Division Soldiers Frustrate Enemy

CHU LAI — Ground fighting in southern I Corps tactical zone tapered off during the second half of January after the first two weeks of the month showed heavy fighting in numerous related actions.

In spite of smaller and less frequent contact, soldiers of the division continued to frustrate enemy efforts by searching areas of suspected enemy concentrations and build-ups.

Numerous Caches

Numerous caches of supplies and ammunition were found and destroyed. In addition to these, infantry and armor units uncovered locations of enemy headquarters, including mess halls, aid stations, and munitions manufacturing points.

American soldiers in many cases were aided in their search by Kit Carson scouts familiar with enemy operations in the inland mountains and coastal plains.

Helicopters continued to play a significant part in activity directed against VC and NVA elements. In several different operations, helicopter-borne infantry elements used their high mobility to engage enemy troops without warning.

some of the Vietnamese units

Combat Teams

Gunships and scout helicopters worked in teams to destroy numerous camps and bunkers. They also engaged and destroyed or dispersed small enemy elements.

During at least one strike, the gunships' weapons caused large secondary explosions, indicating the presence of sizeable enemy munitions storage points.

Other large and well-concealed munitions caches were recovered and extracted by infantry elements.

Numerous NVA and VC suspects were detained by ground soldiers and questioned by intelligence personnel, often resulting in further material finds and the ferreting out of enemy groups.

Combined Vietnamese-American operations in the division area of operations accounted for numerous enemy kills in addition to establishing a more sound rapport between American troops and Vietnamese footsoldiers.

In addition to ARVN troop Popular Forces and Regional Forces units participated in search and clear operations, a change from the heavy fighting encountered during early January.

In addition to cooperation in tactical operations, the allies of southern I Corps bridged some of the remaining cultural gaps through mutual celebration of Christmas, New Year, and preparation for the Vietnamese new year season, Tet.

Civic Action Projects

Civic action projects and self-help programs continued through January, highlighted by the completion and opening of the Mo Duc road, a joint project between American military personnel, and civilians and government officials of Quang Ngai province.

Throughout the month, the defensive posture of several installations were buttressed in preparation for possibly increased enemy activity during the period of Tet.

Last year, such efforts kept allied units effective in spite of the enemy's all-out effort to destroy installations and cut fighting strength of American and Vietnamese units.

At that time, enemy attempts to launch a long-term counter-offensive failed after weeks of heavy fighting throughout Vietnam.

SOUTHERN CROSS

AMERICAL DIVISION

Vol. 3 No. 7 | Chu Lai, Vietnam | February 20, 1970

Ready For Extraction

Members of Co. G (Rangers) 75th Inf. (Abn.) await extraction by "Blue Ghost" choppers of the 123d Aviation Bn. The rangers were carrying out a series of long range recoonaissance patrols in an area southwest of FSB Siberia. (U.S. Army photo by PFC Laszlo Kondor)

Inf-Arty Battalions Change Unit COs

Recent changes of command of battalions within the Division brought new names to two brigades and artillery units.

3rd Bn., 82nd Arty.

In a recent change of command ceremony, LTC Oscar L. Faulkner (Canyon City, Colo.) replaced LTC Herbert E. Knight (Oxen Hill, Va.) as commander of the 3/82nd.

LTC Knight, who served with the unit since June, returns to the Division staff as the G-2.

4th Bn., 31st Inf.

LTC Kenneth L. Skaer (Spokane, Wash.) recently assumed command of the unit from LTC Cecil M. Henry (Rome, Ga.).

Before coming to Vietnam, LTC Skaer was an instructor at the command and general staff college at Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

LTC Henry becomes senior advisor for the 5th Regiment, 2nd ARVN Division.

4th Bn., 3rd Inf.

LTC Stanley V. Wielga, former Division G-1, replaces West Point classmate LTC Robert Fernandez as commander of the unit. LTC Fernandez becomes DVI Division G-1.

1st Bn., 20th Inf.

The former Division IG, LTC Arthur R. Fischer, replaces LTC Robert E. Wilson as commander of the unit.

New Campaign Slated

CHU LAI — The Department of the Army has announced the official dates and designation of the most recent campaign in Vietnam.

Designated as TET 69 Counteroffensive, the campaign began Feb. 23, 1969 and terminated June 8, 1969.

Still to be determined is the name and inclusive dates of the campaign started June 9, 1969.

Personnel serving in Vietnam are authorized to wear one star on the Vietnamese Campaign medal if the individual's tour of duty in Vietnam coincides with the dates of the designated campaigns.

