manchester, N.H.), prides itself on the professionalism and consciousness in supporting the division. The battalion is comprised of **A and B Companies; Hqs. and Hqs. Co. E Co., 723rd Maint. Bn; F Trp. 8th Cav; and D Trp., 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav.**

Providing the Americal with general aviation support is the primary mission of A Co., 123rd CAB. While B Co. essentially has the role of an air cavalry troop. Man of **B Co.'s** missions are visual reconnaissance operations in which a team of four aircraft, one Light Observation Helicopter (LOH), two Cobra gunships, and one Huey "slick" with five infantrymen aboard search an assigned area for signs of enemy activity. During the past year, B Co. accounted for 429 enemy kills.

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Known as the "Blue Ghost," F Trp. 8th Cav. arrived in Vietnam in October, 1967. Commanded by MAJ Charles E. Ivey (Urbana, Ill.), F Trp. has the primary mission of gathering intelligence. The unit accomplishes this by means of aerial and ground reconnaissance making maximum use of its firepower, communications, and mobility.

An organic infantry platoon, nicknamed the "Blues," is used for insertions to perform detailed searches of an area. Normally with the insertion of the "Blues" the aerial recon teams consisting of two Cobras and a LOH, screen in the immediate vicinity and provide armed escort for the platoon.

A newcomer to the 16th Group is **D Trp., 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav.,** who arrived in Vietnam on May 1, 1969. D Trp., called the **"Sabres,"** extends the reconnaissance and security capabilities of ground units by aerial means. To find the enemy, fix his position, and then annihilate him is the mission of the **"Sabres."**

Providing the Americal with aircraft direct support maintenance is **E Co., 723rd Maint. Bn.** The job of this unit like that of the **335th Trans. Co.** is to support and help maintain the aviation units assigned to the Americal.

The officers and men of the **16th CAG** pride themselves on the ability to do their jobs well regardless of any difficulties. With courage and determination and the professional competence of its subordinate units, the **16th CAG** supports the Americal in I Corps.

E - CO - 723rd MAINT. BN.
UNIT - HISTORY

Company E was organized on 15 February 1969, from the 406th TC Detachment, at Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam. At this time E Company was put under the control of the 16th Aviation Group (Combat).

Company E is direct support maintenance with the mission of supplying direct support and back-up maintenance for A Company, B Company and Delta Troop 1/1 Cavalry of the 123d Aviation Battalion.

Company E is capable of providing 10,000 man hours per month for direct support maintenance on the 123d Aviation Battalion's organic aircraft. The company also pulls many on site repairs on both downed ships and at the units own maintenance areas.

In carrying out its assigned mission, the company supports more than 100 Helicopters. Usually this is broken down into 25 LOH's; 25 AG-1G Cobras; and 50 UH-1 Hueys. To do this, the unit is broken down into six sections: The Headquarters section, consists of the C.O., 1st SGT, and all administration. The Production Control section which consists of one officer and three enlisted men, who control all maintenance operations in the unit. The Quality Control section which maintains close observation of all work accomplished and ensures safe and proper techniques. Most of the Actual "wrench bending" is done by the maintenance platoon, which is further broken down into a LOH team, a UH-1 team and a Cobra team. These teams tear down and make repairs on these types of aircraft. For specific jobs the work is sent to the allied shops platoon. In this platoon, there are many small technical shops. Some of these are sheet metal, prop & rotor, engineer, electrical, and avionics. Each shop handles the problems which deal directly with the appropriate shope. The last section in the company is "Tech Supply". This group of men handle nearly 2,000 separate repair parts for the battalion. They handle and fill as many as 500 requests for parts a week.

123rd COMBAT AVIATION BATTALION (From 16th CAG 1970 album)
HISTORY

The 123rd Aviation Battalion was activated on 8 December 1967 from a nucleus formed by the old 161st Aviation Company. The 406th TC Detachment and the 449th Signal Detachment, which had supported the 161st Aviation Company, were reassigned and attached to the 123rd Aviation Battalion in January 1968. The original makeup of the battalion had consisted of Headquarters Company, A Company, and B Company. Company B was organized from the Armed Helicopter Platoon of the former 161st Aviation Company and later given a provisional mission as Aero Scouts. During 1968, the 123d Aviation Battalion compiled an impressive record. Company A supported the Americal Division's ground units by hauling 1482 tons of cargo in over 3,736 sorties and in the process killed over twenty (20) VC/NVA and medevaced over ninety-four (94) persons. Company B learned their tactical lessons well, killing over seven hundred (700) VC/NVA in 77,510 sorties. On 15 December 1968, the 123d Aviation Battalion was attached to the 16th Combat Aviation Group.

The year 1969 marked a significant change in both the make-up and the mission of the Battalion. In January 1969 two CH-47 units, the 132d Assault Support Helicopter Company and the 178th Assault Support Helicopter Company, were attached to the Battalion.

A short period after this reorganization the 406th TC and the 449th Signal Detachment were deactivated. E Company 723d Maintenance Battalion, which was formed from the assets of the 406th TC Detachment and the 449th Signal Detachment, was attached to the Battalion to provide the Battalion with direct Maintenance support.

The addition of F Troop, 8th Cavalry in May 1969, gave the Battalion a total of two Air Cavalry units. In October 1969, the 132d ASHC and the 178th ASHC were detached from the 123d Aviation Battalion and attached to the 14th Combat Aviation Battalion.

The additions of D Troop, 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry in October 1969, gave the 123d Aviation Battalion a third Air Cavalry unit. The three Air Cavalry units, B Company, F Troop, 8th Cavalry and D Troop 1/1st Cavalry, are used to support each of the three infantry brigades in the Americal Division. Assets from the 123d Aviation Battalion have been involved in every major operation that the Americal has undertaken since January 1968. The Battalion's mission was defined to extend by aerial means the reconnaissance and security of the Americal Division with three Air Cavalry units and to provide command and control aircraft for the General Officers, Special Staff and all Senior Commanders of the Americal Division.

Under its present make-up the 123d Aviation Battalion (Combat) consisting of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Company A, Company B, **Company E, 723d Maintenance Battalion**, F Troop, 8th Cavalry and D Troop 1/1st Cavalry has proved to be a most effective unit

The following section will include articles from the Americal Division's weekly newspaper, "The Southern Cross" that reference the 723rd Maintenance Battalion. The first issue was published in May 1968 and the final issue was in the fall of 1971. Approximately 118 issues have been located with perhaps 40 that no copy has been located.

Page 4-5 Full two page spread of photos and text, July 1968 Southern Cross

Photo Caption 1 - Band Provides Music For All Events (Americal Division Band)
Photo Caption 2 - 23rd S&T Bn. Handles Supplies (Conex carried by forklift)
Photo Caption 3 - LRP's On Patrol
Photo Caption 4 - 23rd S&T Bn. Convoy Rolls Off An Tan Bridge
Photo Caption 5&6 - 23rd Med Bn. Treats Vietnamese as well as Soldiers
Photo Caption 7 - Combat Center Trains New Troops
Photo Caption 8 - 723rd Maint. Bn.'s Work Non-Ending
Photo #9 Chapel or Church photo superimposed on print.

.....Photos By 523rd Sig. Bn.

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CHU LAI--From a long range patrol team deep in the jungles around Chu Lai to a marching band playing at a change of command ceremony, the Americal Spt. Cmd. backs up the combat activities of the Army's only named division.

The multi-battalion elements commanded by COL Robert M. Rose is composed of the 23rd Med. Bn., the 23rd S&T Bn., the 723rd Maint. Bn., The Americal Combat Center, the Long Range Patrol company, the Americal Band, the Americal Div.'s 63rd Infantry Platoon Combat Trackers and the 23rd Admin. Co.

It was activated in Chu Lai last Dec. 8 from support units already in the area. Steadily growing, its 1,700 members provide more and more services for the combat soldiers of the division.

The 23rd Med. Bn., commanded by LTC William S. Augerson, operates a 60-bed hospital which treats about 300 patients - 80 of them battle casualties-each month in addition to performing some 200 laboratory procedures.

Another 250 outpatients are treated monthly by the battalion medics.

The battalion has the capacity to expand its facilities to 80 beds in case of an emergency, and often handles overflow patients from other hospitals in the Chu Lai area.

The Americal Div.'s medical supply program is also handled by the men of the battalion, who are responsible for nearly a ton of vital medical supplies each day.

The men of the 23rd S&T Bn. handle an average of 2,700 tons of supplies and equipment each month to fill the 5,000 requests for resupply from division units.

The battalion truck drivers have logged a total of over 528,000 miles hauling more than 57,550 tons of supplies since last December, in their never ending task of resupplying the Americal fighting men.

The battalion is commanded by LTC Harry Larson.

The 723rd Maint. Bn., commanded by LTC William Alfonte, has the mission of providing direct support for the units of the division base and repair parts and back-up mainland support for the support battalion of the three infantry brigades assigned to the division.

The mechanics in the unit labor many hours a day and night to keep the fighting force "on its feet" and moving forward.

The Americal Combat Center is the first and last contact that soldiers have with the Americal Div. It places emphasis on training new arrivals in the complexities of the Vietnam war, and recently acquired its own rifle range, where all soldiers of the division receive weapons familiarization.

The camouflaged fatigue-clad members of the LRP company move silently and swiftly on four-to five-day reconnaissance patrols to gather valuable intelligence data for the combat brigades.

Many of the members of the all-volunteer company are airborne and range qualified, and all have had commando training, either from the MACV Recondo School in Nha Trang or the recondo course run by the LRP detachment itself.

The Americal Band is one of the newest units in the Spt. Cmd. Organized in April, it consists of a marching band, a stage band, two small combos and a single accordion act.

The bandsmen, under the direction of WO Conrad S. Taylor, might play at a change of command ceremony one day then travel to a forward base the next to entertain battle-weary troops.

The 63rd IPCT, the division's combat tracker platoon, is made up of two five-man and one-dog tracking teams. Its mission is to seek out the enemy by following his trail.

The teams support each brigade in the division and train other soldiers in the art (of) jungle tracking.

17Aug68-Southern Cross Vol. 1 No. 5. Page 4-5 Full Page Spread
H i g h F l y i n g S u p p o r t

Photo Captions-

1- Gunship banks to start run (flex guns and small rocket pods, might be an older B-Model gunship; rather than the more common C-Models.)
2- Painted crest of the 123rd Avn Bn.
3- Smoke guides in resupply chopper (These markings look like a 14th Avn Bn helicopter instead of the 123rd Avn Bn.
4- Gunship crew sights weapon (One is wearing a "Warlord" pocket patch from B/123rd Avn Bn)
3. "Warlord" OH-23 searches for traces of the enemy. (Helicopter #15280 is shown with a door gunner wearing chicken plate armor and flight helmet using a cut-down M-60 hung out with bungee chord.)
4. Air traffic controller watches chopper land (view is from the perimeter area looking back to the South China Sea at Ky Ha heliport).
5. Maintenance is a never-ending task. (evening silhouette of a crew chief working on the main rotor with the engine cowling opened out for post-flight inspection.)
6. Courier run leaves Chu Lai daily. (Americal Patch with Pelican painted on the helicopter nose (nose art) identifies it as A/123rd Avn Bn helicopter. The skid tips appear to be red. Red tipped skids identify it as a 1st flight platoon helicopter. Blue tipped skids would identify it as the 2nd flight platoon).

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17Aug68-Southern Cross Vol. 1 No. 5. Page 4-5 Full Page Spread

Story and Photos
by
Southern Cross
Staff

CHU LAI--The men of the 123rd Avn. Bn. make their presence known daily to both enemy and friendly troops throughout the Americal Div. area of operations.

Their duties range from finding the enemy to destroying him and from resupplying isolated landing zones to providing transportation for division personnel.

The battalion is made up of the Co. A "Pelicans," the Co. B "Warlords," the Trp. F, 8th Cav. "Blue Ghosts," a signal detachment, a transportation detachment and a headquarters element. (Note by Leslie Hines: Co C 123rd Avn Bn was often omitted and most people in the unit did not realize it existed. This was a small unit stationed at Duc Pho.)

Organic Aviation

It was organized early this year as the division's organic aviation unit from outfits already in the area (Note: formed from the 161st AHC of the 14th Avn Bn., 1st Avn Bde. At the time it was unusual for a division to have organic aviation not under the 1st Avn Bde. It may have been the first one set up this way in Vietnam.). It is commanded by LTC John N. Brandenburg (Note: John N. Brandenburg later commanded a Bn in the 196th Inf Bde. He retired as a Lieutenant General).

The Co. A "Pelicans" are responsible for general air support for the division. Their duties include resupply (Note: Mainly for Division Artillery), road patrol (Note: Mainly for 26th Engineers & 9th Marine Engineers), the transportation of VIP's and the providing of aircraft for the various courier flights from Chu Lai. (Note: 1 special forces mission was supported at Phu Bai, 1 special forces mission at Da Nang, 1 mission to provide reconnaissance for the Marines at Da Nang, Nightly flare mission, & Command & Control missions for 1st/1st Cav and other units were omitted from this article.)

Their efforts are often unsung, but nonetheless represent a vital cog in the air support of the fighting soldiers of the Army's only named division.

For instance, they fly nearly 50 tons of cargo each week.

Take War to VC

The high-flying "Warlords the only aero-scout company in Vietnam, are equipped to take the war right to the enemy's doorstep.

The company carries its own infantry, reconnaissance and firepower support elements in one neat, three-helicopter package.

Using the standard OH-23 observation helicopter, the Co. B "Warlords'" primary mission is reconnaissance. Teams of two gunships and one OH-23 scour the division area for traces of the enemy, and the mobile aerial-rifle section is available for closer inspection when it is needed.

Though the company's duties are primarily reconnaissance, and not combat, its members have accounted for more than their share of kills in action which has been centered mainly in the southern part of the division's area of operations.

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Other Support

The "Blue Ghosts" of Trp. F, 8th Cav., though assigned to the battalion for organizational purposes, are attached to the 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav., and more will be said about them in a later issue.

The 449th Sig. Det. provides avionics support for the battalion's aircraft. Though the scope of the singalmen's mission has greatly increased as the size of the battalion has increased., they have never failed in the vital job of keeping the aviators "on the air."

The 406th TC Det. "Roadrunners" (Note: reorganized to Higher Level Direct Support function as **E/723rd Maint. Bn** in 1969) keep the battalion in the air and on the go. The detachment provides direct support for the battalion, and calls no job short of entirely rebuilding an aircraft too large or too small.

Personnel from the battalion also are responsible for the operation of the Ky Ha tower, which controls much of the helicopter traffic coming and out of Chu Lai.

SOUTHERN CROSS

Vol. 1, No. 6 CHU LAI, VIETNAM August 30, 1968

Special Services
Opens 'Sandpiper'

CHU LAI-The newest service club in I Corps, the "Sandpiper," opened here under the auspices of Special Services, Aug. 10 at the **723rd Maint. Bn.**

MG Charles M. Gettys, division commander, spoke briefly at the opening ceremonies and cut the traditional ribbon.

Miss Jackie Sykes, the club director, described the Sandpiper as "a colorful, comfortable 7,500 square feet equipped with three pool tables, a ping pong table and shuffleboard, all sorts of games, books and magazines."

She added, "The three air-conditioned music rooms will probably attract a lot of overheated soldiers into taking up a musical instrument, even if they haven't already done so."

"We'll have something every night," said Miss Sykes, "a film, bingo, or tournaments. On a monthly basis, we should be offering USO shows and special activities."

The 160th Engr. Det. contributed the major portion of the construction. Many manhours, however, were volunteered by division headquarters troops, sailors, Marines and Koreans.

Photo Caption-Service Club offers fun and games (Photo by 523rd Sig. Bn.) (Shows men playing pool, ping pong, and shuffle board).

Photo Caption - CEV-Men of the 26th Engr. Bn. check out their new mechanical monster. (Photo by 523rd Sig. Bn.)

New Mechanical Monsters Arrive At 26th Engineers

CHU LAI--Several mechanical monsters, weighing 58 tons each, have been throwing their weight around the division area.

There are only a limited number of these huge machines called Combat Engineer Vehicles (CEV), in Vietnam and the Americal's **26th Engr. Bn.** has received a number of them recently.

The vehicles are built on M-60 tank chassis with a 165mm gun and two machine guns, an M-73 and M-85, sprouting from the top.

Considering the CEV is a fairly recent arrival here an that it is powered by a 750-horsepower engine, and can push, pull, lift, and blast, it will be up to the engineers to determine just what are the limitations of the vehicle.

1SGT Robert E. Elston of B Co. said, "At this time is looks like the new vehicle will be used primarily for clearing and recovery mission."

Demolition Gun

The 165mm demolition gun, which replaces the standard 105mm gun of the M60 tank, is capable of firing an 80-pound shaped charge to a distance of 4,500 meters, with a bursting radius of 750 meters. It is to be used for long range eradication of bunkers and fortifications.

Hoist And Blade Attached

The hoist atop the CEV can lift 17,500 pounds, which provides often needed vertical lift capabilities in remote sections of the division. The winch is rated at 25,000 pounds of pulling power.

The dozer blade is used to do such things as clear obstacles and cut artillery trenches.

4-Man Crew

Each CEV is manned by a crew of four, or half as many as the M-60 tank. There is a commander, driver, gunner, and loader. The gunner and loader and demolition qualified.

The vehicles arrived at Chu Lai unassembled; it took only a week to put them together at the **723rd Maint. Bn**.

AMERICAL HAS SIX NEW CO'S

CHU LAI-- The largest artillery element in Vietnam, Americal Division Artillery, welcomed a new commander recently in ceremonies here.

COL Leslie B. Hardy (Los Angeles), a 1943 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy, took over leadership of Americal artillerymen from COL Lawrence M. Jones, Jr. (New York).

COL Hardy had previously served as CO of the 36th Arty. Grp. in Europe before joining the division.

Other new commanders include LTC Reed E. David (Omaha, Neb.) the new CO of the 198th Bde.'s 1st Bn., 52d Arty.; LTC Donald Hanson (Columbus, Ga.), Leader of the 11th Bde.'s **4th Bn., 21st Inf.**; and LTC James J. Durbin (Ventura, Calif.), who commands the 1st. Bn., 14th Arty.

Also taking over new posts as commanding officers are LTC Donald L. Swygert (New Cumberland Gap, Pa.) of the 26th Engr. Bn. and **LTC H.M. Singelton (Fairfax, Va.), CO of 723rd Maint. Bn.**

MR FIXIT IS
723'S ALIAS

CHU LAI--The shop area strewn with disabled vehicles, generators, and other damaged equipment, resembles the legendary elephants' graveyard where old pachyderms gather to die.

But, in this case, the "dead" will live again.

From instrument and watch repair specialists to M-48 tank mechanics, the **723d Maint. Bn.** keeps the Americal Division ready for Battle.

Almost 300 pieces of damaged equipment pass through 723d shops each week to be inspected, serviced, and tested before release to their owners.

Very little is wasted. A jeep, damaged beyond repair, is stripped of usable parts and placed on the scrap heap for return to the States and use as scrap metal.

"We may not fight the war with rifles and grenades," said OIC 1LT Kenneth T. Hunt (Cincinnati), "but each time we put a vehicle back on the road, we discourage the enemy." (Americal IO)

Fast Super Service Visits Field

Story and Photos by SGT DERRILL C. DALBY Americal Support Command

CHU LAI--Americal troops in remote base areas are receiving supply, maintenance, and administrative support FAST thanks to the teamwork of division support elements.

Forward Area Support (FAST) teams, operating through the Division Support Command in Chu Lai, travel to distant fire bases to provide finance, personnel actions, issue and turn-in, and PX services. Now many services traditionally offered in larger rear support areas are available to units in remote fire bases.

Before coming in for stand-down, an individual can make necessary PX purchases, take care of personnel and financial affairs, and have weapons repaired through the FAST team, leaving more free time to relax while in Chu Lai.

Here's how the FAST system works. After placing an initial request for a FAST visit with the Americal Support Command, a unit will be contacted by CPT Jackie Ratcliffe, current FAST advisor.

While at the base, CPT Ratcliffe, gathers information on what the men want and estimates what to bring on the forthcoming FAST visit. Items desired range from boots to cameras.

On a recent FAST mission, 49 radios, 15 cameras, 4 shavers, 4 wallets, 19 binoculars, and 26 tape recorders were sold to a company of 180 men. This represents a sale of over $18 per man.

On the first seven visits since the program was initiated in February, almost $19,000 of PX merchandise was sold. "We try to offer what the soldier looks for in Chu Lai. We save out the best for the boys in the field," said SFC John J. Jacobs, NCOIC of the PX depot.

FAST personnel live up to their name, processing 300 troops during an average visit of six hours. And they feel their work is highly rewarding because it gives them a chance to do something for the troops in the field.

SP4 James R. Wilkerson, fire control instrument repairman, said, "it gives me a sense of satisfaction to put a piece of equipment back in working order for a crew chief or gunner."