The following represents the listing of all official campaign designations for Vietnam: VN Advisory Campaign March 1962-March 7, 1965; VN Defense Campaign March 8, 1965-December 24, 1965; VN Counteroffensive December 25, 1965-June 30, 1966; VN Counteroffensive Phase II July 1, 1966-May 31, 1967; VN Counteroffensive Phase III June 1, 1967-January 29, 1968; TET Counteroffensive January 30, 1968-April 1, 1968; VN Counteroffensive Phase IV April 2, 1968-June 30, 1968; VN Counteroffensive Phase V July 1, 1968-November 1, 1968;

Also included are; VN Counteroffensive Phase VI November 2, 1968-February 22, 1969; TET 69 Counteroffensive February 23, 1969-June 8, 1969; June 9, 1969 to a date yet determined. 1969 to a date yet to be determined.

Aero Means Trouble

'Warlords' Expertly Work Over NVA

During January, the "Warlords" of the 123rd Aviation Battalion worked with Division infantry units to the dismay of NVA and VC in the 11th Bde. area and an area north of Ha Thanh.

After Cobra gunships caused a secondary explosion in an area southwest of LZ Bronco, an aerorifle element was inserted in the area to investigate. They immediately engaged two NVA, killing them. A search of the area later revealed documents, packs, and an enemy weapon.

The next day, infantrymen of the aerorifle element were inserted as a blocking force for elements of the 1st Bn., 20th Inf., 11th Bde. With Cobra gunships and a Light Observation Helicopter (LOH) providing security for the ground forces, the unit captured 10 evading NVA and NVA sympathizers.

During that operation, the aerorifle infantrymen "leap frogged" from one group of evading enemy to another, capturing and extracting them for interrogation.

That same day, Cobra gunships and an armed LOH totaled six enemy soldiers killed after a Special Forces commander reported the enemy soldiers moving in the open.

Mid-January saw the aero scout element's "skeeter" LOH use its size and maneuverability to best advantage on a dustoff mission. The dustoff was to be effected in an extremely small LZ with hostile fire tearing through it.

A Huey dustoff ship had been hit by enemy fire as it neared the area. The unarmed LOH got into the LZ three times, evacuating four men wounded in action.

A few days later, infantrymen of the aerorifle element were again on the ground, and captured three NVA nurses. The nurses were extracted from the field and questioned by intelligence personnel.

The day before, Cobra gunships totaled 22 NVA soldiers killed when they caused a large secondary explosion while engaging a small band of NVA on the ground.

"We estimated that debris flew about 500 feet up," said CPT Lee Whitmore, flight leader. Infantrymen riding at an altitude of 2 thousand feet felt the shock wave of the blast.

Awards & Decorations

SILVER STAR MEDAL

SP5 Richard M. Belanger, 196th Bde; PFC Gordon T. Little, 196th Bde; SP4 Billy R. Saye, 196th Bde.

BRONZE STAR MEDAL WITH "V" DEVICE

PFC Roberto R. Barrera, 196th Bde; PFC Harry G. Campbell, 11th Bde; PFC Robert Espada-Revera, 11th Bde; SP4 Edward W. Fritz, 11th Bde; SGT Ronnie R. Jackson (1st OLC), 82nd Arty; SP5 Daniel D. Lerch, 196th Bde; PFC Dewayne C. Lewis, 196th Bde; SSG Robert Mann, 196th Bde; 1LT Albert R. Nauck (1st OLC), 11th Bde; SP4 Warren L. Peterson (2nd OLC), 196th Bde; PSG Robert L. Shanahan, 11th Bde; SSG John R. Smalley (1st OLC), 11th Bde; SGT Ronald B. Sprouse, 196th Bde; SSG Charles Swaggert (1st OLC), 196th Bde; PFC Loren N. Swarnes Jr, 198th Bde; PFC Gilbert S. Tibbs, 196th Bde; PFC Ralph W. Timberlake, 196th Bde; 1LT Thomas D. Wozencraft (2nd OLC), 14th Arty.

AIR MEDAL WITH "V" DEVICE

CPT Possel Lay (2nd Awd), 14th Cbt Avn Bn; WO1 Byron H. Disney (2nd Awd), 14th Cbt Avn Bn.

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL WITH "V" DEVICE

PFC Donald P. Sloat, 196th Bde; SP4 Daniel Valadez (1st OLC), 196th Bde; PFC Robert L. Vasquez, 196th Bde; SP4 Anibal Velazquez, 196th Bde; SP4 Ronald P. Weber, 198th Bde; 1LT Robert B. Whiteside, 198th Bde; PFC Saylor Williams, 196th Bde; PFC Larry L. Wilker, 196th Bde.

Joint Federal Campaign Begins

The fourth annual Department of Defense overseas Combined Federal Campaign begins Monday. The theme of the project is, "Help people who need help."

Melvin R. Laird, Secretary of Defense, issued the following message to DoD personnel stationed overseas.

"You who are stationed overseas in the service of our country, be it as members of the armed services or as civilian employees, know firsthand the need to help those who need help.