A concerned "gun bunny" on a 155mm howitzer will watch as Wilkerson adjusts and tightens a sight. The artilleryman's relief is evident as he shouts back to the exec post, "Gun number four is up!"

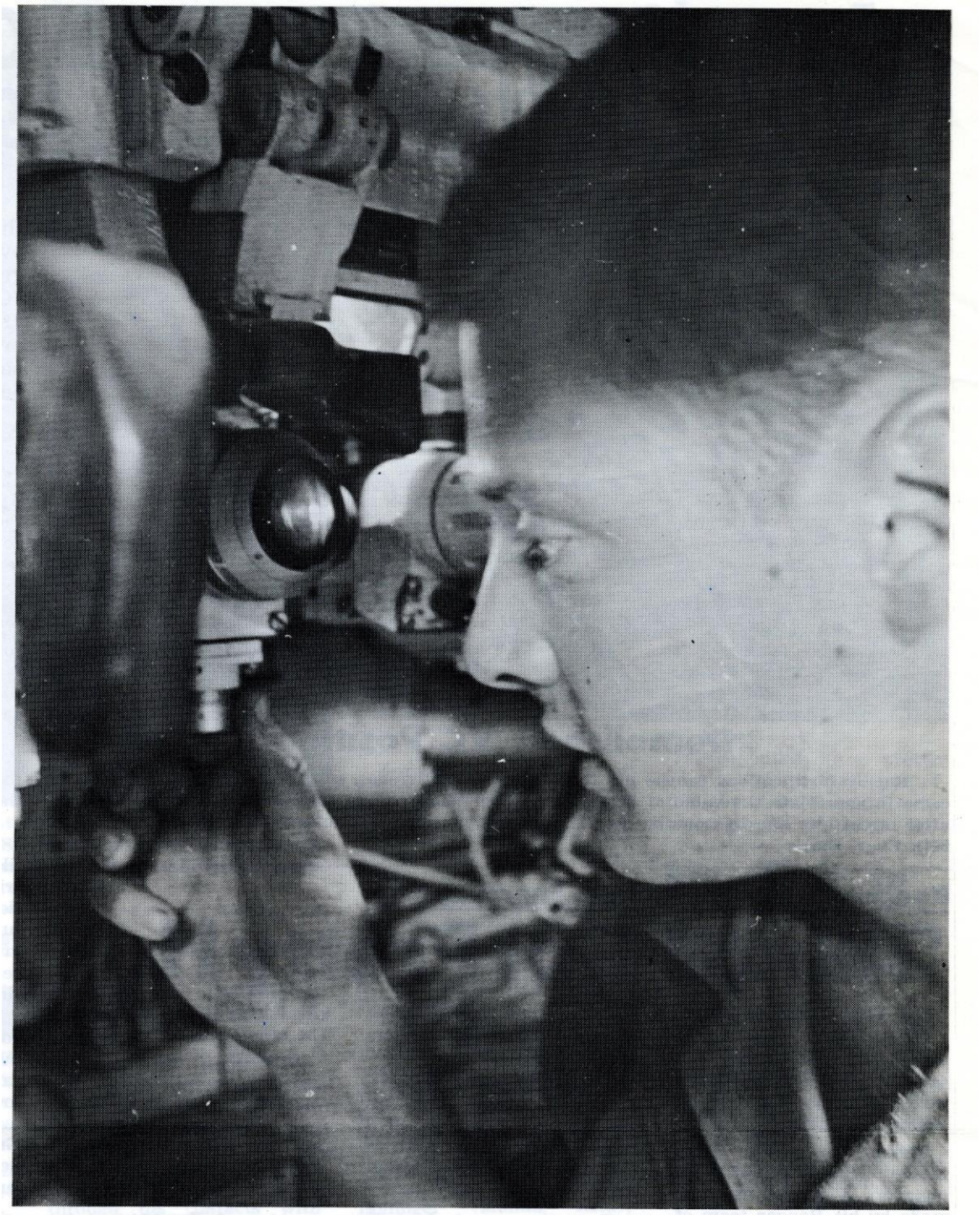
Photo Captions:

1) FAST team loads Chinook with PX items for remote fire bases

2) At fire base, troops line up at 23rd S& T conex to DX equipment and clothing. (Conex sign in shape of Americal crest says, "SERVING THE AMERICALS FINEST MOBILE DX COMPLIMENTS OF 23RD ST BN"

Men from 723rd Maint. Bn. repair small arms for field troops

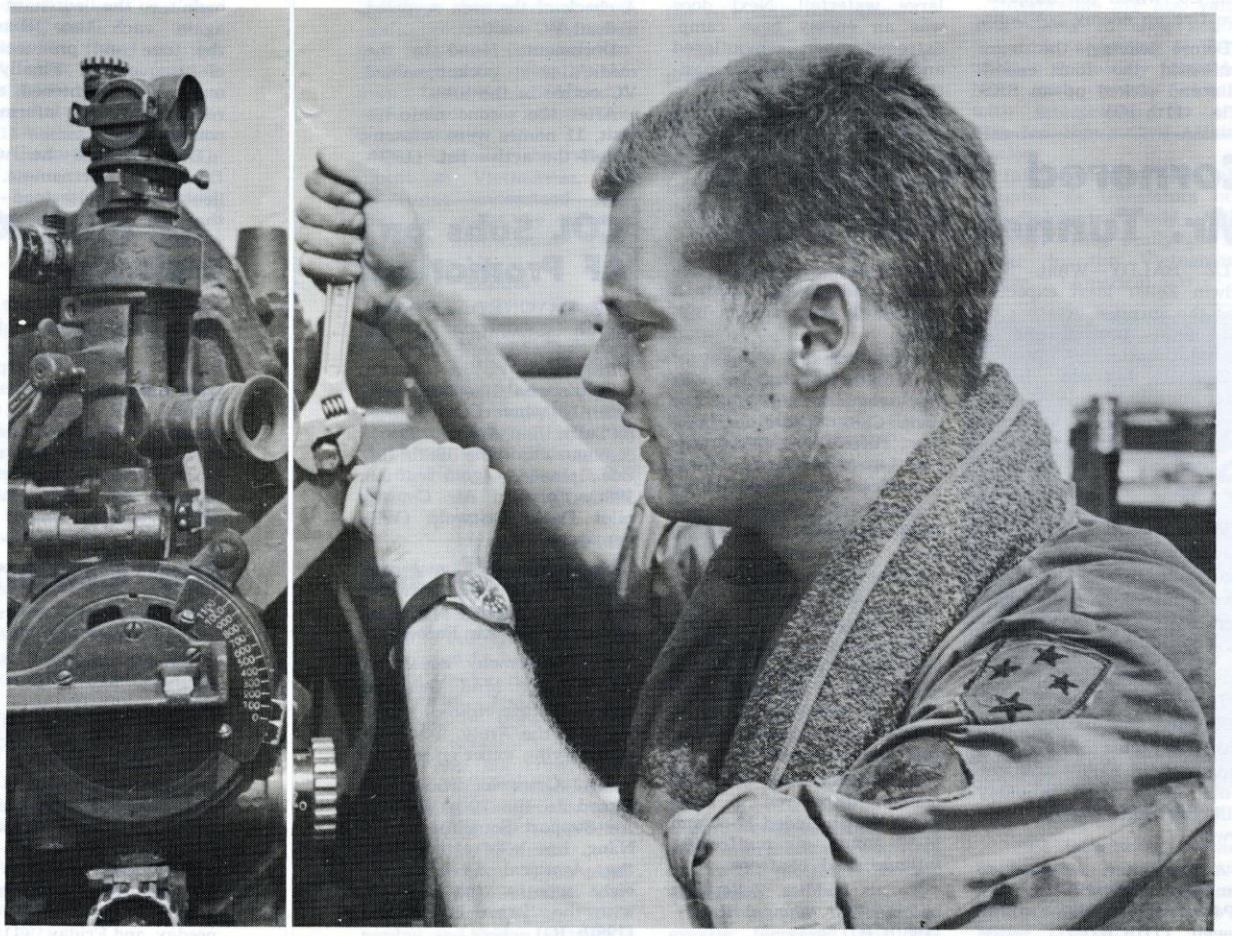
3) Men from **723rd Maint. Bn.** repair small arms for field troops



FAST-man SP4 James R. Wilkerson repairs fire sight on M-48 tank

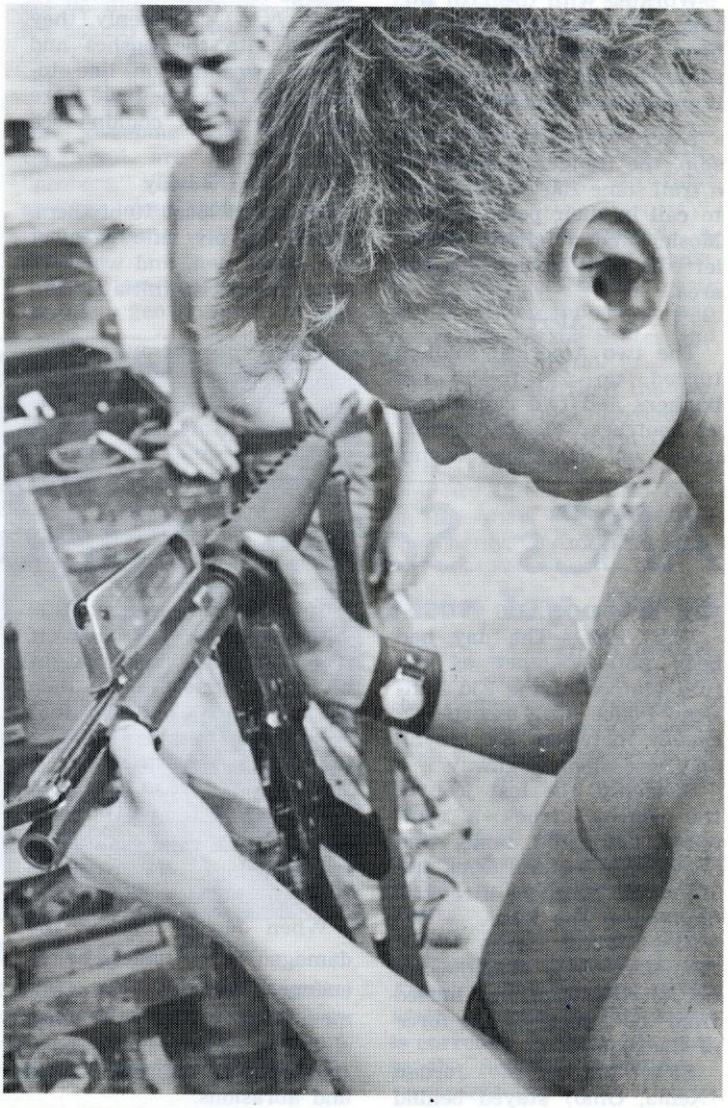
4) FAST-man SP4 James R. Wilkerson repairs fire sight on M-48 tank

5) 23rd Admin. Co. personnel make dog tags and money orders for 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav. soldiers.



A FAST repairman adjusts a 155mm Howitzer for precision firing

6) A FAST repairman adjusts a 155mm Howitzer for precision firing. (Using a crescent wrench?)



FAST-man PFC Mike Baker inspects M-16

7) FAST-man PFC Mike Baker inspects M-16.

PATIENTS ENJOY COOL RECOVERY

CHU LAI--"I'll get by with a little help from my friends." is as true a statement for the **23rd Med. Bn.** as for the Beatles.

The friends consisted of Army, Navy and Marine Corps units as well as a large international corporation.

It all began when CPT Donald B. Rhodes (Santa Barbara, Calif.) walked into the Americal Support Command area with a large, not quite-new air-conditioner.

He believed it would provide welcome relief during the hot summer months for the patients in A Co.'s medical-malaria ward.

Unable to fix it himself, CPT Rhodes called upon the **723rd Maint. Bn.** to put the unit in working order.

This was shortly accomplished. Then the Naval Support Activity Detachment (NSAD) installed necessary electrical wiring. The 335th Maint Bn and Lear-Seigler, Inc. constructed the duct work and men from Marine Air Group 12 provided building insulation.

Instead of the stifling 100 degree temperatures on the outside, the patients now can recover in the balmy 73 degree atmosphere inside the newly air-conditioned building. (Spt. Cmd.)

For General Who Has Everything
Give Hand-made Arty.

Photo Caption: MINIATURE BRASS AND MAHOGANY, Civil War Cannon was hand made by Robert Baird of the **723rd Maint Bn**., and presented to MG Charles M. Gettys as a farewell gift. (Photo by CPT Cary S. Sklaren, Americal IO) (Note: the plaque has this inscription on a brass plate: "TO GENERAL GETTYS FROM THE OFFICERS AND ENLISTED MEN 723rd MAINT BN AMERICAL DIVISION VIETNAM". To the left of the brass plate is an Americal Division patch and to the right is the 723rd Maint. Bn. unit crest. The cannon has a very professional look even to the detail of having a brass hoop around the wheels on the carriage. Three miniature brass cannon balls are also on the display.

CHU LAI -- SP4 Robert Baird (LaFollette, Tenn.), **Co. D, 723d Maint. Bn.,** likes to build things.

A machinist both before and after entering the Army, SP4 Baird recently completed a miniature brass Civil War cannon as a farewell gift for the departing division commander, MG Charles M. Gettys.

The cannon, fashioned from brass and mahogany, took Baird more than 100 hours of his own time to complete.

SP4 Baird attended the Knoxville (Tenn.) Vocational and Technological Training Center before induction into the Army.

While attending the school, Baird was one of 70 outstanding students selected by the Union Carbide Corp. (Oak Ridge, Tenn.) to attend an advanced on-the-job training program sponsored by the company.

SP4 Baird wondered what type of farewell memento would be fitting for the departing commander. "I was looking through a magazine when I spotted a picture of a cannon," Baird said.

"I thought, what would be more appropriate for a general than a miniature cannon?" (Americal IO)

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'Hi Love'
Story and Photos

By 11th Bde. IO

LZ BRONCO--A "Mod" Chris Noel came on strong at this forward firebase recently as she and her talented troupe swung with 11th Bde. soldiers.

Audience participation was the order of the day as "Jungle Warriors" joined in with Chris and her talented co-star, Betty Waldron, in song and dance.

Swinging its way through a whirlwind tour of Southeast Asia, the group had just completed a tour of Korea and Thailand prior to arriving in Vietnam. They are providing entertainment to the troops while documenting an hour-long TV special to be aired in the US.

Ready, Gang?

Chris, opening the show with her familiar greeting "Hi love," warmed up the soldiers for comedienne-singer Betty by singing the popular song "Are you ready."

She then hopped into the audience with an assist from an enthusiastic 11th Bde. soldier and sang to an overheated SP4 Tommy Greenwalt (Cedar Rapids, Iowa) of the 1st Bn., 20th Inf.

Betty followed, hitting the audience with, "I've been in Vietnam so long my suitcase has developed jungle rot and my dog tags have got rabies!"

Amateur Hour

Her routine was audience participation oriented. She invited the eager soldiers to dance with her and then held an amateur talent show of her own, having three "Jungle Warriors" join on "If I had A Hammer."

The talent came in the form of two operations officers from the brigade's S-3 section, CPT Benjamin F. Maxhan (Burbank, Calif.) and 1LT James E. JOrdan (Ft Lauderdale, Fla.) **SP4 Charles Jordan (new York) of B Co., 723rd Maint. Bn.** exhibited a fine voice and a great deal of showmanship during this segment.

Photo Captions:

1) Chris Noel asks Americal troops "Are you ready?" You Bet!
2) Comedienne-singer Betty Waldron snaps in tune
3) Chris coaxes 11th Bde. soldiers to do their thing on stage
4) Sporting mod outfit, Miss Noel sings "By the time I get to Phoenix"
5) Ingenious engineers improvise by using scoop loader for balcony seats

Stork Stats

.....

PFC VICTORY W. HOWELL, 723rd Maint. Bn., son born June 11, Savannah, Ga. .....

SP5 ROBERT WARNER, 723rd Maint. Bn. daughter born June 18, Northhampton, Mass, ...

SFC LARRY B. MARTIN, **723rd Maint. Bn.,** son born June 21, Ft. Polk, La.

Combat In Review

723rd Knock Out NVA
In Sapper Suicide Try

LZ BALDY--Incoming rounds of 82mm mortars and an almost simultaneous sapper penetration of its bunker line alerted members of **C Co., 723rd Maint. Bn**., at LZ Baldy in the early morning hours. The company area received an estimated 15 mortar rounds just before the sapper squad penetrated the perimeter.

One sapper managed to toss a satchel charge in a bunker, the men were not inside but on top of it. SP4 Lawrence Less (Gibsonia, Pa.) killed him with a burst from his M-16 rifle.

As Less was eliminating one sapper, the other men were assuming auxiliary fighting positions. Just as SP4 John W. McGatha (Dayton, Ohio) approached his position, he saw a second sapper trying to evade through the wire. McGatha downed him with M-16 fire.

Meanwhile, the men in one of the adjacent bunkers were equally busy. They were the object of several mortars as well as one RPG round, which was stopped by the protective wire in front of the position. SP4 Jesse W. Bell (Houston) saw a figure with an automatic weapon crossing a section of the airfield to his flank. Because of limited visibility, Bell decided to challenge the individual. After several commands to halt failed to stop the approaching figure, Bell opened fire and downed the intruder.

A sweep at dawn of the area revealed three NVA soldiers killed and one automatic weapon captured. (196th IO)

A Lot Richer

CHU LAI - Three men from the Division Spt. Cmd. walked away from the finance office this week with more than $22,000 as reenlistment bonuses.

SP5 John Sirmans (San Francisco) of **A Co., 723rd Maint. Bn.,** received $9414; SP5 John Matyjasik (Anniston, Ala.) of **G Co., 75th Inf.** (Ranger), received $7,531; and SSG Deman Pauldo (Buffalo, N.Y.) of **23rd Admin. Co.,** will take $6,000 to his new assignment at Ft. Polk, La. (Spt. Cmd. IO)

A W A R D S
&
D E C O R A T I O N S

.....

BRONZE STAR MEDAL WITH "V" DEVICE

PV2 Ricardo Alvardo, 723rd Maint. Bn; ....

Electronic Maintenance
Keeps Amcal 'Buzzing'

CHU LAI -- The monstrous task of providing electronic support to the Americal Division lies solely in the hand of the Hq's and **Co. A 723rd Maint. Bn.**

One Warrant Officer and forty-one enlisted men provide specific support to the three brigades, maintaining a forward support element (FSE) on practically every divisional firebase.

Electronic support is characterized by the maintenance of complex electric-driven machinery such as FADAC gun computers, surveillance radar, field radio and telephone sets, wide band radio equipment, teletypes, and special electronic devices.

Working long hours in the shop is nothing new to these men, electronic equipment is priceless in this war and every man knows the value of expert workmanship.

"Although we are maintenance men, we keep up with the signal motto of "Shoot, Scoot and Communicate," said CW2 Donald G Talbot (Midland, Texas).

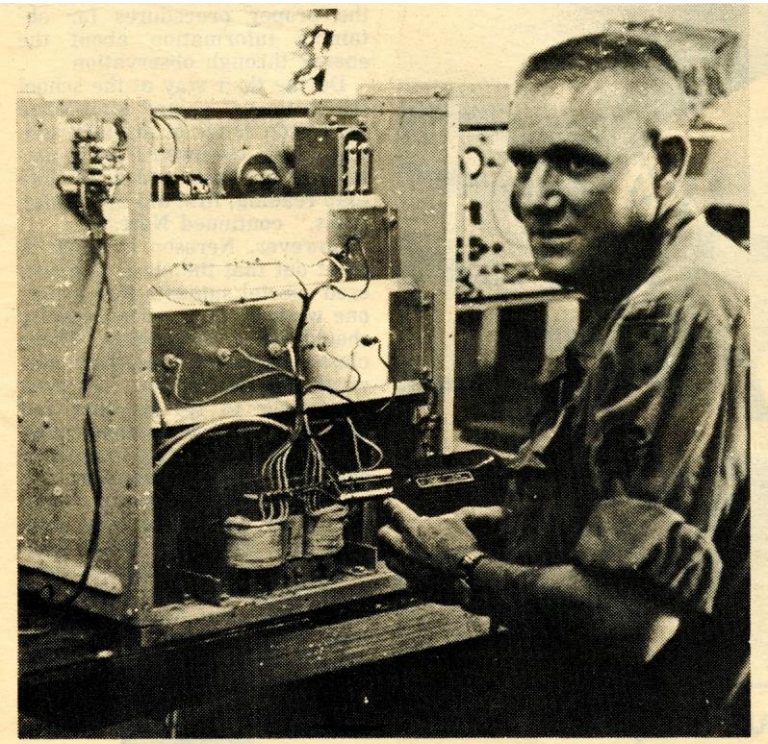
Timeliness and preciseness are essential in any repair job, especially when such equipment is vital to combat operations. By their merit **Hq. and Co. A 723rd Maint Bn**. are proof positive that these word have been heeded. (Americal IO)

Photo Captions:

November 14, 1969

MAKING THE FINAL INTRICATE adjustments to the TT-4 teletype machine is the job of SP5 James Orcutt (St. Paul, Minn.). Thousands of pounds of equipment are repaired monthly by the men of the 723rd Electronic Maintenance Shop. (U.S. Army Photo)

1) MAKING THE FINAL INTRICATE adjustments to the TT-4 teletype machine is the job of SP5 James Ordcutt (St. Paul, Minn.). Thousands of pounds of equipment are repaired monthly by the men of the **723rd Electronic Maintenance Shop.** (U.S. Army Photo)



ONE OF THE VARIED OCCUPATIONS of the men of the 723rd Maint., Electronics Shop is "doing a job" on a rectifier set shown here by SP5 Leon Hitchcock (Danville, Ill.). Officers and men work round-the-clock to assure quantity and quality. (U.S. Army Photo)

2) ONE OF THE VARIED OCCUPATIONS of the men of the **723rd Maint.**, **Electronics Shop** is "doing a job" on a rectifier set shown here by SP5 Leon Hitchcock (Danviller, Ill.) Officers and men work round-the-clock to assure quantity and quality. (U.S. Army Photo.)

Proudly Serving Our
Action
Army
SGM Paul K.
Shaffer
Reenlistment
Supervisor
Amcal Div.

Photo above

By MSG H. A. Bonesio

AMERICAL Division career counselors reenlisted 46 soldiers during a one-week period. Thirty-four of these were in the First Termer category with the majority-choosing guaranteed reenlistment options. Most of the career personnel chose "choice of CONUS station" program.

Division Troops retained SFC Warren B. Pollard and SSG Leander Cooper, **HHC**, **Americal**; SP4 Larry Chard, HHT, 1-1st Cav.

Support Command was represented by MSG Willie Stevens, HHC, 23rd SGT; SSG Delmas Pautdo, 23rd Admin. Co.; SSG William Cutler, D Co., 23rd Med. Bn.; and from the **723rd Maint. Bn.,** SP5 James Sirmans, SP4 John Harrigan, and PFC Hiram L, Henderson.

Division Artillery keeps .....

Special Services Contributes to Soldiers' Morale

By PFC Dennis L. Selby

CHU LAI -- From golf to movies, swimming to basketball, division Special Services provides these sport activities and services, plus many others for you -- the soldier.

Weather permitting, perhaps you'd like to cool off with a dip in the South China Sea -- or you'd like -- try your and at sailing or water skiing. Of course, with the monsoon season upon us, the beach facilities are limited due to "rough water" but a Division "long-timer" with a little luck, will be able to enjoy these services in March or April.

More Vigorous Nature

If activity of a more vigorous nature is your bag, perhaps the Special Services tennis court near the USO will suit your fancy. If not, then a rigorous game of handball in the court located behind the main officer's club will help you unwind. Reservations should be made by calling Special Services 24 hours in advance for the use of either of these facilities.

Golf addicts abound even here in Vietnam, and if you are so inclined, you're sure to enjoy the miniature golf course at the Special Services Beach, also located next to the Chu Lai USO.

On The Drawing Board

CPT Guy Camuso (Atlanta, Ga.), special services officer, explained: "Organized sports will soon be on the drawing board for the Division. Various sports teams will be formed from all units, right down to company-size, with participation from every unit being encouraged."

Most Division movie buffs are surprised at the quality and quantity of films offered for viewing by Special Services. The section distributes and repairs films for over 250 accounts holders throughout the Corps. According to CPT Camuso, "Our philosophy is to get the entertainment to the troops in the field where it is needed most. We like to have the movies shown nightly, but on the smaller, more isolated firebases and landing zones, this is impractical because of enemy harassment.

Music Room

For those that are musically inclined, Special Services offers a "music room." Located at the service club in the **723rd Maint. Bn.** area, soldiers can create their own "jam sessions" with piano, drums, guitars and various wind instruments available for use -- free of charge.

Another little-known function of Special Services is the sponsoring of choral groups, two of which are presently entertaining Division troops.

If a person is of a creative nature, Special Services' five crafts shops are sure to please, with activities ranging from model plane construction to painting and leatherworking.

For the many division camera bugs, there are five photo labs now in operations, with a sixth scheduled for completion soon. There's a slight charge for printing paper, but developing and printing facilities are fee of charge.

(Continued)

(Continued)

Special Services Contributes to Soldiers' Morale

Book Worms

For the "bookworms" in the division, Special Services has just completed construction of a 15,000-volume library that should be available for use in the very near future.

Once opened, hard-bound books of every description will be available to division troopers, as well as periodicals and newspapers. With a range of selections such as "Alice in Wonderland" to the "Rise and Fall of the Third Reich," the new library is sure to cater to the tastes of almost all readers.

For the infantry and artillerymen located on firebases that find it difficult to get to the division area, "craftfield kits" are offered by the section.

The kits contain model crafts, glue, paint, cutting blades, and come in two sizes. The larger kit will service 32 men; the smaller 16 men. Provided by Special Services on request, are field libraries containing a 2,000-volume paperback book selection. At present, there are 25 such libraries distributed among Division units. And, of course, all special service facilities are available for the use by field troops on "standdown."

Proud Men Serving Our
Action
Army
SFC Fenton
M. Edwards
Career Counselor
Spt. Cmd.

Photo Caption: By MSG H.A. Bonesio
(Note Right column cut off when xeroxed.)

.....

Support Command retains **SP4 Douglas Stroup, Hq&A Co 723rd Maint. Bn,** from the **23rd Sup. & Trans Bn .....**

Vol. 3, No. 5 CHU LAI, VIETNAM January 30, 1970

Proud Men Serving Action Army

SFC Wallace F. Anderson Career Counselor Division Troops

By MSG H.A. Bonesio

Eighty-four of the 103 reenlistees in the Americal Division, during a two-week period, with First Term soldiers.

.....

Support Command retains SP5 Wilfred Oliveira, A Co., 723rd Maint. Bn. The 16th Combat Aviation Group keeps SP4 Robert Roberts, E Co., 723rd Maint. Bn.; .....

Vol. 3, No. 5 CHU LAI, VIETNAM January 30, 1970

Army, Navy help Brothers Meet

By Sp4 Paul Clark

US OKLAHMOMA CITY—Petty Officer Third Class Nick D'Angelo had been trained to anticipate the unexpected while working at a naval radar tracker, but the events one recent morning on the deck of the USS Oklahoma City astonished him.

The last person D'Angelo expected to run into on deck was his brother, Ron.

SP4 Ron D'Angelo a mechanic with the **723rd Maintenance Battalion,** hadn't seen his brother for more than 20 months. Until recently, they had been serving on different sides of the world; Ron with the 51st Maintenance Battalion in Karlsrube, Germany and Nick with the Seventh Fleet in the western Pacific.

When the division support command became aware that Ron's brother was assigned to the Seventh Fleet flagship, they began coordinating with Navy liaison personnel to arrange the reunion.

Ron spent three days aboard the light cruiser and had the opportunity to live the life of a sailor while talking over old times and reminiscing about the brothers' home in Turtle Creek, Pa.

When asked if he would like to trade duty stations with his brother, SP4 D'Angelo replied, "I have 271 days of active service left and Nick thinks he's 'Short' with 1023 days remaining – you figure it out!"

Photo Caption: Though they serve in two different branches of service, these brothers recently enjoyed a two-man family reunion aboard the USS Oklahoma City. **SP4 Ron D'Angelo** (left and his brother, Petty Officer 2/c Nick D'Angelo take a few moments to talk over old times by the ship's rail.

Proud Men Serving

Action

Army

Photo

SFC Bobbie J. Boudreaux

Career Counselor

Division Troops

By MSG H. A. Bonesio

Forty-three of the 54 reenlistees in the Americal Division during a one-week period were in the First Termer category.

Most of the new careerists reupped for guaranteed assignments or CONUS choice of station.

Support Command had SP5 George D. Duval, Hqs. & Co. A, **723rd Maint. Bn.; ....**

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ARVNs Learn
Electric Repair

CHU LAI - Five ARVN soldiers of the 2nd Logistic Battalion, 2nd ARVN Division recently completed two weeks of on-the-job training, learning through the facilities and personnel of the Division's **723rd Maintenance Battalion**.

Accompanied by their interpreter, ARVN SSG Lau Lien, the enlisted men learned generator maintenance and repair.

Proud Men Serving
Our
Action
Army

Photo SSG Ronnie A. Hodges
Career Counselor
Americal Hqs.
By MSG H.A. Bonesio

Sixty-six soldiers reenlisted in the AMERICAL Division during a two-week period. More than 68 percent of the reenlistees were formerly First Termers.

The 16th Combat Aviation Group reenlistees from **723rd Maint. Bn.**, SP6 John J. Hehn and SSG Peter Farrin, E Co.

Change of Comd.
For 2 Div. Units
Honor Officers

In a recent change of command ceremony LTC Jack D. Wilson assumed command of the 723d Maintenance Bn. replacing LTC Homer J. Finch.

In another change of command ceremony LTC Chester C. Phillips Jr. (Columbia, S.C.), former executive officer of the 198th Bde., assumed command of the **1st of the 52nd Inf.** replacing LTC Arthur E. Brown Jr. who will become a Regiment Advisor in the IX Corps area. (Amcal IO)

Have problems?
Call on FAST

By SSG Tim Palmer

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) -- "Organized to provide timely augmentation of existing administrative and service support to maneuver elements at forward base areas."

This high sounding phraseology is lifted directly from the operation plan of one of the Division's latest efforts to teach the men in the field with services that all too often are not available to there.

Forward Area Support Team, better known as FAST, is a combination for specialists from several distinct areas, each of which is important to the field soldier. The specialist are centrally located in Chu Lai much too far away for casual patronage by those on the line.

Whether a man needs a new ID card, a can of lighter fluid, an up-dated insurance form or an M-16 firing pin, all are available when a FAST team visits.

Boarding early morning choppers, loaded down with boxes of records, files, typewriters, adding machines and last but no least, PX merchandise the men from FAST set out for the field almost daily.

The three areas concentrated upon for a normal FAST visit are Personnel (AG), Maintenance and PX. The latter, although most popular with the troops by far, is not nearly as important as the first two in the long run.

"One of the most important thing in a man's file in [is] DA Form 41," commented Warrant Officer 2 James Culp, Radform, N.C., during a recent FAST team visit to Landing Zone Liz an 11th Infantry Brigade fire support base. "This form, the Emergency Data Card, describes the disposition of a man's accrued pay and allowances should he be missing and stipulates a beneficiary."

Additionally," stated WO Culp, who is in charge of the team's personnel section, "we come prepared with a man's complete records before visiting the forward areas." So if he wants to revise his Serviceman's Group Life Insurance as a result of marriage or take care of anything related to his personnel needs, we're prepared to help him."

Common requests are for new ID cards and dog tags, items that are easily and understandably lost in the boonies.

"One of our most frequent requests is for the replacement of lost ID cards," mentioned Specialist 4 David Doughman, Des Moines, Iowa. He is a permanent member of the FAST though assigned to Personnel Management. "I come prepared with a Polaroid camera of the pictures so that we can wrap the whole thing up at once."

Another attachment to what usually turns out to be about a 12 man crew is the man from the APO. He sells money orders and often teams up with the PX representative to get orders sent through for those tape recorders or new cameras. "I usually sell anywhere from $800 to $1,000 worth of money orders in a month," said Private First Class David Bies, Dubuque, Iowa. "Often times more than that depending on what day of the month it is," he added, referring to the easily understood trend towards increased sales at the beginning of the month, right after payday, with decreasing sales as the month - and the money - runs out.

The maintenance section is provided by two men from the 723rd Maintenance Battalion out of Chu Lai. Their duties are to inspect and repair, on the spot, individual weapons and protective masks.

(Continued)

(Continued)

Have problems?
Call on FAST

"The problems we find with M-16s are usually small ones," commented Specialist 5 Larry Kinder, Fletcher, Ohio, who is another permanent member of the FAST although assigned to the **723rd Maintenance Battalion**.

As for the **mobile PX**, this section is the station that generates the most smiles from the troopers. "We take along watches, cameras, radios, magazines - everything we know from experience the infantrymen want," says Specialist 4 George Dobson, Charlotte, S.C. Also the traveling PX stocks many smaller items that ordinarily aren't available at the forward areas such as lighter fluid, ball-point pens and postcards. They have PACEX catalogues available so that the men can place orders for such things as stereo components, TV sets, etc. One more stop in the money line and they are in business.

The FAST crew is coordinated by Captain Howard L. Wagner, Bolton, Texas, who assembles the personnel from each of the above mentioned areas for the frequent missions.

"We'll go to any of the forward areas at the request of the unit commander," says Captain Wagner whose team averages about 18 one day stops per month. "We've been to them all," he added.

"For those men interested this program is a very good idea, said Captain Wagner. "Although we've never gotten the level or participation we would like to see at a firebase, especially at the records, the program helps to boost morale and add the creature comforts when the men are on the hill. This is a program we need."

723rd rewarded

By SSG Vern Kaiser

CHU LAI (DISCOM IO) - Eight men from the Division's **723rd Maintenance Battalion** received Army of the Republic of Vietnam decorations.

Five enlisted men and three officers all assigned to Headquarters and Company A, were awarded the Technical Honor Medal for their part in the Vietnamization program.

During a brief ceremony, Brigadier General Nguyen Van Toan, 2nd ARVN Division commander offered his thanks and praise to the 723rd Maintenance Battalion.

Those receiving the awards were: Major Sumner Ely, Sun City, Arz.; First Lieutenant Oreste Valsangiacomo, Berry, Vt.; First Sergeant Dennis Richardson, Columbus, Ga.; Sergeant First Class Lazlo Schreiber, Long Beach, Calif.; Staff Sergeant Donald McCarty, Clayton, Mich.; Specialist 5 David Hamlin, Tampa, Fla.; and Specialist 5 Martin Perrone.

Photo Caption: Specialist Five Michael Washington prepares to lower the motor cover on an APC. The **723rd Maint. Bn.** is responsible for the bulk of all tracked vehicles repaired throughout the Division (Photo by SSG Vern Kaiser)

3 consecutive months

723rd receives mess award

By MSG William Turner

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) - There is an old Army saying that "mechanics make the best books." In **Company D, 723rd Maintenance Battalion**, this is literally a fact.

We don't know who originated this axiom, but for Sergeant First Class John A. Woolard, Tacoma, Wash., mess sergeant of Delta Company, it has made him one of the best in Support Command and has earned him the Support Command Best Mess Award for April, May, and June among the mess halls in July the Most Improved Mess Hall award in DISCOM.

Sergeant Woolard contributes [attributes?] his success as a mess sergeant to his cooks Specialist's Four's Oliver Steiner, Phillip LeMere, Brent L. Veleker, Cecil A. DeMutis and Specialist Five Frank Slaughter, baker, for their hard work and interest in the mess hall. Also receiving credit from Sergeant Woolard were his civilian workers Miss Nguyen Thi Minh, Waitress Supervisor, Miss Pham Thi Tu and Miss Nguyen Thi (twiggy) Thanh, waitress.

The massive scrounging and renovation project undertaken by Sergeant Woolard in the mess hall has placed it on the level of the "Ritz." The decor features yellow walls with brown stainwood paneling with red and green glass windows on the NCO side of the mess while the EM side of the unit is done in air-conditioned splendor with a panoramic view of the South China Sea and "Rocket Ridge."

Asked how he enjoyed the food and the atmosphere, Private First Class Leo French, St. Louis, Mo., said, "It's excellent. I've been here for three months and eat here every day and the chow is better than most places I know."

When word reached the headquarters the mess hall in Company D was serving chow fit for a "king," **Lieutenant Colonel Jack D. Wilson, CO of 723rd Maintenance Battalion, had to see for himself and found that service was excellent and everything he had heard was on the up and up.**

Even though the EM go through the serving line, the NCOs have table service. They select from a printed menu what they desire to eat, pass the slip to the waitress and their food is brought from the kitchen.

Three of the cooks in the mess hall had no experience at all in the mess field. A former MP, truck driver and mechanic have been undergoing a 90 day training program, personally supervised by Sergeant Woolard. The course covers equipment, sanitation, safety, storage, baking of meats, vegetables, soups, garnish eye appeal, serving of food, meal planning and the use of TMs and FMs after which they are graded on job performance. In addition Sergeant Woolard stated, "I also look for personal appearance and hygiene in my cooks, which contributes to the atmosphere on the serving line."

"Variety is the key to meals in our mess hall," Sergeant Woolard said. Even though we follow the master menu, which is extremely well prepared, we try to vary sometimes to provide more selections for the troops." According to the energetic mess sergeant, every other Friday, the company has a cookout featuring Woolard's specialty, Bar-B-Q. Sergeant Woolard said the men really look forward to this day as well as the day we prepare peppered steak, liver and Sukiaki and double cheeseburgers.

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723rd receives mess award

Coming in for special praise was Specialist Slaughter, the baker, who keeps the mess lines stocked with hot rolls, cakes, pies and a special spice cake.

Sergeant Woolard, a veteran of 22 years service began his military career as an infantryman in 1949. In 1956 he decided to enter the mess field, attending the Mess Stewar[d] School in Germany in 1959. Following his tour in Germany he was assigned to Fort Lawton, Wash., in 1966 where he served as a dietitian and food service representative. His duties included food purchasing, menu planning and supervising 17 civilians and four soldiers of the staff. In January 1967 he returned to Germany with the 703rd Maintenance Battalion in Aschaffenburg as a mess sergeant and later served as a first sergeant. He arrived in Vietnam in January 1970.

At home, he said he cooks every Sunday morning for his wife Ola, who is a nurse in Tacoma. The Woolards have two children, Perry, 21, who attends Tacoma Community College and a daughter, Mildred, who lives in Rhiem Main, Germany.

With his experience in the mess field, and a touch of "soul" in his food, we understand now why everybody beats a path to his mess hall door.

Operation Buddy aids Vietnamization

By SGT Matt Gryta

CHU LAI,(23rd Inf. Div. IO) - For quite some time Sergeant First Class Pham Van Diem has been a good Giam Dinh Quan Xa for the **813th ARVN Ordinance Company.**

Today he is an even better motor vehicle inspector thanks to his participation in the 23rd Infantry Division's Operation Buddy."

SFC Diem is one of 69 soldiers from the ARVN I Corps Logistic Command stationed in Quang Ngai City who have participated in the program since its inception two months ago. "Operation Buddy" is designed to give Vietnamese troops further training on equipment used in their military occupational specialties.

Living and working with the men of Headquarters and **A Company, 723rd Maintenance Battalion** for a two-week period, the ARVN's learn American methods of organizational maintenance and direct support activities.

To date, "Operation Buddy" has provided on-the-job training in small arms repair, typewriter repair, generator repair, welding, wheeled vehicle maintenance and inspection, electronics equipment repair, bulk petroleum storage and issue and heavy equipment maintenance.

"Because of the language barrier, we frequently have to communicate with the ARVN's by the show and tell method," noted Specialist 5 Gerald L. Gates of Alumrock, Pa. An office machine repairman, Specialist Gates has two Vietnamese soldiers assigned to work with him during each training cycle.

"I visually point out the trouble with the equipment," he explained, "and then show them how you go about correcting the problem. So far they've all picked up what I'm trying to teach them really well."

"The ARVN's are uptight about their work and came prepared to learn," commented Specialist 4 Thomas J. Holman of Omaha, a radio repairman with the 57th Transportation Battalion.

"The program has made our men feel very important," said Staff Sergeant Luong Tri Huong. "They are all very interested in their jobs and eager to learn and improve their skills.

Several Huong is one of three interpreters from the ARVN Liaison Office in Chu Lai assigned to "Operation Buddy".

Observers have noted the enthusiasm of the Vietnamese as the key to the success of the program.

"The ARVN's have constantly attempted to make the most of the program and in doing so have made our men more eager to teach them," noted Captain Philip ?C. Schlacther of Cincinnati, project officer for the **723rd Maintenance Battalion**.

"This has proven to be a fine and valuable program," said Lieutenant Colonel Frank Francois of New Orleans, Commanding Officer of the 57th Transportation Battalion.

"As we have seen it, it can work and is continuing to work for the benefit of both ARVN and American forces. I would expect increased participation in the program as we continue to phase down because it has proven it s usefulness in terms of the transfer of American force operations to the Vietnamese, LTC Francis concluded.