"The 1970 CFC can bring hope to those in need. Your contribution helps support the work of 24 private agencies, and it carries a message of your personal concern for the welfare of others.

"In 1969 your generosity provided the success for the campaign and as a direct result the American Red Cross, 10 international service agencies and 12 national health agencies were able to offer assistance to more than 75 million people in need.

"I encourage you to give generously during this all-out humanitarian effort from February 15 through March 31.

TOC Dedicated To Enlisted Man

FSB 4-11 — Division Commander MG Lloyd B. Ramsey presided at recent ceremonies dedicating a tactical operations center (TOC) here to an 11th Bde. recipient of the DSC.

The 3rd Bn., 1st Inf. TOC was dedicated to SGT Larry Techimer, who gave his life in defense of the firebase shortly after it was established in July of last year.

Following an invocation by Chaplain (MAJ) Gordon B. Hanson, LTC Leslie J. Stottle, CO of the 3rd Bn., 1st Inf. spoke of SGT Techimer as, "a friend of every man who cherishes freedom, since each of our dead has bought some portion of freedom with his life." (11th Bde. IO)

Religion And You

Unconditional Love

By
Chaplain (MAJ) Clinton E. Grentz
Support Command

Valentine's Day brings to memory all of the good times we devote with the person we love. It's a time when we share valentines, candy, and perfumes as a token of our love. Love itself has the power to transform all of human life.

Love does not give place to bitterness and wrath; it is long suffering under injuries. It harbors no resentment; it forgives.

Love does not return evil for evil. It is kind. It is actively engaged in doing good and kindness.

Love does not envy. Itself generous, it does not begrudge others their gifts; and if at any time it is being outstripped by competitors, it harbors no irritation, feels no disdain.

Love is humble, not boastful; unostentatious, not anxious to display superior gifts or to attract unmerited admiration.

Love never makes itself ridiculous by immodesty or irreverence, or by any air of assumed superiority or sense of personal greatness.

Love is true courtesy. The art of politeness cannot be learned exclusively from books of etiquette; it comes from within. It is inspired by sympathy and is guided by consideration for the feelings of others.

LOVE is unselfish. Love refrains from demanding precedence, recognition, applause, even the consideration which may rightly be expected. For love is deeper than justice.

Love is good-natured. The infallible cure of an irritable temper is the persevering cultivation of love.

Love does not store up memory of wrongs, indifference, contempt, grievences, and wounds. Love is able to forgive and forget completely.

Love finds no secret satisfaction in discovering the moral weakness or the the hidden wickedness of a rival. Love is not eager to spread an evil report.

VA News In Review

EDITOR'S NOTE: Veterans and their families are asking thousands of questions concerning the benefits their government provides for them through the Veterans Administration. Below are some representative queries. Additional information may be obtained at any VA office.

Q—I am single and receive Social Security benefits of $150 per month, and military retirement benefits of $90 per month. I am a patient in a nursing home due to severe disabilities. Can I qualify for a VA pension?

A—Yes. You may qualify for a VA pension at a rate exceeding your military retirement benefit, which must be waived in order to receive VA payments. The VA pension rate would be $31 a month, plus the aid and attendance benefit of $100, for a total pension benefit of $131.

Q—I was ordered recently to report for an examination of my disabilities for which I am receiving compensation. I did not report, and have received a letter discontinuing my compensation. What can I do?

A—You can notify the VA by letter that you are willing to report for an examination, and another examination will be scheduled. The VA realizes that there are problems in reporting for examinations, and tries to schedule them at the veteran's convenience, if possible.

Q—I am 65 years old and retired, and receive compensation for 20 per cent disability from the Veterans Administration. Can I elect the VA pension program if it is to my financial advantage to do so?

A—Yes. You should apply for pension. When a veteran is qualified for both compensation and pension, the VA pays the higher benefit.

Proud Men Serving Action Army

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.

Division Troops was represented by 1SG Calvin Reis, C Co., 523rd Sig. Bn.; SSG James Wise, B Co., 26th Engr. Bn.; SP5 William Hanley, 635th MID; SP4 Beverly Whitgreave, B Trp., 1-1st Cav.

Support Command had SP5 George D. Duval, Hqs. & Co. A, 723rd Maint. Bn.; from the 23rd Med. Bn., PSG Roger Woder, C Co., SSG Herbert Foster and PFC Michael Doolin, Hqs. & Co. A.

Division Artillery retains SSG Herherts Seffels, HHB; from 1-82nd Arty., SSG Raymond Luinis, HHB, SSG John Fleming, C Btry.; from 3-16th Arty., PFC Marion Faison, C Btry.; from 3-82nd Arty., PFC Robert Jones, HHB, SP4 Victor Wilkins, C Btry.; from 3-18th Arty., SSG Gerald Wetherill, HHB.