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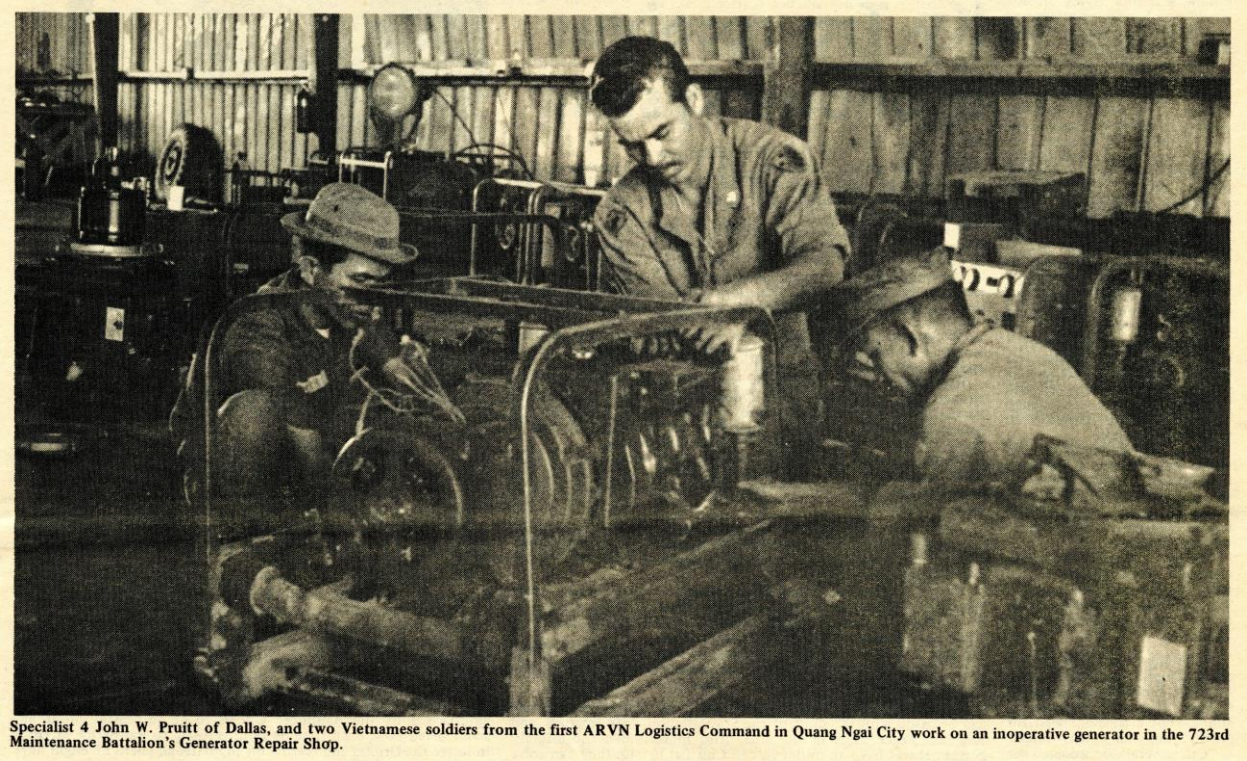
Operation Buddy aids Vietnamization

By SGT Matt Gryta

Photos by
Sgt Matt Gryta

Photo Captions:



Specialist 4 John W. Pruitt of Dallas, and two Vietnamese soldiers from the first ARVN Logistics Command in Quang Ngai City work on an inoperative generator in the 723rd Maintenance Battalion's Generator Repair Shop.

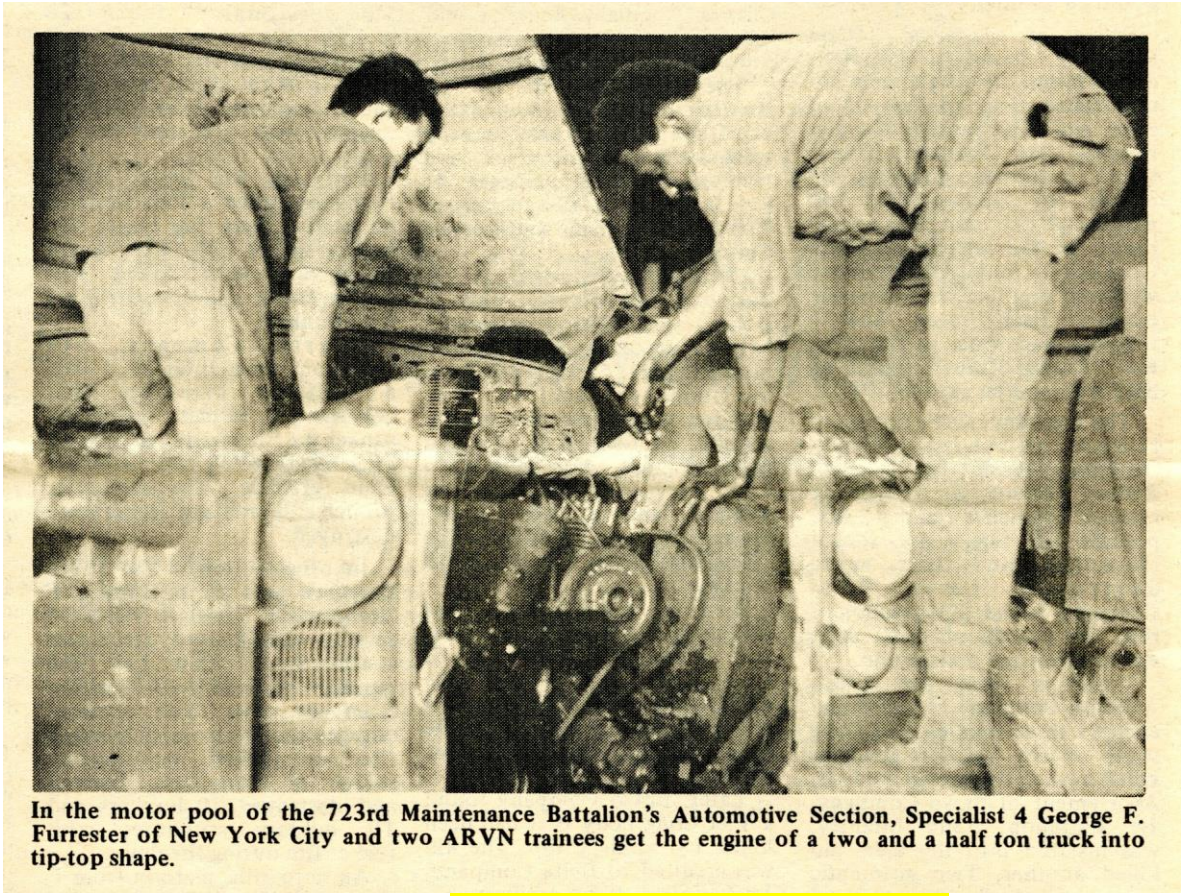
1) Specialist 4 John W. Pruitt of Dallas, and two Vietnamese soldiers from the first ARVN Logistics Command in Quang Ngai City work on an inoperative generator in the **723rd Maintenance Battalion's** Generator Repair Shop.

Sgt. Alfred Baynes of Newport News, Va., points out the source of the malfunction in an M-60 machinegun to three ARVN soldiers working in the 723rd Maintenance Battalion Armament Shop.

2) Sgt. Alfred Baynes of Newport News, Va., points out the source of the malfunction in an M-60 machinegun to three ARVN soldiers working in the **723rd Maintenance Battalion** Armament Shop.

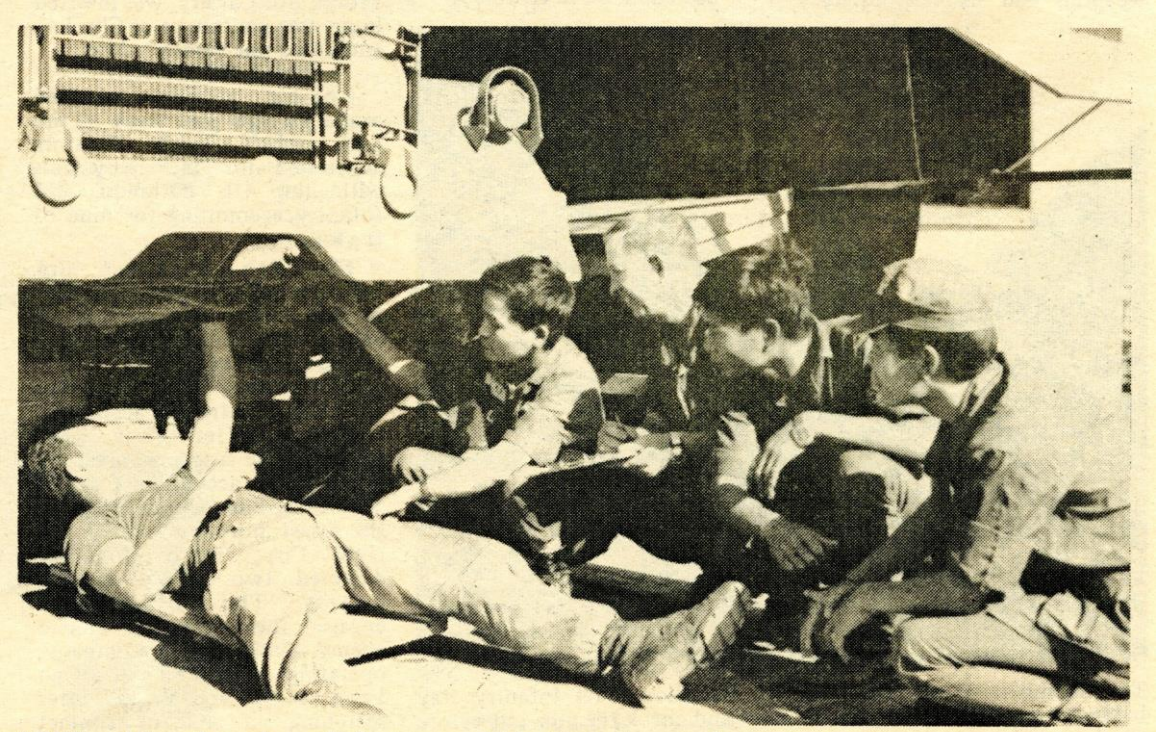
In the 723rd's Office Machine Repair Shop Specialist 5 Gerald L. Gates of Alumrock, Pa., works on the skeleton of a typewriter with one of the ARVN soldiers participating in Operation Buddy.

3) In the **723rd's** Office Machine Repair Shop Specialist 5 Gerald L. Gates of Alumrock, Pa., works on the skeleton of a typewriter with one of the ARVN soldiers participating in Operation Buddy.
4) Here, ARVN soldiers get on the job training in U.S. Army petroleum storage methods at the **57th Transportation Battalion's Beach Tank Farm.**
5) Specialist 4 Thomas J. Holman of Omaha advises an ARVN radio repairman on the intricacies of American communications equipment in the 57th Transportation Battalion's Electronics Maintenance Shop.



In the motor pool of the 723rd Maintenance Battalion's Automotive Section, Specialist 4 George F. Furrester of New York City and two ARVN trainees get the engine of a two and a half ton truck into tip-top shape.

6) In the motor pool of the **723rd Maintenance Battalion's** Automotive Section, Specialist 4 George F. Furrester of New York City and two ARVN trainees get the engine of a two and a half ton truck into tip-top shape.



ARVN soldiers here learn U.S. Army vehicle inspection methods at the 723rd Motor Pool from Specialist 5 Roger Holobaugh of Columbus, Ohio.

7) ARVN soldiers here learn U.S. Army vehicle inspection methods at the **723rd Motor Pool** from Specialist 5 Roger Holobaugh of Columbus, Ohio.

You're in the Americal now Mr. Jones

What is the Americal?

The Americal, or 23d Infantry Division as it is officially known, was born in the South Pacific during World War II designating the "American Forces in New Caledonia."

You are now one of these men of the Americal who served gallantly during the drive to Japan during World War II and have since 1967, helped secure for the South Vietnamese a part of their country which used to be a Viet Cong stronghold.

Much has been accomplished, but the job is by no means complete. The division is now engaged in the nuts and bolts activities of Vietnamization, pacification, and small unit operations. That which you have heard about back home you will now be a part of on the person to person level.

How has the Americal progressed to its current position?

In 1967, General William C. Westmoreland, the MACV commander, directed the organization of an Army task force to send to troubled I Corps in the northern part of the Republic of Vietnam.

First with the help of the brigades from the 101st Airborne and 25th Infantry Divisions, Task Force Oregon, which later became the Americal, began search and clear operations in the area.

With the introduction of the 198th and the 11th Infantry Brigades to assist the 196th Brigade, the Americal was born again in Vietnam. The official change of colors was held October 26, 1967, a Major General Samuel W. Koster assumed command of the division.

Offensive combat operations continued and intensified in 1968 as the 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry joined the division organization.

Task Force Miracle, composed of the 2d Bn, 1st Inf. and the 1st Bn. 6th Inf., was sent to Da Nang to counter the 1968 Tet offensive. During this defense, the enemy lost 1,407 men most of them during the four days of heaviest contact.

The year 1968 in the division area of operation was one of heavy contact with relatively large numbers of VC and NVA forces. These units were reduced in number by offensive operations and forced to deploy in small groups.

Lines of communication and supply were opened and secured for both U.S. troops, the ARVN, and the civilian populace.

Units of the division intercepted and destroyed large units in the process of launching major attacks on Tam Ky and Quang Ngai City, the province capital.

The coming of 1969 ushered in Operation Russell Beach on January 13. The operation was typical of the coming operations as civilians were relocated from unsecured areas and then enemy units flushed out from these areas.

Operation Russell Beach relocated civilians from the Batangan Peninsula south of Chu Lai to secure areas along Highway One and then swept the peninsula south of Chu Lai to secure areas along Highway One and then swept the peninsula to clear out the Viet Cong and its political infrastructure.

In March, 1969, the division area of operations was divided into the three parts which are the same today. The **196th Brigade** and the **5th ARVN Regiment** joined forces in the Operation Frederick Hill to the north.

The **198th Brigade** and the **6th ARVN Regiment** shared the Operation Geneva Park sector in the middle, while the **11th Brigade** and the **4th ARVN Regiment** combined forces for Operation Iron Mountain in the Southern Sector. These operations are continuing to date.

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You're in the Americal now Mr. Jones

August, 1969, brought a major operation as the 196th Bde. combined with the 1st Marine Division to inflict almost 1,000 deaths on the 1st Regiment of the 2d NVA Division.

The enemy had been threatening the Hiep Duc resettlement village, FSB West and FSB Siberia. Two weeks of fighting in the rolling valley floor reduced the enemy unit to a name only.

When the battle ended, sweeps through the still-blistering heat on the Que Son Valley floor met only small pockets of enemy resistance, which were quickly mopped up.

Spearheading Allied operations in Quang Tin and Quang Ngai provinces, the Americal pursued a vigorous rice denial program to choke the enemy's supply system and return this vital staple to the populace.

In addition, giant land-clearing operations along the coast denied the enemy ground he once honeycombed with sanctuaries concealed by vegetation and rough terrain. Civilians evacuated from these areas were resettled at relocation centers, which began to spring up along Highway One and other pacified areas in some of the river valleys.

These pacified areas became enemy objectives again in 1970 as NVA elements tried to take Hiep Duc. Again, they were repulsed and driven back to the mountains, suffering heavy casualties in their flight.

Today, in 1971, the Americal continues to perform its varied missions in helping the people of the Republic of Vietnam protect their country against subversive forces.

Through such efforts a Project Buddy, conducted by the 723d Maintenance Battalion, teaching ARVN mechanics techniques of care of vehicles and machinery, the withdrawal of American forces has been smooth and has allowed continuing peace and security to be maintained in this area.

The situation which you will face is not a static one however, due to the changing tactical needs it is possible that division units will be shifted to other parts of the country for important operations.

What is the Americal?

The Americal is you. It is whatever you make it.

723rd Maint. Bn.

The **723rd Maintenance Battalion** was constituted April 3, 1943, in the Army of the United States as the 721st Ordinance Light Maintenance Company and assigned to the Americal Division.

The unit was activated in May, 1943 in the Fiji Islands and served throughout World War II, earning the following decorations: the Presidential Unit Citation, the Meritorious Unit Commendation, and the Philippine Presidential Unit Citation.

On May 16, 1966 the unit was re-called into action as the 188th Maintenance Battalion.

During August, 1966 the Headquarters and Main Support Company was alerted for movement to Vietnam. The advance party arrived at Long Binh during November, 1966 and was quickly followed by the main body of the battalion. The battalion became fully operational at Chu Lai on May 9, 1967.

On February 15, 1969 the Americal Division was reorganized and the three support battalions which had serviced the three light infantry brigades of the division were inactivated. The supply and maintenance companies of each of these support battalions were redesignated as Forward Support Companies and assigned to the **723rd Maintenance Battalion**.

Craft shop -- something for everyone

Story by
Sp/4 Rick Holloway
Photos by
Sp/4 Ron Cryderman

CHU LAI, (23rd INF DIV IO) - Keep your cool and do something constructive, try the air-conditioned Chu Lai Special Services Crafts Shop.

The Crafts Shop is the biggest and best in Vietnam, and it needs more active participation. It is open every day from 1 p.m. to 10 p.m. for your convenience.

Most of its facilities are free, including a well equipped photo lab, fine arts shop, lapidary and jewelry shops, enameling and leather goods facilities, and plastic model kits.

There is enough equipment and space in the photo lab so you won't have to wait or be crowded. A color and ten black and white enlargers are available. At the present, Ektachrome color slides can be developed. In addition the Chu Lai Crafts Shop is the only such unit in Vietnam planning to do color printing.

You don't have to be an expert photographer either, Specialist Four Dave McCallister is there to instruct and help you. In civilian life he ran his own photo shop.

The fine arts and crafts section is handled by SP4 Ron Howard who is quite apt in the various art projects offered. He will help you with paintings, tye-dyes, or anything you would like to make.

Painting supplies are free as long as you do the work in the Craft Shop. You can purchase paint to take out of the shop. Any painting medium can be exercised, the choice is up to you.

The lapidary and jewelry shops are run by SP4 Dennis Whitaker. Complete facilities are offered, for the cutting of unfaceted stones. You can buy the stones at the Crafts Shop, at a reasonable price, or you can pick them up on the beach.

They also have settings, sterling silver and gold available for purchase in the sales store. Items which have been made by division personnel are on display throughout the Craft Shop to help you decide what you want to do and to show you want can be done with a little effort.

The leather shop is the most used areas of the Crafts Shop. Specialist Four Wayne Hawker is there to provide assistance whenever you need it.

You can make a variety of leather articles including belts, moccasins and sandals. The most popular seems to be the wide leather wrist bands.

Also there is an enameling shop where you can really get into difficult copper enameling or make a lot of ash trays, depending on your patience.

If you just want to see what can be done, there is a combination lounge-gallery where paintings, crafts and photography are displayed and on hand are almost every craft magazine.

The Crafts Shop is located in the **723rd Maintenance Battalion** area next to the Divarty mess hall.

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Craft shop -- something for everyone

Photo Captions:

1) Division soldiers work on different projects in the craft shop. Many varied areas of interest are offered. (Signs above: CRAFTS, LEATHER, MODELS)

2) A soldier works on a pair of leather moccasins in the leather department of the Chu Lai Special Craft Shop.

3) Here's an artsey-craftsey view of Specialist Four Dennis Whitaker, who runs the lapidary shop in the Craft's Shop.

4) The combination lounge-gallery is a good place to sit and relax, Craft magazines are available and works of art by 23rd Division soldiers are on display.

'Rosey' the 5 ton dump truck just won't die

By CPT Daniel F. Lennon

CHU LAI (23d Inf. Div. IO) -- A rose by any other name would smell as sweet--sometimes. In this case Rosey is a five tone dump truck of **Company B, 26th Engineer Battalion** with a longevity that would put Methuselah to shame.

Although the harsh climate and rugged terrain of Vietnam and the hazards of warfare combine to make the average life expectancy of a five ton dump something like 18 months. Rosey is now on her fourth tour in country-without a single R&R or leave.

The remarkable story began in 1967, Rosey rolled off the production line in South Bend, Ind. March 1968 found her already in country and working hard for Company A, 26th Engr. Bn.

It should be explained that a five ton dump truck does much more than simply haul earth. In one of the most hazardous activities that can be conceived, five tone dumps are loaded with earth to increase their weight and are backed down the road behind a mine sweep team in an effort to detonate with rear tires, any mines the detecting team may have missed. This exercise is called "pressure testing and not a few five tons have met premature demise in this fashion. Rosey, however survived unscathed but [for?] much from her tour with Alpha Company.

In September 1969, she was sent to Chu Lai for repairs and replacement of some more sorely worn parts and then sent to **Company C, 26th Engr. Bn.** There she put in another industrious nine months of work. At the end of this time, though she was in such bad condition that the company was anxious to get rid of her, so a rehabilitive transfer was arranged and Rosey came to Company B, her present home.

She was not exactly well received, however, arriving as she did with a leaky radiator, bad brakes, faulty steering, inoperative dump bed and an engine that balked at anything that wasn't level or down hill.

The first Company B operator assigned to her, Specialist Four John Gogel, relates some interesting experiences with Rosey.

"When we first got her," he said, "we were working on Tra Bong road. Rosey was in such bad shape we all thought the best thing to do was try to blow her up and get a replacement truck. So that's what we did. We removed four of her eight rear tires to increase the pressure on the ground, and I drove her as first pressure test truck every day for two months. I figured that if any truck would hit a mine, it would certainly be Rosey since she was the first one in line. It didn't work out that way though."

"Although nine five tons were blown up during those two months Rosey made it without a scratch. She almost seemed to know where the mines were and how to get around them. Other times she was just plain lucky."

"One morning I remember, I drove Rosey west from the laager site where all the mines were expected and some newer trucks went east. Well, wouldn't you know it, two of the trucks going east hit mines, and Rosey came smirking back without a nick."

"Once Rosey did hit a mine, but it was just a little AP (anti-personnel) device and all she got was a flat tire."

(Continued)

(Continued)

'Rosey' the 5 ton dump truck just won't die

Gogel went on to describe the art of "driving" Rosey. "You had to be a real contortionist," he explained. "She didn't have a clutch return spring so we had a piece of wire tied to the clutch pedal to pull it back up. It was 'push-shift-pull-accelerate' and then pray because you couldn't always control the accelerator."

"Once while driving on QL-1, Rosey passed another vehicle all by herself. I couldn't get her to slow down. Rosey seemed to have something to say about her steering too. The steering wheel would have anywhere from one quarter turn to a full turn of play-it seemed to depend on her mood-and you couldn't be sure when you would have power steering. An inexperienced operator once put Rosey on her side in a rice paddy when he turned right and she went straight. You didn't really drive Rosey, you tried to persuade her to go where you wanted to go."

Unsuccessful in their attempt to rid themselves of this machine with nine lives, **Company B** sent Rosey to **723rd Maintenance** for repairs. There the radiator was replaced and the clutch, brakes and steering were repaired. She also got her four tires back.

She was assigned a new operator in November; Specialist Four James "Tex" Nayedo. "She didn't have much power," Nayedo stated; "she would do a maximum of 20 miles per hour flat out."

"In January 1971, while on a resupply mission, Rosey's engine blew up." She was towed in and got a heart transplant-a new engine.

Work began on the LZ Stinson access road in February and Rosey was again the lead pressure test vehicle. Amazingly, once again, Rosey survived it all, although several other five tons were destroyed during the two months the road was under construction.

"On more than one occasion," Nayedo remarked, "Vehicles following directly behind me detonated mines. Somehow Rosie missed them. Several trucks were lost to 40 pound plastic Antitank mines. Rosey hit one once but for some reason it failed to detonate completely and she left the scene with a slow leak in her left rear outside dual."

She's currently hauling and pressure testing for **Company B**, though she has, as Nayedo put it, "an aversion to work," "She worked real hard for awhile," he commented, "Then she burned out a wheel cylinder. She was down a few days for repairs, then went back to work. A few more days and the hydrovac went out. In for repairs again back to work, and the rear brake shoes had to be replaced. In between the rests, though she's doing a log of work."

Occasionally rests are, perhaps, due her after three long years in Vietnam. Rest or not, though, there is no doubt that Rosey's uncanny luck and phenomenal endurance have made her one of the Army's best investments. Who knows, with continued luck and some perseverance from the maintenance personnel, she may run forever.

Graphic: Ink drawing by Specialist Four James Richardson "1 June 71". "ROSEY" appears on the door above the star.

CRIME
DOESN'T PAY

Case 1

On June 21, Private (E-2) Wayne D. Sims, **Headquarters and Company A, 723rd Maintenance Battalion**, was tried by a special court-martial authorized to adjudge a bad conduct discharge. He was tried for aggravated assault and possession of heroin.

He was sentenced to a bad conduct discharge from the service, to be confined at hard labor for five months, to forfeit $75 per month for five months and to be reduced to the grade of Private (E-1)

ARVN's graduate from 723rd Maint-'Project Buddy'

By SP4 William Hutchison

CHU LAI (23rd Inf. Div. IO) -

Every three weeks or so, the **723rd Maintenance Battalion** has a graduation ceremony.

Graduation ceremony? That's right, right here in the Republic of Vietnam---diplomas and speeches--the works.

These graduation ceremonies bring to an end a three week period of training for soldiers of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN). Called "Project Buddy", this instruction is conducted by the men of the **723rd**, for 16 or so students who receive on-the-job training in such fields as welding, small weapons maintenance, typewriter repair, warehouse operation, small radio repair, artillery mechanics, generator repair, five tone wrecker operation, heavy engineer equipment repair and wheeled vehicle mechanics.

For three weeks these selected students stay in special barracks in the battalion area and work with GIs to learn how to operate or maintain company or battalion size equipment. On a one-to-one basis these men work hand and elbow with their American instructor.

Though just ordinary GI type mechanics, these instructors do a fantastic job of producing competent workers out of their students. To overcome the language barrier the mechanic shows the student the problem and how to repair it, all by doing it first himself and then giving the student a try at it.

"They catch on pretty fast and can usually handle the job after the first few days or so," stated Specialist 5 Robert A. Sutcliffe (Deerfield, Ohio), a wrecker operator, who has trained four students in the operation of his truck. "After only a couple of trys at the controls they can drop the hook right into my hand," he added.

Specialist five W. T. Wood (olive Branch, Miss.) who has helped train 20 students during his tour as a wheeled vehicle mechanic, stated that: "The students we get know pretty much what is going on when they get here, real smart fellas. We just ort [sic] of put the finishing touches on their training during the three weeks here."

Since "Project Buddy's" formation in November of 1970, approximately 150 students have gone through the **723rd**'s program. In the beginning they were just wished a fond farewell and sent back to their units--scattered throughout the Quang Ngai and Quang Tin provinces.

Now thanks to Captain Philip Schlacter (Cincinnati, Ohio), the project director, the students can look forward to taking part in a graduation ceremony and receiving a diploma from the Department of the Army attesting to the successful completion of training in their special field.

The battalion commander Lieutenant Colonel Sidney J. Crabtree and Major Tran-Dinh-Trong, I Area Logistics Commander for Quang Ngai and Quang Tin were also present to say a few words to the graduates. Refreshments wrapped up the event as the men are eager to return to their old units.

For the men of the **723rd**, **"Vietnamization"** is happening. They can proudly point to their fine record of producing competent mechanics through "Project Buddy", which is now the Army's oldest program of its kind in the Republic of Vietnam.

Project Buddy trains Viets in maintenance

Photos by SP4 William Hutchison

TOP LEFT: A Vietnamese soldier operates the controls of a five-ton wrecker as part of his training in the **723d Maintenance Battalion's** Project Buddy. Specialist Five Robert A. Sutcliffe (Dearfiled, Ohio) is his instructor for the three-week course.

CENTER LEFT: Lieutenant Colonel Sidney J. Crabtree, commanding officer of the **723d Maintenance Battalion**, presents a soldier of the Republic of Vietnam with his diploma upon completion of the three-week training program. Major Tran-Ding-Trong, I Area Logistics Commander and Captain Philip Schlacter, the project director, look on.

TOP RIGHT: For a student soldier in Project Buddy's small weapons section, the "Over and Under" is a familiar sight. Here Specialist Four Richard Hijecki (Rochester, N.Y.) points out the different parts to one of his students.

BOTTOM LEFT: Specialist Five W. T. Wood (Olivebranch, Miss.) of the **723d Maintenance Battalion** looks on while a Vietnamese student in the battalion's Project Buddy makes some repairs on an engine.

BOTTOM RIGHT: "You have to be careful not to get this too tight." explains Specialist Five Mike A. Ellis (Crosby, Minn.) to his two Vietnamese understudies as he repairs a radio. Language is a problem and most of the teaching is done by example.

Cpt Campbell selected CO of the Week

By SP4 Sam Rousso

CHU LAI, (23d Inf. Div. IO) - Captain Eugene Campbell (Jacksonville, Fla.), commanding officer of **Company C, 723d Maintenance Battalion**, has been named the 23d Infantry Division's (Americal) Commander of the Week.

His company supports the 196th Infantry Brigade, which is responsible for the defense of Da Nang, by repairing equipment--trucks, weapons, vehicles and signal gear.

As Commander of the Week, Campbell spent a day in Chu Lai. He attended a morning briefing, flew to a unit in the field with the Assistant Division Commander for Maneuver, Brigadier General James C. McDonough, and was a guest at the commanding general's mess for dinner.

What was his reaction to being named Commander of the Week? "It was a great opportunity for me to see what problems the general staff has.... and to see how the 196th, which we support, operates within the division. This way I can inform my people of the importance of their job."

Campbell attended the Maintenance and Supply Ordnance Branch Officer's Advanced Course and Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, from April 1970 to March 1971.

He arrived in the Republic of Vietnam in April 16.

He has a degree in Industrial Education from Florida A & M University in Tallahassee. His wife, Jeanette, resides in Columbus, Ga.

723d Maintenance repairs 'everything'

CHU LAI, (23d Inf. Div. IO) -- While an individual can afford to be a jack of all trades and a master of none, the 23d Infantry Division's **723d Maintenance Battalion** does not have that privilege.

The **723d Maintenance Battalion** is responsible for repairing any of the equipment that the division uses from radios to cannons. Hq and Company A of the battalion is located here.

Its mission requires a wide variety of military occupational skills (MOS's). There are about four MOS's per shop in the company.

Man of the men plan to continue in their Army specialty when they return to civilian life. Specialist Four Laurence N. Neptune (Santurce, P.R.), for example, plans to return to school for further training and then continue in the refrigerator repair field.

The men have a great deal of enthusiasm for their jobs, according to shop officer, Captain Robert H. Fabrey (Perrysburg, Ohio). Some come in during time off to work. Fabrey compares the men to people who work in a service station simply because they enjoy working on cars.

Story and Photos by SP4 Mike Cassidy

Photos:

LEFT CENTER: Specialist Four Robert G. Galdones (Naalehu, Hawaii), Specialist Four Jerry Brown (Nashville, Tenn.) and Sergeant Phillip Jacobsen (Torrance, Calif.) check the .50 caliber machinegun from their company's M-88, a recovery track vehicle.

TOP RIGHT: Specialist Four Barry L. Ober (Lititz, Pa.) checks an electrical connection on a 10-ton truck to find why it will not start.

BOTTOM LEFT: Specialist Four Francis S. Nelc (Roseau, Minn) cleans up equipment which is being sent by **Company A, 723d Maint. Bn**., to Da Nang to be rebuilt.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Specialist Four Stephen O. Myers (Houston) works on a captured AK-47 rifle. In the background, Sergeant Alfred H. Baynes (Newport News, Va.) studies a defect on a .38 caliber pistol.

Vol. 4, No. 45 Da Nang, Vietnam November 26 , 1971 Page 1

This is the last issue of the "Southern Cross" newspaper, however, a Charger newspaper will be published by the 10th Public Information Detachment of the 196th Infantry Brigade beginning Dec. 1971.

A m e r i c a l h e a d q u a r t e r s E T S' s

26Nov71-Southern Cross Vol. 4 No. 45 Page 1

Photo Caption - MOVING SYMBOL -- Stacks and stacks of crates and crates are piled high with the equipment and supplies of the 23d Infantry Division (Americal) ready to be moved. Crates such as these have become an increasingly familiar sight to men of the Americal, many of whom have been packing their bags in recent weeks to be transferred to other units or to go home. (U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

F i n a l d i v i s i o n s t a n d d o w n s c h e d u l e d a t F t. L e w i s

By MSG Bill Pickett

CHU LAI (Special) -- The actual standdown of the 23d Infantry Division will not be accomplished until the last days of this month when the division command group will accompany the colors to Ft. Lewis, Wash., for the official deactivation of the unit and the retirement of the colors.

That action will bring to a close an enormous redeployment task which began in earnest with the announcement of the standdown of the **3d Battalion, 18th Artillery and the 71st Assault Helicopter Company** on Sept. 8.

Planning for the entire operation began much earlier under the supervision of the Keystone Operations Center, whose personnel were responsible for the coordination and scheduling of all standdown activities.

A personnel out-processing center was established adjacent to the Chu Lai Airfield, and this operation, although deterred one day when Typhoon Hester leveled the center, averaged 200 persons per day through its doors, destined for reassignment in-country or return to CONUS for further assignment or ETS.

Also in September, units of the **23d Medical Battalion**, and **maintenance and engineer companies** began standdown, many utilizing the facilities of the Division Combat Center or the former 27th Surgical Hospital area through which most of the division members would pass during their standdown period. These locations were provided [to] exchange and club facilities to serve Americal soldiers during their standdown.

On Sept. **17, H Troop, 17th Cavalry** began its standdown, and during October most maneuver elements of the division also began their standdown operations.

It was during this period that Task Force Americal began to take shape under the command of Colonel Robert J. Malloy, former DISCOM commander. Mission of Task Force Americal (TFA) was to prevent the enemy from establishing bases from which to rocket Chu Lai Combat Base and to keep the enemy from massing troops for attack.

(continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1)

Major units standing down during October included **4th Battalion, 31st Infantry** and **1st Battalion, 20th Infantry** on Oct. 5, and **3d Battalion, 1st Infantry and the 123d Assault Support Helicopter Company** [Note this must be a typo. 132nd Assault Support Helicopter Company (Hercules) is likely the correct unit.] Oct 7.

The 11th Brigade and its **1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry** began standdown on Oct. 10. Two aviation battalions, the **14th Combat Aviation Battalion** and **123d Aviation Battalion**, went into standdown on Oct. 14.

Between Oct. 15 and 18, the **4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry; 174th Assault Helicopter Company and 23d Medical Battalion**, minus, commenced standdown.

Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the 198th Infantry Brigade began standdown Oct. 19, followed on Oct. 22 by 23d Administrative Company and on Oct. 23 by the 16th Combat Aviation Group.

Between Oct. 24 and 30, those units of **Division Artillery** which had not begun standdown were returned to rear areas to begin processing and on Oct 30, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery of Division Artillery closed out its mission as it received standdown instructions.

The **1st Battalion, 6th Infantry**--which had been replaced in the mountains west of Chu Lai by the **3d Battalion, 21st infantry** maneuver element to commence standdown. When it was ordered to the rear on the last day of October.

Division support units, including **the 23d Supply and Transportation Battalion, 26th Engineer Battalion, 723d Maintenance Battalion and Division Support Command** began standdown during the first week in November.

Division **Headquarters and Headquarters Company was the final unit** to conduct standdown activities, and as the colors are escorted to CONUS last this month, only the 196th Infantry Brigade, under the command of Brigadier General Joseph C. McDonough, remains.

Vol 1, No. 1 196th Infantry Brigade December 17, 1971 Pages 4-5

Battalion supports the line

By SP4 Bill Simpson

CAMP PROFESSIONAL – In Vietnam, where it is becoming increasingly difficult to find battalion-sized units, a new one has recently been established.

With its stated mission "To Support the Line" of the 196th Infantry Brigade, the new battalion has assumed the most descriptive name imaginable, simply the Support Battalion.

The Support Battalion is the 23d Infantry Division (Americal's) Support Command boiled down to a battalion-sized unit. Where there was a Medical Battalion at the division level, there is now a Medical Company; the new Supply and Transportation Company was distilled from the Americal's 23d Supply and Transportation Battalion; and the Maintenance Company was drawn from the **723d Maintenance Battalion.**

Other units of the new Support Battalion that were formerly part of the Americal Division include the Administration Company, which has been condensed, and the new Replacement Detachment, which replaces the old 23d Infantry Division Combat Center.

Only Headquarters and Headquarters Company is a new unit, and even it has a division element-what was formerly the Americal Band.

These individual companies were assembled into a single battalion to provide total support capability for the 196th. They collectively provide the brigade with class I, II, III, IV, VII, and IX supplies, transportation for the Combat Services Support Operations and the brigade, direct support maintenance of brigade equipment, administrative services and medical (including optical) and dental services.

A lot of time-saving convenience and "red tape" reduction was also planned into the new organization. For example, all the requisitioning, receiving, supplying and shipping of materials is processed in about a one-mile square near Support Battalion headquarters.

An NCR 500 computer system is used to minimize human error and speed resupply to the brigade combat units.

The brigade's direct support maintenance company is likewise housed in that same small area so that when combat units need maintenance support for engineer, ordnance, quartermaster or signal equipment, it is readily available. The equipment is received at one central point rather than being dragged around from one point to another to be received, repaired, shipped, etc.

Personnel services, such as are handled by the Administration Company, are also centrally located. The Finance Office, Inspector General's Office, Staff Judge Advocate, Personnel Management Center and Public Information Office are all in the same general area in Camp Charger, just down the road from Support Battalion headquarters.

And a little farther down the road, in Camp Crescenz, is the medical-dental facility, which is also fully equipped to perform eye examinations and manufacture eyeglasses.

According to Lieutenant Colonel Lewi, [?] battalion commander, and personnel in this new Support Battalion were screened before being accepted. Each man was selected for this particular support mission on the basis of hi skill and prior performance with the 23d Infantry Division.

This selectivity, and the Support Battalion's tight organization insures that line troops of the 196th Infantry Brigade will receive the finest support possible.

(continued)

(continued)

Vol 1, No. 1 196th Infantry Brigade December 17, 1971 Pages 3-4

Battalion supports the line

Photo Captions:

TOP LEFT - The Support Battalion's Maintenance company is divided into several shops. Here Sergeant Charles T. Smith (Hauula, Hawaii), of the Electronic Repair Shop makes fine adjustments on a 16mm projector.

TOP LEFT CENTER – Specialist Four James Johnson, a small arms repair specialist, rebuilds a barrel of an M-60 machinegun in the Maintenance Company Armaments Shop.

BOTTOM LEFT – Specialist Five Mike L. Viles (Newberg, Ore.) makes an angle cut with an acetylene torch. He is a member of the Service and Evacuation Shop of Support Battalion.

BOTTOM RIGHT CENTER – Staff Sergeant Raymond Caughman (Alexandria, Va.) checks over a two-and-a-half ton truck engine to determine whether it is repairable. His responsibility is to inspect each vehicle as it comes in for repair and diagnose the problem. Caughman also makes final inspections once repairs have been made. (U.S. ARMY PHOTOS)

TOP LEFT CENTER- Cleanliness is a necessity when working with computer equipment such as is used in the Brigade Supply Center. Sergeant Leon Richards (Syracuse, N.Y.) cleans the card drum of the IBM keypunch machine so that it operator can correctly transcribe handwritten supply requisitions onto keypunch cards.

TOP RIGHT – Specialists Four Tys Vandervelde (Chicago, Il.) and Sergeant Richards keep a constant check on the NCR 500 computer as it processes supply orders, computer inventory balances and then automatically reorders supplies in a single operation. Use of this automated accounting equipment has enabled the Support Battalion to more efficiently keep the line supplied.

BOTTOM RIGHT – Specialist Four Johnnie Spann (Gainesville, Fla.) of he Radio Repair Shop of Support Battalion, works on parts of a field phone.

New 16 CAG Unit

CHU LAI, RVN, "E" Company-IO

On Feb. 15, 1969 "E" Company, 723rd Maintenance Battalion submitted its first morning report as a transportation aircraft maintenance company and was attached to the 123rd Aviation Battalion under the 16th Combat Aviation Group. Instantly, the new unit was operational supplying the Aeroscout and "A" Company, 123rd AB with organizational and direct support maintenance.

"E" Company, under the command of Captain Charles W. Cupp and the administrative talents of First Sergeant Lawrence E. Tyson, was smoothly evolved from the old 406th TC Detachment. To aid in the completion of its mission of a combined maintenance concept, the service platoons from "A" Company and Aeroscout Company have been attached to "E" Company.

THe men of the new maintenance unit have come through the reorganization continuing the fine performance of their duties. Internal reorganization has taken place and the company is now gearing its manpower and assets for wider and more demanding mission requirements.

During its short existence, "E" Company has demonstrated that quality and ingenuity can go hand in hand with each other.

The "Pan Tell" was a weekly newsletter published by and for personnel of the 1st Battalion 82nd Field Artillery Regiment then part of the 23rd (Americal) Infantry Division in the Republic of Vietnam. (Copy obtained by C 4/31st Inf. Bn. veteran James B. Simms and Mike Crutcher a veteran of E & HHC, 1/5 Cav, 1969-70 1st Cav Div. May 2014.

PAN-TELL

Volume 2 Number 15 Chu Lai Vietnam April 21, 1969

BATTALION CO HOSPITALIZED

LTC John J. Luxemburger Jr., commander of the 1st Bn., 82d Artillery, was hospitalized Saturday for treatment of a back injury he suffered two weeks ago.

The colonel was admitted to the 312th Evacuation Hospital in Chu Lai after the back trouble failed to respond to initial treatment.

During his absence, Maj. Alan L. McCuistion, the battalion's S-3 officer, will serve as acting commander.

Maj. McCuistion, who joined the unit less than a month ago, was previously assigned to the **723rd Maintenance Bn**.

Col. Luxemburger, a native of Philadelphia, became battalion commander last Nov. 24 when he succeeded LTC Paul D. Cothern.

He had previously been assigned to the Pentagon where he worked in the office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development.

There was no immediate indication of how long the colonel would be absent.

Volume 2 Number 27 Chu Lai Vietnam July 14, 1969 Page 4

A Bronze Star for service was also presented to MAJ. Alan McCuistion, the battalion operations officer, for his duties with the **723rd Maintenance Bn**. before coming to the 1/82d in March.

1/82nd Artillery **PAN-TELL** **NEW S-3 OFFICER SEE PAGE 4**

Volume 2 Number 29 Chu Lai Vietnam August 18, 1969 Page 2

BATTALION BRIEFS

1/82D JOINS VOLLEYBAL LEAGUE

The 1st Bn., 82d Artillery will join seven other units to help open the Chu Lai Volleyball League this Sunday.

In opening round action, the 1/82d takes to the road to play Division Artillery in the first of 14 matches scheduled for Sundays between Aug. 24 and Nov. 23.

Also entering teams in the league are Americal Headquarters Co., 14th Aviation Bn., NSAD- Officers, NSAD- Enlisted men, 723rd Maintenance Bn. and the 523rd Signal Bn.

The schedule is divided into two seven-game halves with each unit meeting every other team in the circuit on a home-and-home basis during the season.

The first half is scheduled to end Oct. 5 with second half play beginning the following week.

The remainder of the 1/82's first half schedule includes: Aug. 31, Americal HHC; Sept. 7, **723rd Maintenance Bn.; Sept. 14**, at 14th Aviation Bn.; Sept. 21, at 523rd signal Bn.; Sept. 28, NSAD-EM; Oct. 5, NSAD-Officers.

Volume 2 Number 32 Chu Lai Vietnam September 8, 1969 Page 4

1/82d NETTERS RUN STREAK TO FOUR

The 1/82d Volleyball Team faced its first serious challenge of the year but still came away with a 15-6, 15-10 victory over MAG-13 "A" in Chu Lai Volleyball League activity last Wednesday.

The Artillerymen used the triumph to notch their fourth straight league win of the young season.

Last Sunday the 1/82d registered an easy 15-0, 15-6 romp over Division Artillery for victory No. 3.

Yesterday the Artillerymen faced the NSAD Officers in a road contest that will be reported on in the Pan-Tell next Monday.

They return home on Wednesday for a match with the **723rd Maintenance Bn**., before hitting the trail again next Sunday when they oppose Americal Headquarters Co.

Volume 2 Number 33 Chu Lai Vietnam September 15, 1969 Page 4

1/82d MAINTAINS VOLLEYBALL LEAD

With two more victories under its belt, the 1st Bn., 82d Artillery finds itself as the only undefeated team in the Chu Lai Volleyball League.

The Artillerymen ran their unmarred steak to six last Wednesday with an easy 15-6, 15-2 triumph over the **723rd Maintenance Bn**.

Two nights earlier, the 1/82d pounded the NSAD Officers 15-2, 15-4, in a match postponed 24 hours because of rain.

Last night's road encounter with Americal Headquarters Co will be reported in next week's Pan-Tell along with Wednesday's home test against the 14th Aviation Bn.

On Sunday, the 1/82d travels to MAG 13 "C" for its fourth-to-last contest of the first half.

VOL. 1, NO. 4 / 4TH BATTALION 31st INFANTRY/ 3 AUG 69

reenlistments

The month of July, 1969 has shown significant improvement in the reenlistment rate for this Battalion.

During the period of 1-23 July, a total of 12 have reenlisted, with 1 more awaiting assignment.

For those qualified, reenlistment may be accomplished for reassignment to another location in Vietnam, retraining for another MOS, and entitlement to a reenlistment Bonus, and 30 day leave to CONUS, which does not effect DEROS date.

Reenlistment and Reassignment for July.

1. Immel, Larry K.-HHC-67th Medical Group, Da Nang
2. Mainous, Gregory D.-HHC-537th P.S.C., Bien Hoa
3. **Fairchild, Ronnie L.-B Co-HHC. 723rd Maint Bn.**
4. May, William A.-A Co-527th P.S.C. Qui Nhon
5. Drouillard, Charles J. – A Combat AVN BDE, Long Binh
6. Brock, James H.-D Co-537th P.S.C., Bien Hoa
7. Rayburn, Elmer J. – A Co-1st AVN BDE, Long Binh
8. Cook, Lonnie D.-A Co-1st AVN BDE, Long Binh
9. Edgar, John A.-A Co-1st AVN BDE, Long Binh
10. Dailey, Raymond C.-D Co-516th P.S.C., Da Nang
11. Mitchell, Charles T.-D Co-1st AVN BDE, Long Binh
12. Freeman, Charles.-HHC-44th Med Bde, Long Binh
13. Stott, Franklin L.-A Co-Awaiting assignment.

For information contact SFC Raymond G. Stice;
Bn Reenl NCO,
S1, LZ Baldy
Call Baldy Loco #1

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VOL. 1, NO. 5 / 4TH BATTALION 31st INFANTRY/ 3 SEP 69

reenlistments accomplished during the month of August 1969,
with option and reassignment shown after each name, were as follows:

from 4/31st Inf. Bn. B CO:

5. GERMOND, Mark M. – ACG 63 – **HHC, 723rd Maint Bn,** APO 96374

reenlistments accomplished during the month of September 1969, with the option and reassignment shown after each name weRe as follows:

HHC:
NONE
A Co:
1. McDaniel, James S. – Aircraft Maintenance – 176th Avn Co,
B Co:
1. Price, David R. – Supply-Co A, 23rd S&T Bn, APO 96374
2. Sinderman, James H. – Security Guard – 14th Security Plt
3. Harrison, Richard W. – Motor Maintenance –**HHC, 723d Maint**
4. Sautter, Rodney L.-Administration-23d Admin Co, Chu Lai
5. Templeton, Everett E. – Welding-**HHC, 723d Maint Bn**
6. Grice, Daniel H. – Standdown-196th Inf Bde, Chu Lai
7. Furman, Blair G. – Military Intelligence-635th MID
C Co:
1. Albright, Kenneth L. – Motor Maintenance-HHC, **723d Maint Bn**
2. Camp, George @. – Communications – Co A, 26th Engr Bn
4. Brown, Dale G. – Finance-23d Admin Co
5. Rozier, William –Nvy Equip Gp & Maint-26 Engr Bn
6. Laney, John E. – Law Enforcement – 23 MP Co
7. Barker, Robert A. – Administration 23d Admin Co
8. Davis, John S. – Finance -23d Admin Co
D Co:
1. Renier, James A. – Administration-23d Admin Co
E Co:
NONE

RECAPITULATION:	**Objective,**	**Reenlistments,**	**Percentage Attained**
	4	**17**	**425%**

RAYMEOND G. STICE, SFC
Bn Reenlistment NCO

reenlistments accomplished during the month of october 1969, with option and reassignment shown after each name, were as follows:

HHC:
1. HODGES, Garry L. – Medical – 44th Med Bde, AP0 96384
2. PHILLIPS, Chester A. – Sch Bde, USA Armor Center, Ft Knox, Ky
3. EDWARDS, Lennis – USA Face, Ft. Sill. Okla.

A CO:
1. WILLIS, Larry C. – Aircraft Maint – HHC 123d Avn Bn
2. SHANKEL, Glen A. – Aircraft Maint – 174th Avn Co.
3. JUPTA, Robert K. – Hvy Equip Oper – Co E, 26th engr Bn
4. MCKIBBENS, Lamar – Metal working – 20th Engr Bde, Long Binh
5. DESMAIAIS, Richard L. – Motor Transport – Co B, 23d S&T Bn
6. TEIFER, Bruce #. – Law Enforcement – 18th MP Bde, Long Binh

B CO:
1. FEASTER, Marion – Supply – HHC 23d S&T Bn
2. BAKER, Raymond L. – Data Processing – 101st Abn Div, APO 96383
3. HOSNER, Richard G. – Administration – 527th PSC, APO 96238
4. JOHNSON, Rex – Metal working – HHC, 723d Maint Bn

C CO:
1. TAYLOR, James C. – Draftsman – HHC, 523d Sig Bn
2. MC CLURE, Jerry C. – Aircraft Maint – 178th Avn Co, 14th Avn Bn
3. CROMER, Paul H. – Communications – 174th AVN Co, 14th Avn Bn
4. RAWLINS, Charles M. – Metal working – HHC, 723d Maint Bn
5. WALZ, Jerome E. – Communications – 132d Avn Co, 14th Avn Bn
6. LUMSDEN, Robert O. – Draftsman – 518th PSC, Cam Rahn Bay

D CO:
1. GRAY, Gary A. – Hvy Equip Oper – HHC, 723d Maint Bn
2. HAMBELTON, Michael T. – Supply – HHC, 723d Maint Bn
3. AVENA, Anthony – Postal Clerk – 23d Admin co.
4. SHUMAKE, Boyce B. – Wire Maintenance – Co B, 723d Maint Bn
5. DIGARA, Hiram W. – Dy W/Stand down – 196th Inf Bde
6. WITTAKER, Melvin J. – Motor Maint – Co D, 723d Maint Bn
7. CAMPBELL, Robert J. – Food Service – HHC, 4th Bn 31st Inf
8. FULLERTON, Jay G. – Aircraft Maint – 71st Avn Co, APO 96374

E CO:
1. WRIGHT, Ira L. – Supply – 355th [?335th] Trans co
2. RINKS, James M. – Hvy Equip Oper – Co D, 26th Engr Bn
3. HOAG, Davey V. – Supply – 71st Avn Co, 14th Avn Bn

RECAPITULATION:	OBJECTIVE	REENLISTMENTS	PCT. ATT.
	4	28 + 2 RA Career	720%

RAYMOND C. STICE, SFC; Bn Reenlistment NCO; 4th Bn 31st Inf 196th Inf Bde; APO San Francisco 96374;

LOCAL SOLDIERS ENCOUNTER COBRA AT LZ BRONCO

Floodwater resulting from the recent monsoon downpour was instrumental in causing an encounter between two local soldiers and a cobra that was forced to the high ground of LZ Bronco to seek a temporary home.

The day after the five-day rain, SP4 Lane Brown (Lovell, Wy.) and PFC Jesus Rivera (Pontiac, Mich.) had delivered a load of weapons for repair at the **723rd Maintenance Battalion** and were returning by jeep along the east side of the firebase, which was surrounded by water. They were casually speaking Spanish when they spotted a large serpent on the shoulder of the road near Sykes' Regulars' Rifle zeroing range.

"It looked like a greyish-black rod or stick in the road at first," Said Brown, "When we were about 50 feet away, it moved so we knew it was a snake. Rivera swerved the jeep and ran it over it with both left wheels. Then, we stopped the jeep ten meters away to see if we got it."

"When we looked back," continued Brown, "we found it was a cobra because he raised up about a foot and a half and expanded his head." "The, the cobra snapped his body in our direction simulating an attack. I toyed with the idea of killing it so we could show everybody, but he crawled back into the thick knee-high grass before we could get a long club. We carefully walked over to see where he went, but the grass made it impossible to see him. Anyway, I think that his back was broken by the jeep and he probably won't live, I hope!"

Brown said that the cobra was roughly six feet long and about six inches in girth.

Cobras are relatively rare in this area. In fact, seeing a cobra anywhere is unusual because they instinctively avoid detection when a human is near. Other vipers are more sluggish in nature and more likely to be seen. The most renowned member of the cobra family is the king cobra found in India. These large serpents have been known to exceed 18 feet in length.

As interesting as the cobra's biography may be lets hope we never get to know one as well as Brown and Rivera did. *[Historian note: It might be rare to see Cobras, but there were plenty around in the Americal AO. Their population balanced by the mongoose. The mongoose helped keep there numbers down in our guard duty bunkers.].*

"Always First"

BRONCO TRIBUNE

Page 1

Vol. 2. No 12

February 21, 1969

THE ALWAYS FIRST, BRONCO TRIBUNE IS PUBLISHED WEEKLY UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE S-1, 3rd BATTALION, 1st INFANTRY, 11TH INFANTRY BRIGADE, APO 96217, AS AN AUTHORIZED ARMY PUBLICATION. VIEWS AND OPINIONS EXPRESSED ARE NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY.

Special congratulations go to PFC MYRON STROHL and PFC BERNARD DURAN, who reenlisted this week. PFC Strohl is going to Headquarters Battery, 3d Bn, 18th Arty, and **PFC Duran is heading for the 723d Maintenance Bn.**

"Always First"
BRONCO TRIBUNE
Page 2
Vol. II No 21 Friday, November 14, 1969

BATTALION REENLISTMENTS

Co A

SP4 George Davis, six year reenlistment as a drill instructor
PFC Daniel Bengierni, 23d Admin
PFC Michael Spangler, D troop 1st squad 1st Cavalry
PFC Luis Vasquez, **Co C 723d Maintenance Battalion**
PFC Timothy Cook, 723d Maintenance Battalion

Co B

Dan Frentzel, 23d AG Clerk/Typist
PFC Vernon Jayne, 174th Aviation, Helicopter Maintenance
PFC Paul Pruitt, 174th Aviation, Helicopter Maintenance
PFC Carl Parker, Co B 3rd Battalion 1st Infantry
PFC Dave Bailey, 518th PSC clerk/typist
PFC Ronald Karr, 518th PSC clerk/typist
PFC David Bradley, 23 AG clerk/typist
PFC Dale Harris, **Co D 723d Maintenance Battalion**

Special Orders...

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS AMERICAL DIVISION
APO San Francisco 96374

rjm

SPECIAL ORDERS 31 March 1968

NUMBER 91 E X T R A C T

21. TC 311. UP para 7-20 AR 600-200 & DA Msg 774677 dtd 21 Jul 66 fol indiv
APT to PERM GR indic.

TO BE PRIVATE FIRST CLASS (E-3)

.....

JONES, MAURICE E RAXXXXXXXX (SSAN XXX-XX-XXXX) PVT E2 HMSC **723d Maint Bn**

....

This section has information from the quarterly Americal Division's Operations and Lessons Learned reports.

AVDF-CG 8 February 1968
SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1968
(RCS-CSFOR-65) (U)

(7) The following divisional base units were activated by USARPAC General Order 300, 2 Dec 67, effective 8 Dec 67:

(a) HHB, 23d Inf Div Arty
(b) HHC and Band, 23d Inf Div Spt Comd
(c) 23d Admin Co
(d) 26th Engr Bn
(e) HQ and Co A, 23d Med Bn
(f) 23d MP Co
(g) 123d Avn Bn
(h) HQ and Main Spt Co, **723d Maint Bn**
(i) 23d Sup and Trans Bn

(8) The same USARPAC General Order inactivated the following units, effective 15 Jan 68.

(a) 221st Sup and Svc Co
(b) 163d Trans Co
(c) HQ and Main Spt Co, 188th Maint Bn
(d) 554th Engr Co
(e) 161st Avn Co
(f) Co A, 8th Spt Bn
(g) Co A, 9th Spt Bn
(h) 265th MP Platoon
(i) 544th MP Platoon
(j) 175th Engr Co
(k) 55th Engr Co

(9) USARPAC General Order 308, 12 Dec 67, activated and organized Company E, 51st Inf (Long Range Patrol), effective 20 Dec 67. USARV General Order 6621, 27 Dec 67, further assigned the unit to the Americal Division, effective 20 Dec 67.

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 30 April 1968.
(RCS-CSFOR-65) (RI) (U).

11.(U) Subject: Red Ball Expanded (RBX) Procedures.

a. Observation:

(1) The **723 Maintenance Battalion's** use of RBX program to acquire critical repair parts in anticipation of deadline was minimal through 31 Jan 68

(2) Prior to March quantities authorized to be placed on RBX were exceptionally restrictive, ranging from 10% to 25% of 15 day safety level quantity.

(3) Critical items of equipment were going deadline before repair parts were requisitioned on a Red Ball request, causing delays in returning end items to serviceable status.

(4) A concerted effort was initiated by Battalion Material Section to RBX critical repair parts based on previous deadline experience and future parts projections from organic maintenance elements, and Division Base Maintenance Officers.

b. Evaluation:

(1) RBX procedures have produced small but sufficient quantities of critical parts, e.g. APC track, sprockets, road wheels to preclude deadline.

(2) Several factors contribute to the success of the RBX:

(a) Referral of the RBX to CONUS supply sources on an expedited basis has opened additional supply resources. Material Readiness Expeditors (MRE's) at Qui Nhon Depot are limited to repair parts immediately available at the Depot. The average time from submission of RBX request to receipt of repair parts in 3 1/2 to 4 weeks from CONUS sources.

(b) 1st Log Command's upward revision of percentages DSU's may RBX (25% of R.O.) has significantly contributed to improved RBX performance.

c. Recommendations:

(1) That continued and broadened use be made of Red Ball expanded system.

(2) The Maintenance Battalion Tech Supply Officer, Materiel Section, be assigned responsibility for coordinating RBX matters between Materiel, Tech Supply and Division Base Maintenance Officers.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS AMERICAL DIVISION ARTILLERY
APO San Francisco 96374

AVDF-AT 7 July 1968

SUBJECT: Artillery Items for Command Emphasis

SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. Some artillery battalions of the Division are experiencing high deadline rates for FADACs and FADAC generators. Recently, one battalion had as many as four out of five FADACs down at one time for various causes.

2. Addressees are encouraged to review their FADAC maintenance procedures with a view toward improving operational readiness of FADAC. The following are suggested measures to improve maintenance programs:

a. Each unit should use a preventative maintenance checklist for each FADAC assigned (Example at Inclosure 1). This should be checked periodically by the battalion commander and/or the members of his staff on visits to the battery FDC's.

b. Maintenance requirements should be doubled during the dry season because of the large amount of dust. One artillery battalion requires the oil to be changed in the FADAC generators every two or three days. Their deadline rate for generators is very low. Other periodic maintenance such as cleaning of filters should be done more frequently than indicated in the associated maintenance manuals.

c. When a FADAC must be evacuated to the 723d Maintenance Battalion, at least one of the artillery battalion FADAC maintenance personnel should accompany it. This individual can assist 723d Maintenance personnel in determining and eliminating the cause of deadline. The most important benefit of this program would be the experience gained by the artillery
battalion FADAC maintenance personnel. Many of the problems found by 723d Maintenance Battalion could possibly be eliminated at the organizational maintenance level. Liaison with the 723d Maintenance Battalion has been effected in order to support this program.

3. The following are some of the results experienced by one artillery battalion with an aggressive FADAC preventative maintenance program:

a. The four FADACs assigned to the battalion logged 724 hours of operation in the month of June.

b. The battalion FDC FADAC has logged 2,207 hours of operation with only 30 minutes of down time since issue in August 1967.

4. This letter is required to be on file in each battery and battalion FDC together with previously published "Artillery Items for Command Emphasis".

b. In order to achieve this objective, the enlisted personnel have to be counseled and advised by motivated and knowledgeable personnel who can assist in planning the enlisted man's career. The Reenlistment Division must provide qualified personnel to aid the commander in initiating and implementing his Reenlistment Program. All documents concerning separation, Reenlistment and extension of enlistments are prepared and processed by the Reenlistment Division.

3. (U) Special Services:

a. The Sandpiper Service Club was opened and is housed in two large quonset huts connected by and enclosed walkway between the buildings. The enclosed walkway also houses the club's kitchen facilities. One disadvantage is the club's location in the **723d Maint Bn** area which is not centrally located as it should be near the Division Headquarters area. The club was opened only after most of the personnel from the AG section worked one day to finish the painting and decorating that the engineers were not able to complete. As a result of publicity, it is becoming a service club for most of Chu Lai Base.

c. Battalion Commanders.

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(5) **723d Maintenance Bn**. LTC Millard H. Singleton assumed command from LTC George A. Jones, Jr., on 1 March 1969.

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(3) Phase III. (3 April to 3 May 69) Final review and adjustment phase.

b. Upon receipt of USARPAC GO 113, 10 February 1969, the following units were inactivated and assets transferred as indicated:

(1) 6th, 8th, and 9th Support Battalions of the Separate Infantry Brigades.

(a) Medical Companies of the Support Battalions were transferred to the 23d Medical Battalion.

(b) Supply Platoons of the Maintenance and Supply Companies were transferred to the 23d S&T Battalion.

(c) Maintenance and Parts Platoons and Company Headquarters of Maintenance and Supply Companies were transferred to the **723rd Maintenance Battalion** to form three Forward Support Companies.

(2) The 11th, 49th, and 156th Signal Center Platoons were transferred to the 523d Signal Battalion and became the Forward Area Signal Center Platoons of that unit.

(3) The 406th TC Detachment and the 449th Signal Detachment became elements of the Transportation Maintenance Co of the **723d Maintenance Battalion**.

(4) The 258th Personnel Services Company assets were transferred to the 23d Administration Company.

c. Infantry Battalions and Direct Support Artillery Battalions were reassigned from Separate Brigades to the Americal Division as required by the ROAD concept.

d. The following units were activated:

(1) Three Medical Companies in the 23d Medical Battalion.

(2) Three Forward Support Companies and a Transportation Aircraft Maintenance Company in the **723d Maintenance Battalion** (E Co).

4. (C) Maintenance Division

a. (U) Project STRIP, a program to identify and retrograde excess material, continued during the quarter. The USARV STRIP Team headed by Colonel Stanley Tesko visited the Americal Division in early April. The team reviewed the progress being made by the DSU's of the division. The division thus far has identified and retrograded over 1.4 million dollars worth of excess material and is awaiting disposition instructions on an additional 1900 lines. The program is a valuable tool in purging the division supply system at a time when, due to ROAD reorganization, an accurate assessment of stocks and supplies on hand is essential.

b. (C) the M16 chrome barrel/black barrel exchange program is approximately 75% complete with current on hand figures indicating 15,137 chrome barrel weapons on hand and 5,517 non-chrome barrel weapons on hand.

c. (U) The Americal Division CMMI Team conducted 14 courtesy and 18 record inspections (17 receiving satisfactory ratings) during the period 1 February 69 to 1 May 69. The **723 Maintenance Bn** conducted 116 roadside spot inspections during the same period. An improvement in the overall maintenance posture of the division has been noted by the CMMI Team and the roadside inspection team.

(6) Maintenance.

(a) Aircraft.

1 The number of aircraft released from direct support Maintenance (335th TC) back to the using unit has increased significantly. In March the number released was 84, but by June and July the number had increased to 145 and 147 respectively.

2 **E Co, 723rd Maint Bn** has been granted an Activity Code Number and is established as a direct customer of Army Aviation Material Management Center (AAMMC) for aircraft parts. This additional DSU support should increase parts availability for 123rd Avn Bn aircraft.

3 Aircraft availability rates (%) for the quarter by month and type of aircraft.

TYPE	AUG	SEP	OCT
OH-6A	75	69	61
AH-1G	70	65	59
UH-1C	61	56	68
UH-1D	68	54	52
UH-1H	71	69	73
CH-47B	74	71	79
U-1	95	83	42
U-6A	70	90	63

(d) Horseshoe Land Clearing Operation: In late June 1969 a series of abandoned villages which exist along the north side of the Song Tra Khuc river west of Quang Ngai were designated by the 198th Infantry Brigade for clearing. The villages were utilized periodically by the VC and the NVA as transitory base camps and storage areas. Company B, with four D7E dozers, security elements from the 1-52d Infantry and to M48 tanks from the 1-1 Cav moved into Phouc Loc (1) (BS5676) on 1 July 1969 to begin work. Rains, coupled with heavy vegetation, made clearing slow. Mines were frequently encountered and on 13 July 1969 a D7E dozer was destroyed by a mine. On advice of the **723d Maintenance Battalion**, the machine was stripped of useful parts and buried. The clearing operation is continuing at this time. Working with B Company elements is a company of ARVN engineers from the 2d ARVN Engineer Battalion. They have performed in an exceptional manner. The Vietnamese blow tunnels and bunkers, cut down large trees to conserve dozer effort, and provide general combat engineer support to the Americal Infantry. One casualty (WIA Minor), a Headquarters Company dozer operator, occurred to date during the operation.

AVDF-ABSC
SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned (16th Combat Aviation Group)
Period Ending (31 October 1969) RCS CSFOR-65 (RI)

e. **Logistics and Maintenance:**

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(4) **Base Development**

(a) The granting and receipt of minor new construction through the reporting period has slowed down due to the new hardline approach to construction approval. The major gain has been the construction of a new motor vehicle maintenance building for the 123d Avn Bn. The building has only recently been occupied and will be an improvement for the battalion.

(b) Construction has been started on a new 123d Avn Bn Operations Bunker.

(c) Enlisted billeting continues to be a problem area within the 16th CAG. The units most severely affected are B Company, 123d Avn Bn and **E Company, 723d Maintenance Battalion**. B Company is split with one portion of the unit located on one side of Ky Ha AHP and the remainder of the unit on the other side. This creates command and control problems in addition to the overcrowded condition. **E Company, 723d Maintenance Battalion** presently houses six (6) enlisted personnel in their hanger facilities because of the overcrowded conditions. A master plan for battalion construction has been received by the 16th CAG.

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3 Personnel of E **Company, 723d Maintenance Battalion** have been in the process of reorganizing the aircraft technical supply section with the assistance of a team from AMMC. This has resulted in a more efficient tech supply system, and with experience factors, we can expect better aircraft repair parts support for the 123d Avn Bn.

6 Maintenance Assistance Program - Daily review of supported unit's aircraft and records have reflected an increasing need for an expanded maintenance assistance program. Presently the ground work for the plan is being initiated and formal SOPs are being developed. It is expected that this will further increase the efficiency of **E Company, 723d Maintenance Battalion's** performance and will enable the supported units to increase the effectiveness of their organizational maintenance program.

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AVDF-GCDO 10 November 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1969.

2. (U) Command Changes.

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(7) **723d Main Bn.** LTC H. Finch assumed command from LTC M.H. Singleton, on 20 August 1969.

4. (C) Training

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g. The Americal Division Support Command supports a medical training program conducted by the 23 Medical Battalion for the medical corpsmen, dental technicians and optometry assistants from the 2d ARVN Div Med Bn. This program is ten weeks long long [sic]; the first program started on 22 Sep 69 and will end 29 Nov 69. 6 to 8 personnel are taught at each class and these classes will be held on a continuing basis. **The 723d Maint Bn conducted on the job training for 6 EM in the mechanical maintenance field from the 2d ARVN Div Log Bn from 16-23 Oct. Additional courses will be conducted in the future.** The 23d S&T Bn is conducting training for seven ARVN personnel from the 2d ARVN Div Log Bn in the area of stock control and storage. This training started 3 Nov 69 and will end on 8 Nov 69. Additional training is planned. The Americal Division Band has a continuing program which began in July 1969. Two band members per week are exchanged with the 2d ARVN Div Band; in addition joint concerts are presented.

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c. The Americal Division CMMI Team conducted 10 courtesy and 11 record inspections (7 receiving satisfactory ratings) during the period 1 August through 31 October 1969. The **723d Maintenance Battalion** conducted 352 roadside spot-check inspections during the same period.

AVDF-HL
10 May 1970
SUBJECT: Operational Report -- Lessons Learned, Americal Division, Period Ending 31 January 1970, (RCS-CSFOR-65) (R2) (U)

4. (C) Training

f. The Americal Division Support Command supports a medical training program conducted by the 23d Medical Battalion for the medical corpsmen, dental technicians and optometry assistants from the 2d ARVN Division Medical Battalion. Six personnel attended a course which began on 22 Sep 69 and ended on 29 Nov 69. Another class is currently in progress for six individuals. This class began on 8 Dec 69 and will end 9 Feb 70. The **723d Maint Bn** conducted on-the-job training for six EM in the mechanical maintenance field from the 2d ARVN Division Log Battalion from 8-15 Dec 69. In addition, four EM in the electronics technician field of the 2d ARVN Div Log Bn received OJT from 25 Dec 69 to 15 Jan 70. The 23 S&T Bn conducted training for seven personnel from the 2d ARVN Division Log Bn in the area of stock control and storage from 3-8 Nov 69 and three personnel each from 24 Nov-1 Dec 69 and 8-15 Dec 69.

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4. (C) Maintenance Division.

a. As of 31 January the M16 exchange program is approximately 99% complete with the current on hand figures indicating 22,137 chrome barrel weapons on hand and 81 non-chrome barrels on hand. It is anticipated that the division will complete the exchange program by the middle of February.

b. The Americal Division CMMI Team conducted 6 courtesy and 19 record inspections (15 receiving satisfactory ratings) during the period 1 November thru 31 January 1970. The **723rd Maintenance Battalion conducted** 685 Roadside Spot Check Inspections during the same period.

2. (U) Command Changes.

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d. Battalion Changes.

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(8) **723d Maint Bn.** LTC J. D. Wilson assumed command from LTC H. J. Finch on 20 Feb 70.

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4. (C) Training

i. The Americal Division Support Command supports a medical training program conducted by the 23d Medical Battalion for medical corpsmen, dental technicians and optometry assistants from the 2d ARVN Division Medical Battalion. During the reporting period 12 personnel completed this training. The 23d Medical Battalion also conducted a ten week on-the-job course in basic practical nursing procedures. Four Vietnamese females from Ky Xuan Island graduated from the course and returned to their island to provide medical aid to the local civilian population. The **723d Maintenance Battalion** conducted Mine Detector Maintenance Training for four personnel from the 2d ARVN Division Maintenance Battalion.

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b. The Americal Division CMNI Team conducted thirteen courtesy and fifteen record inspections during the quarter. Fourteen units received a satisfactory rating on the record inspections. The **723d Maintenance Battalion** conducted 652 Roadside Spot Check Inspections during the quarter.

e. A new item of equipment received was the M203 Grenade Launcher. 23d Infantry Div. received 807 of the authorized 1207 during the third week of September. After assembly by the **723d Maintenance Battalion**, these were distributed to units prior to 1 October. The remaining 400 M203's will be received during the next quarter. A M-79 Grenade Launcher is being turned in for each M203 Grenade Launcher received.

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1. Headquarters, USARV, directed reduction of ASL stockage has reduced the number of lines on hand at the 23d S&T and **723d Maintenance Battalions**. The new requirement of 6 demands in 180 days has reduced the on hand quantities as follows:

UNIT	PREVIOUS # LINES	CURRENT # LINES
23d S&T Bn	1,248	1,055
723d Maint Bn	8,841	4,964

4. Maintenance Division: a. The 23d Infantry Div. CMMI Team conducted 17 courtesy and 11 record inspections during the quarter. Two units received a satisfactory rating on the second inspection. The **723 Maintenance Battalion** conducted 627 Roadside Spot Check Inspections during the quarter.

b. The installation of M113A1 Belly Armor Kits was completed.

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, 23d Infantry Division (Americal), Period Ending 30 April 1971, RCS CSFOR - 65 (R3) (U)

(c) Operation IRON MOUNTAIN, conducted in Quang Ngai Province by the 11th Infantry Brigade in close coordination with the 4th ARVN Regiment, concentrated on the security of major lines of communications and through constant combat operations and civic programs was instrumental in furthering the goals of pacification throughout the combined TAOR. Operation IRON MOUNTAIN was terminated effective 010600H March 1971.

On 17 January 1971, a vehicle from **723d Maintenance** was ambushed by an unknown size enemy force vic BS917173 that resulted in 2 US KIA and 1 US WIA(E).

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i. Effective 27 Feb 71, the following attachments were made: 2d Bn, 1st Inf relieved from attachment to 196th Inf Bde and attached to 11th Inf Bde; 3d Bn, 1st Inf, **1st Bn, 20th Inf** and 4th Bn 21st Inf relieved from attachment to 11th Inf Bde and attached to 198th Inf Bde; Hq Btry, 6th Bn, 11th Arty relieved from attachment to 6th Bn, 11th Arty and attached to 11th Inf Bde; Btry C, 6th Bn 11th Arty and Btry A, 3d Bn, 82d Arty relieved from attachment to 23d Div Arty and attached to Hq Btry, 6th Bn, 11th Arty; Hq, 11th Spt Bn (PROV) and Spt Co, 23d S&T Bn (PROV) attached to **Co B, 723d Main Bn**; **Co B, 723d Maint Bn** relieved from attachment to **723d Maint Bn** and attached to Hq, 11th Spt Bn (PROV); Co B, 23d Med Bn relieved from attachment to 23d Med Bn and attached to Hq, 11th Spt Bn (PROV); Btry C, 1st Bn, 14th Arty relieved from attachment to 1st Bn, 14th Arty and attached to 3d Bn 82d Arty; Co C, 26th Engr Bn, Forward Support Plt, Co B, 523d Sig Bn and MI Det, 635th MI Co relieved from attachment to 23d Inf Div Spt Cmd and attached to the 11th Inf Bde; Btry A, Btry B and Btry D, 6th Bn, 11th Arty relieved from attachment to 6th Bn, 11th Arty and attached to 1st Bn, 14th Arty; 5th Bn, 46th Inf relieved from attachment to 198th Inf Bde and attached to 196th Inf Bde; Trp H, 17th Cav relieved from attachment to 198th Inf Bde and attached to 11th Inf Bde.

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6. (U) Command Changes.

a. The following command changes have been made during the time frame 1 November 1970 through 30 April 1971:

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(m) **723d Maintenance Bn,** LTC. S. J. Crabtree assumed command from LTC J. E. Harris on 18 January 1971.

Operation Finney Hill: **Maintenance:** B and D Company **723d Maintenance Battalion** were in direct support of the Brigades conducting operation Finney Hill. Their primary maintenance mission involved vehicles, weapons, and radios. Vehicle maintenance was of primary importance due to the fact most of the re-supply of the forward fire support bases was accomplished by vehicle.

Operation Iron Mountain: **Maintenance:** **B/723d Maintenance Battalion** was in direct support of all 11th Infantry Brigade units. It's primary maintenance missions involved vehicles and weapons, Vehicle maintenance was of primary importance because of the necessity of hauling almost all supplies to the Brigade fire support bases by vehicle, as well as supplying battalion fire bases.

Operation Frederick Hill: **Maintenance:** C/723d Main supported the battalions from Hawk Hill and possessed the capability to repair all critical items of equipment. The approximate number of jobs completed by C/723d Maintenance for the entire operation was as follows:

(1)	Automotive	1,036
(2)	Artillery	308
(3)	Small Arms	3,016
(4)	Signal	6,366
(5)	Engineer	904
(6)	Service & Evacuation	2,910
(7)	Fire Control	656
(8)	Track	586

b. Repair parts in short supply which hampered maintenance were: 1/2 ton engines, transmission, differentials, and clutches; 3/4 ton engines and transmissions; 2 1/2 ton engines, transmissions, front axles, rear axles, and transfers; 5 ton engines, transmission, transfers, front axles, and rear axles; M113 and M548 engines, transmissions, and transfers; M551 engines and transmissions, M88 engines; 3 KW Generator engines, rotors, starter housings, and voltage regulators; 1.5 KW Generator engines and rotors; RT 505/A-10 and A-; RT 525/K-301 A-4200, A-5200, A-5300, R-404, A-9000, A-1100, A-1200, A-1400, and A-1500; TA 3-12 ringers, buzzers, earphone elements, microphone elements, and cord assemblies; short handles for mine detectors; and Oscillation for starlight scopes.

Operation Lamar Plain: **Maintenance.** Field level maintenance was provided by ? Company, 801st Maintenance Battalion, the DS unit normally supporting the 1st Brigade. ?SL ?? were brought from Camp Eagle as part of the unit move and replacements were to be requested through 723rd Maintenance Battalion, Americal Division. ??? the operation the bulk of repair parts continued to be provided by HQS, 801st Maintenance Battalion, particularly major assemblies. Support for signal and artillery repair parts from 723rd Maintenance Battalion was good. Spare parts (tires, tubes, magnetos, and starters) and the Case M450 Mini-dozer parts, ?ota airmobile items, were critical resulting in extended periods of down time and lack of equipment for essential jobs. Organizational maintenance for the infantry units was good. The artillery, military police, engineers, support and service, radio research unit, and signal units did not bring maintenance personnel with them requiring the 1st Brigade motor pool to provide organizational maintenance. ???? ??? the resources of the motor pool. Ancillary units must bring one mechanic to provide support, these individuals would then be placed for duty with the HHC. Frequent use of road side spot check teams consisting of two (2) maintenance men and one (1) MP provided the tool necessary to check on unit maintenance. User maintenance showed a definite improvement with command interest being expressed. The Brigade HHC motor pool requires more knowledge and supervision than can be expected from an E5 motor sergeant. The authorized vehicles for a HHC is 17-1/4 ton, 8-3/4 ton, 6-1/2 ton platform, 1-2 1/2 ton plus support to units habitually attached to the headquarters such as Combat Tracker Team, and Scout Dog platoon, an additional 2-1/2 ton, 4-3/4 ton, 4-2/1/2 ton bringing the total vehicles assigned for maintenance to 42. In comparison an Infantry battalion with a total of 50 vehicles is authorized an E6 motor sergeant and a maintenance technical MOS 631A.

The Americal Division Veteran's Association obtained the 50 months of Americal Division S2/S3 Daily Tactical Operations Center reports from the National Archives in a five year effort. An additional five years was spent transcribing the documents so they are computer searchable. These documents are currently being shared with many veterans. Copies reside online at the AmericalFoundation.ORG web-site and also at the Americal Division portal at the online Vietnam Archives maintained by Texas Tech. University. Although the information is there it takes a bit of computer skill to find the entries for the 723rd Maintenance Battalion. I spent a day searching the 50 files and came up with this extraction of S2/S3 entries from the Americal Division S2/S3 reports. See below:

DAILY STAFF JOURNAL OR DUTY OFFICER'S LOG

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CONFIDENTIAL

Organization or Installation	Location	Period Covered From Hour	From Date	To Hour	To Date
Americal Division TOC	CHU LAI, RVN	0001	02 Mar 68	2400	02 Mar 68

Item	Time	Incidents, Messages, Orders, Etc.
39.	1340	CLDC, Sgt Monroe, CLDC will test their alert siren system at 1200H 3 Mar 68 (Note: **723 Maint** been postponed not blown today M.T.F.).

Americal Division TOC	CHU LAI, RVN	0001	23 Sep 68	2400	23 Sep 68	
73	1900	CLDC, at 1600H, **723d Maint Bn** patrol found 7x82mm rds at BT572025. Also found some propaganda material. Rds were found outside CLDC perimeter.				
Americal Division TOC	CHU LAI, RVN	0001	01 Oct 68	2400	01 Oct 68	
67	2230	198th, 2d Recovery Team from **723d** returning from recovery mission vic Tam Ky in a convoy of approx 4 vehicles. Lead element detonated possible command detonated mine vic BT435102. Element also rec'd SAF, res: 1 KHA, 1 WHA (E), from 1/1 Cav. Relief element consisting of 3 APC's from H/17 Cav, 1 CEV, and Engr security element w/sweep team sent fr LZ Fat City. Flare ship supported, helo rec'd SAF.				
Americal Division TOC	CHU LAI, RVN	0001	14 Oct 68	2400	14 Oct 68	
40	1100	**723d Maint Bn**, MAJ Thorne, Hill 270, reports that PPS4 Radar, turned in for repair by 1/6 Inf on 13 Oct, was sabotaged (NFI over phone). Would like a G-2 officer to visit his shop (Material Section) to discuss. 1115H, passed to CPT LaBirly, Chu Lai.				
Americal Division TOC	CHU LAI, RVN	0001	10 Mar 69	2400	10 Mar 69	
73	1935	11th Bde, SP Sheen, BTOC, LZ Bronco, BS812383 at 1925H, rec'd 9-10 rds 82mm mort fire with no damage, res: 2 WHA (M) fm **723d Maint Bn**.				
Americal Division TOC	CHU LAI, RVN	0001	20 Mar 69	2400	20 Mar 69	
9	0100	11th Bde, PFC Shipp, 0005H, LZ Amy, BS473523, rec'd SAF fm 3 wpns, obs 1 VC inside perimeter, eng'd, res: 1 NVA KIA (confirmed). G/S & flare ships on station, broke station at 0115H. C/4/21, 0010H, LZ Snoopy, BS709609, rec'd 9 rds of unk type rkts, NCD. 0015H, LZ Bronco, BS812383, rec'd 1 B-40 rkt in bunker, res: bunker hvy damage & 1 US WIA (M) fm **723d Maint**.				

Americal Division TOC		CHU LAI, RVN	0001	24 Mar 69	2400	24 Mar 69	

41	1145	26th Engr, CPT Decater, **C/723d**, BT098413 at 1100H, wrecker detonated mine on Rte 535, res: 3 WIA (M), vehicle rec'd moderate damage to rear tandem.

Americal Division TOC		CHU LAI, RVN	0001	17 Jun 69	2400	17 Jun 69	

6	0400	(C) 196th Bde, SP Linton, 2/1 Inf, BT133453 (LZ Baldy), (en) BT112449 at 0200H, rec'd 20x60/82mm mort rds & SAF, res: 20 WIA (E) & 8 WIA (M). Breakdown: 20 WIA (E) fm F/17th Cav, 7 WIA (M) fm F/17th Cav, 1 WIA (M) fm B/2/1 Inf. Info only: 3 WIA (E) & 2 WIA (M) fm 9th Engr. Majority of rds landed in F/17th Cav unit area. Counter-mortar fired on suspected enemy grid w/unk res. Notified III MAF SGT Ski.
51	0845	(U) 196th Bde, SP Reese, A/26th Engr, LZ Baldy, 0200H-0320H, res of mort: ammo supply point rec'd 5 rds: 1 powder can blown open, 1 pallet of powder blown apart, 1 small fire, controlled, neg cas. **723d Maint area rec'd 6 rds**, NCD. 9th Marines rec'd 4-5 rds: 5 USMC WIA & 5 vehicles rec'd shrapnel damage. F/17th Cav rec'd 15 rds: Mess Hall, two barracks, 2 tents damaged. 1x1/4 ton & 1x2-1/2 ton rec'd shrapnel damage, minor damage to track. **Ref DJF entry #6.**

Americal Division TOC		CHU LAI, RVN	0001	02 Jul 69	2400	02 Jul 69	

54	2105	(U) 723d Maint, XO **723dm** request 2 EOD man at Admin Pad to go on Spt Cmd acft at 0815H, will go to Hill 10 to disarm B/T on a tank. Passed to EOD, SP Wert, they will take msn. EOD CO said he will plan on meeting request, but will try to get LZ Baldy tm to do it. This he will coordinate w/723d directly.

Americal Division TOC		CHU LAI, RVN	0001	16 Aug 69	2400	16 Aug 69	

9	0152	(C) 196th Bde, SP Linton, LZ Baldy, BT133453 at 0120H. 1) On Red alert, bunker #39 rec'd morts, RPG's, satchel charges, & AK fire, bunkers #36, #37, & #38 rec'd morts (total of 10 unk type). Bunker 16 obs movement at 0205H. At 0210H, rec'd probe, res: 2 VC KIA, 1 USMC WIA (M). 0220H, 3 US WIA (E) fm **C/723 Maint**. 0225H, C/3/16 Arty killed 6 VC (1 was inside the wire). 2) 0455H, back on Red alert, VC inside perimeter at water point. 3) 0150H, mort hit USMC tent, res: 4 USMC WIA (E) fm W/3/11 Arty. 4) Red alert ended at 0620H. Total: **C/723 Maint**: 3 WIA (E), W/3/11 Mar Arty: 4 WIA(E) 1 WIA (M). Notified III MAF SGT Stanton, 1st Mar LT Kurtz.

AMERICAL DIVISION TOC		CHU LAI, RVN	0001	20 Sep 69	2400	20 Sep 69	

4	0800	11th Bde, LT Hotary, BTOC, LZ Bronco at 0726H. Rec 7x122mm rkts. Res 7xUS WIA(E), 1xhut took direct hit. Rds impacted at following areas: 4xoutside peri & 3 inside peri Aero Scouts, while reporting to Bde, obsr the launch site at BS792321, eng area w/unk res. Arty was fired w/unk res. Breakdown of 7xWIA(E): 2xfr 3-1 Inf, **5xfr 723 Maint Bn. 1xUS KIA fr 723d Maint Bn.** **(DAUGHERTY)** Ntfy: C/S, SFC Drosdick; G-3, Sp Henn; G-2, CPT Young; III MAF, SSG Phenis.

AMERICAL DIVISION TOC		CHU LAI, RVN	0001	29 Oct 69	2400	29 Oct 69	

Item	**Time**	**Incidents, Messages, Orders, Etc.**
32	1440	CLDC, CPT Williams, BT5200 at 1248H. Rec 4-6 122mm rkts. 4xconfirmed impact sites: BT529045, BT527066, BT532060, BT538048. Dam res: 1xUH-1H minor dam (fr 71st Avn); 1xhouse trailer mod dam (fr 723d Maint); 1xconex container dest (fr MAG 13); 1xUS WIA(M) (fr **723d Maint MAJ Reynolds**); 1xconex containing acft parts, minor dam; 1x5 ton truck minor dam; 24xfire extinguishers dest. Counter battery fired at following coord: BT415020, 485020, 467966, 521970, 520000. Ntfy: C/S; G2, LTC Nerone; G3, LTC Davis; 198 Bde, CPT Lange; 196 Bde, CPT Russell; 11 Bde, Sp Billings; III MAF, CPT Cassino.

Americal Division TOC CHU LAI, RVN 0001 06 Nov 69 2400 06 Nov 69

69	2030		(U) BS639756 at 2030H - 2230H. A convoy of 4 vehicles is located at the above grid unable to proceed to Chu Lai or return to Quang Ngai, their originating point. 2200H: MAJ Elam indicates that there are 18 US soldiers with the convoy and that the convoy is unable to proceed or return for reason or reasons unknown. Further indicates that 1/82 Artillery on LZ Dottie is in radio contact with the convoy. Indicates that the convoy has taken fire but has taken no casualties. (Elam is Div Transportation Off) Convoy is fm **723d maint.** 2200H: Chief of Staff, Americal, request information on action to be or being taken to regain control and/or secure convoy. Passed to CPT Goorley, 198th Bde. 2215H: MAJ Borg, S3, 198th decides to send elements of H/17 Cav down QL-1 to secure convoy. 2230H: MAJ Borg informs DTOC that 3 PF platoons from Son Tinh District are presently securing convoy. Indic LT Gendrin from Son Tinh District advisory team was located with the convoy. MAJ Borg feels that this security is sufficient. Wishes to recall H/17 Cav. Approved: G-3, CPT Smith. Passed at 2230H to LTC Davis, concurring. Informed MAJ Elam, Div Trans & MAJ Ely, 723d Maint. Passed information to 11th Bde, RHS, C/S; 2230H, RHS, G-3; 2230H: RHS, 11th Bde; 2230H, Elam, RHS.

Americal Division TOC CHU LAI, RVN 0001 07 Nov 69 2400 07 Nov 69

12	0930		(U) **723d Maint**, MAJ Ely. Req EOD. Purpose: check 2xM-88 that were left unsecure during the night. Time: 070945H Nov 69. Pick-up at Admin Pad. Tail #148. Ntfy: EOD Sgt Lindsay. App by G-3 CPT Pate.

AMERICAL DIVISION TOC CHU LAI, RVN 0001 02 Jan 70 2400 02 Jan 70

53	1515		CLDC, Sp Coady, **D/723d Maint**. Will test fire 4xM-60's at 1550H until approx 1605H. Ntfy: C/S, Sp White; 198 Bde, LT Loop.

AMERICAL DIVISION TOC CHU LAI, RVN 0001 02 Jan 70 2400 02 Jan 70

53	1515		CLDC, Sp Coady, **D/723d Maint**. Will test fire 4xM-60's at 1550H until approx 1605H. Ntfy: C/S, Sp White; 198 Bde, LT Loop.

Americal Division TOC CHU LAI, RVN 0001 27 Jul 70 2400 27 Jul 70

Item	Time	Incidents, Messages, Orders, Etc.
12	0840	196th Bde, Sp French, **723d Maint**, (en) BT378176 at 261700H. A ¼ ton jeep moving N on Hwy #1 rec 2xrds sniper fire, w/1xhit in right rear fender & spare tire. Res: neg cas. Rtn M-79 & M-16 fire w/unk res.

Americal Division TOC CHU LAI, RVN 0001 19 Oct 70 2400 19 Oct 70

Item	Time	Incidents, Messages, Orders, Etc.
87	1930	AMCAL, SSG Counts, DTOC G-3, Ntfy following of msg, Subj: Travel on QL-1: DTG: 191110Z. 57th Trans, Sp White 1950H; 566th Med, Sp Neal, 1858H; 27th Surg, LT Bryant, 1855H; 91st Evac, COL Gibson, 1853H; 62d Signal, SFC Montgomery, 1852H; 39th Engr, SSG Willis, 1850H; 11th Bde, Sgt Annas, 1900H; 196th Bde, LT Cobb, 1902H; 198th Bde, CPT Hicks, 1903H; Div Arty, CPT Witzeling, 1915H; DISCOM, Sgt Sipe, 1919H; 16th CAG, CPT Cantrell, 1945H; 1-1 Cav, Sp Larkin, 1945H; 26th Engr, Sgt Shaw, 1928H; 523d Signal, LT Peterson, 1930H; 723d Maintenance, Sp Brown, 2000H; 23d S&T, Sgt Jackson, 2005H; 23d Med, Sgt Stubblefield, 2010H. No answer: 328th Radio Research; 20th TASS.

23d INFANTRY DIV TOC CHU LAI, RVN 0001 15 Dec 70 2400 15 Dec 70

26	1130		11th Bde, Sgt Ramsey. At 0845H, base defense at Bronco while on ptl of perim they fd 20' of wire cut in front of Bnkr #9 which is in the **723d Sector**. Will repair today.

23d INFANTRY DIV TOC CHU LAI, RVN 0001 17 Jan 71 2400 17 Jan 71

67	1645		11th Bde, Sgt Moore. At 1510H, COL Insani at BS917173, 2 ½ ton truck fr **723 Maint**, Bumper A-76, going N on QL1, had 20xflame throwers on board, was amb by est VC platoon on both sides of road. Amb consisted of AK-47, M-14, M-16, M-79 and H/gren. Truck went off road to the W into a ditch w/4xft water. VC assaulted killing 2xUS already wounded, shot in back, neck & head. 3d GI escaped by hiding under vehicle. The 20xflame throwers & paperwork are still in veh. A wrecker is enroute at this time. 1xUS WIA was evac to Bronco. Res: 2xUS KIA (Rutland & Geddings), 1xUS WIA(E).

23d INFANTRY DIV TOC		CHU LAI, RVN	0001	25 Jan 71	2400	25 Jan 71	
57	2355	23d MP, Sgt Schaeffer. The MP's checked out a report of a C/S grenade being thrown in the area between 523d Signal & Maint. They fd no canister & said all indications show that the C/S was det outside the CHL perimeter. 523d Signal was mustered & checked w/neg res. They were mustered because the gas was strongest in their area. **723d Maint** was not mustered because the gas was very faint & it hadn't come from that area.					
23d INFANTRY DIV TOC		CHU LAI, RVN	0001	16 Feb 71	2400	16 Feb 71	
29	1255	11th Bde, Sgt Bramlett, 4-21 at Charlie Brown, BS933223 at 1223H. Two truck fr E/26 Engr (1x2 ½ ton, 1x5 ton w/trailer) enroute to Charlie Brown. The 5 ton truck det a mine consisting of 155mm w/PRD. Res: neg cas but explo blew left front wheel & axle of the truck. Req a wrecker fr **723d** at Bronco to assist. Mine was in middle of the road.					
23d INFANTRY DIV TOC		CHU LAI, RVN	0001	19 Feb 71	2400	19 Feb 71	
21	1055	23d INF DIV, **723d Maint,** LZ Bronco. 1xUS accidentally discharged an M79. Rd struck a hut damaging hut and wounding 1xVN fem (minor). Investigation to follow. Ntfy: XXIV Corps, W.S.					
22	1055	11th Bde, Sgt Lane, **723d Maint**, LZ Bronco, BS812383 at 0930H. Update to previous entry. In vic of main gate, a member of above unit accidentally discharged an M79. The rd hit a VN home causing $75 damage to struct and furniture. Res: 1xperson, female, injury minor. Treated at VN hospital station at Duc Pho and released. The MP's reported no animosities over the incident. S5, 11th Bde and LTC Deiss, DCO, 11th Bde are investigating.					
23d INFANTRY DIV TOC		CHU LAI, RVN	0001	5 Apr 71	2400	5 Apr 71	
13	0855	198th Bde, LT Bilstrom, D/1-1, BT635024 at 0715H. 1xUH-1H fr D/1-1 rec SAF fr 2xVC at 80k, 450'. Rec 2xhits. 1xhit in transmission, 1xhit door gunner. Forced to land. D/1-1 rtn w/AWF. Res: 2xVC KBG/S, 1xUS WIA(E). D/O compl 0740H to 27th Surg. Acft extr by **E/723d** at 0815H.					
23d INFANTRY DIV TOC		CHU LAI, RVN	0001	8 Apr 71	2400	8 Apr 71	
2	0025	198th Bde, LT Haslett, **D/723d Maint**, Bronco at 2150H. (en) BS782373, BS786373 and BS837403. **D/723d Maint** area rec 2 rds unk type (possible 122mm) rkts. Night Hawk checked susp en loc w/neg res. Arty counter-battery fired on susp en loc. Res: 3xUS WIA(E), 4xUS WIA(M), 1xD/O to CHL compl at 072235H to 91st Evac. 5xwere inside and 2xoutside. Light dam to fortified living bnkr, both rds impacted on same building (one rd on roof, one against side).					
23d INFANTRY DIV TOC		CHU LAI, RVN	0001	9 Apr 71	2400	9 Apr 71	
51	1755	23d S&T, LT Walden. 23d S&T convoy fr Dong Ha closed CHL at 1715H. 23d S&T at 1715H, 523d Signal at 1910H, 11th Bde CP at 1855H. F/8 Cav at 1910H, **B/723d Maint** 1910H.					
23d INFANTRY DIV TOC		CHU LAI, RVN	0001	25 May 71	2400	25 May 71	
32	1225	CLDC, LTC Fell, 250445H, Chu Lai combat base rec 6x122mm rkts: BT523075, BT522091, BT536094. Landed outside perimeter BT525102 **B/723 Maint** damage to 2xstruc. BT524096, 523 Sig. BT528102 MSR, neg cas. Sus en loc based on crater's BS442997. Ntfy: FSE, CPT Carl; XXIV Corps, Sp Runyan.					
23d INFANTRY DIV TOC		CHU LAI, RVN	0001	31 May 71	2400	31 May 71	
17	0900	CLDC, CPT Miller, **723 Maint Motor Pool**, BT534110, 310106H. CLDC reported that a partially clothed indiv was seen in the 723 Motor Pool. A check of the area revealed 2xgas soaked rags hanging out of the gas tanks of 2x5 ton trucks. MP's & Sub Sector #1 Reserve Force checked the area & could not find indiv. The guard fired at the indiv w/neg res.					
23d INF DIV TOC		CHU LAI, RVN	0001	02 Jul 71	2400	02 Jul 71	
18	0950	CLDC, CPT Miller, **A/723 Maint,** BT533116, 020900H. Sub Sector#1. A/723 Maint obsr 1xVN boat 25m off shore w/1xindiv swimming toward shore, w/unk # of pax w/wpns, yelled to Chieu Hoi to swimmer who rtn to boat, raised his hands & boat began to leave. GI's shot over their heads. Boat did not stop. GI's eng the boat, coastal group#15 checked the boat at 0940H & fd 1xVN KIA, 1xVN WIA. D/O compl to 91 evac. PMO presently at 723d Maint. (KIA reported to be ARVN soldier, WIA is VN civ). Ntfy: C/S, COL Richardson; G1, CPT Scurry; G3, LTC Watts; XXIV Corps, Sp Gonzales; 198 Bde, LT Bilstrom; G5, CPT Hill; PMO, SSG Carneal.					

23d INF DIV TOC		CHU LAI, RVN	0001	24 Jul 71	2400	24 Jul 71	
29	1330	CLDC, Sgt Banks, **HHC & A/723d** will be blasting on beach in their AO fr 1330H-1700H. Dud M-79 rds. Ntfy: C/S, G2, FSE, 198 Bde, AAE.					
23d Ind Div TOC		CHU LAI, RVN	0001	31 Jul 71	2400	31 Jul 71	
53	1804	(U) 11th Bde, SGT Lane, PMO, Binh Son, 311640H, 1x5 ton wrecker fm **D/723d Maint Bn** and 1x2-1/2 ton fm 6th ARVN Regt had an accident in Binh Son. The wrecker hit the ARVN veh fm the rear, res: 1 ARVN KNB, 14 ARVN WNB (E), 1 house w/undetermined damage. D/O req thru US channels, comp 1720H to Quang Ngai. Ntfy: CG CPT Verga, C/S COL Richardson, G-3 LTC Watts.					
23d INF DIV TOC		CHU LAI, RVN	0001	01 Aug 71	2400	01 Aug 71	
50	2345	196 Bde, LT Nowlin, **C/723 Maint**, AT945762 at 2100H. Fire started in warehouse used for PLL & arms room next to warehouse, 4x5 ton trailers were parked w/country store items on them, all of the above completely dest. Bde fire dept, DNG air base fire dept & Philco Ford was at area to assist, fire controlled at 2300H. Sgt Browning CQ, 100 to 105 wpn dest, auto, electrical armorment & DX items. Ntfy: C/S, G3, XXIV.					
23d INF DIV TOC		CHU LAI, RVN	0001	11 Sep 71	2400	11 Sep 71	
39	1550	23 Inf, CPT Workman, AAE, BT443170, 111420H. 1xUH-1H **fr E/723 Maint** made an emergency landing for mechanical problems. G/S on sta at 1425H to secure acft. Crew extr at 1430H w/neg cas. Ship extr at 1545H to CHL.					
23d INF DIV TOC		CHU LAI, RVN	0001	03 Oct 71	2400	03 Oct 71	
6	0209	CLDC, Sgt Roden, Sector Duty NCO investigated and fd tower NCO intoxicated and had fired one mag M-16, tower NCO relieved of duty. Tower NCO fr **723d Maint.**					
23d INF DIV TOC		CHU LAI, RVN	0001	12 Oct 71	2400	12 Oct 71	
23	1600	23d Inf, LT Wilson, PMO, BT093596, 121050H. 1xVN funeral procession was traveling S on QL#1, and a 23d S&T convoy consisting of 4xtrucks (semi), 3x2 ½ ton trk, 1x5 ton trk, 1xV-100 and 1x 1/4 ton trk (gun jeep). 23 S&T convoy has picked up **6xA/723 Maint Bn** veh consisting of 6xS&T (semi) which took up the rear of the 23 S&T convoy. All were mov N. The 1st lowboy fr A/723 Maint Bn forced a VN bus (Lambretta) off the road res in 4xVN civ WNB(E) to Hoi An and 4xVN civ WNB(E) to DNG Hospital. VN vets let air out of one tire on lowboy and fired shots into the air. Concertina was placed around vehs & across road. 1xMP ptl (US) and 1xjeep w/3xpers fr MACV and 1xLOH on sta, they report a min of 14xUS are enclosed in concertina, neg civ in area. Vets claim 2.5 million P for bus & injured. Update: LOH over scene reports an est 100xvets still around concertina. They have 6xtractor and trailer trucks, 1xV-100, and 2xjeeps enclosed in concertina. US pers are gathered around V-100 which is last veh. Update: The vets claim they represent the injured people. The injured people claim that they do not. Update 1900H. Confrontation has terminated in 200,000 P paid, and 170 cases of salad oil and 150 cases of CSM Food for Peace was paid. Convoy closed DNG at 1953H. Ntfy: C/S, COL Richardson; G3, LTC Watts; G5, CPT Vereb; XXIV Corps, MAJ Wilson.					
23d INF DIV TOC		CHU LAI, RVN	0001	24 Oct 71	2400	24 Oct 71	
13	1855	FSE, CPT Langley, Div Arty, Approx 10xrds M-16 fired fr **723 Maint** area into Div Arty area w/NCD, MP's dispatched at 0130H and apprehended 2xUS possibly involved.					

A page listing of the men who died while in service to the 723d Maint. Bn. from the Coffelt Data Base:

lname	fname	mname	rank	mos	age	incident	casdate	event	grid loc.	co
RUTLAND	WARREN	LESTER	SGT	63K30	25	10/04/1968	04-Oct-68			
GEDDINGS	JOHN	HUGHIE	SP4	63H20	23	01/17/1971	17-Jan-71	2-1/2 TON TRUCK AMBUSHED ON HWY QL-1, 5 KM N-NE OF TAM QUAN CITY 19710117	BS917173	A CO
NIXON	JESSE	ERNEST	SSG	63H40	29	01/17/1971	17-Jan-71	2-1/2 TON TRUCK AMBUSHED ON HWY QL-1, 5 KM N-NE OF TAM QUAN CITY 19710117	BS917173	A CO
DAUGHERTY	CECIL		SGT	76Y20	21	09/20/1969	20-Sep-69	ROCKET ATTACK ON LZ BRONCO (DUC PHO) 19690920	BS812383	B CO
GORE	JERRY		SP4	63B20	21	08/10/1969	10-Aug-69			B CO
BOOTHE	RONALD	CHARLES	SP4	63C20	18	05/28/1969	28-May-69			C CO
BROWN	KARL	EUGENE	SP4	11B20	20	02/17/1970	17-Feb-70	UH-1H 67-17175 MECH FAILURE 8 KM SW OF QUANG NGAI AFLD (B/123rd helicopter)	BS560660	E CO
CASE	JAMES	RUSSELL	SP4	67N20	22	04/24/1970	24-Apr-70			E CO
DRYE	JACK	LEE	SP4	67N20	21	02/17/1970	17-Feb-70	UH-1H 67-17175 MECH FAILURE 8 KM SW OF QUANG NGAI AFLD (B/123rd Helicopter)	BS560660	E CO had moved into B/123d
FRATUS	EDWARD	FRANCIS	SP5	35L20	20	12/09/1969	09-Dec-69	UH-1H 68-16220 HIT HILL, BAD Weather 5 KM S-SW OF MINH LONG AFLD (vol. door gunner w/McClane from A/123rd)	BS508466	E CO
YOUNG	JAMES	PAUL	SSG	63C40	44	05/25/1970	13-Jun-70			HHC