The 11th Infantry Brigade reenlistees were SP4 Edwin Dunham, HHC; from 3-1st Inf., SP4 Earl Casper, E Co.; from 4-21st Inf., PFC David Gerberich, C Co.; from 4-3rd Inf., SSG Alvin Linker, D Co.

The 196th Infantry Brigade re-upped PFC Michael Wellert, PFC Dennis Moyers, PFC Wendell Nunley, A Co., PFC Donnie Shatley, E Co., 4-31st Inf.; from 1-46th Inf., PFC Jon Rhodes, PFC Walter Walker, PFC Thomas Stoddard, A Co., PFC Roger Wooden and PFC Joseph Booth, B Co.; from 2-1st Inf., SP4 Lee Benton and SSG James Smith, HHC, SP4 Robert Neuman, PFC John Plate, PFC Jimmie Turner, SGT Timothy Moore, A Co., SP5 David Taylor, E Co.; from 3-21st Inf., PFC Richard Antill and SP4 Richard Christopher, HHC, PFC Alfonza Charles and PFC Brantley Jeffreys, B Co., PFC Seward Long, D Co.

The 198th Infantry Brigade was represented by PFC Steven Hosler, A Co., PFC George Morales and SP4 William Lambeth, B Co., 1-52nd Inf.; from 3-46th Inf., PFC James Fox, C Co., PVT Donald Nadeau, D Co.; from 1-6th Inf., SP4 Matias Carrasco and PFC Marco Schiavoni, B Co., SP4 Larry Crabtree and PFC Travis Sanford, C Co., SP4 Lawrence Alvey and PFC Michael Runnels, E Co.

SOUTHERN CROSS
AMERICAL DIVISION

THE SOUTHERN CROSS is an authorized periodic publication of the Americal Division Information Office for division units in the Republic of Vietnam. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army. Contributions are encouraged and may be sent to the Information Office, Americal Division, APO 96374. Tel: Chu Lai 2414. The editors reserve the right to edit all contributions.

Major General Lloyd B. Ramsey ..... Commanding General
Major John T. Paull ..... Information Officer
Captain Kim Johnson ..... Officer-in-Charge
Specialist Four William J. Hayes ..... Editor
Specialist Five James Brown ..... Production Editor

Colors Presented

Brigadier General John W. Donaldson, assistant Div. commander, accepts a miniature replica of the 11th Inf. Bde. colors from commanding officer, COL Hugh F.T. Hoffman Jr. The presentation was made to honor BG Donaldson for his achievements while commander of the 11th Bde. "Jungle Warriors."

Mo Duc Joint Road Project Completed

FSB DRAGON — A joint operation of United States Army, Marine and Vietnamese engineers recently completed the Mo Duc Road nine miles north of Duc Pho.

The four mile road stretches east from Mo Duc on Highway 1 three miles to Nui Ong Do, a civilian relocation village, and then on to the South China Sea.

Prior to construction of the road most supplies reached Nui Ong Do by boat while the only communication between Nui Ong Do and Mo Duc was via paths on rice paddy dikes.

The road was dedicated by LTG Herman Nickerson, Jr., commanding general of III Marine Amphibious Force and LTC Nguyen Van Binh, Quang Ngai province chief at a ribbon cutting ceremony which was also attended by MG Lloyd B. Ramsey, commanding general of the Americal Division and BG Edwin L. Powell, Jr., assistant Americal Division commander.

Construction on the road, which is expected to bring a new life to the 3,500 inhabitants of Nui Ong Do, was begun on August 15, 1969.

The Division's 26th Engineer Bn. had primary responsibility for the construction. The 26th was supported by the ARVN 82nd Engineer Bn., the 39th Engineer Bn., the 9th Marine Engineer Bn., Fleet Marine Force and Mobile Construction Bn. Seven.

Security for the operation was provided by the 140th Popular Force platoon from Mo Duc and the 1st Bn., 20th Inf., 11th Bde.

The road required construction of two bridges, one 21 meters and another 36 meters in length.

Twenty seven thousand cubic meters of earth fill and the installation of 430 meters of culverts was necessary on a two-kilometer section of the road which went across rice paddies.

In addition to construction problems the engineers were constantly faced with the danger of enemy mines and ambushes. A mine destroyed one five-ton dump truck while sniper fire slightly damaged a bulldozer.

One Vietnamese civilian, two Popular Force and two United States military personnel were killed by enemy action during the construction. Four Vietnamese civilians, two popular force and nine United States military personnel were wounded.

Two demolitions men assigned to the 26th Engineer Bn. carefully place charges of high explosive on the surface of a concrete slab serving as a footbridge on the old Mo Duc Path. When the charges were detonated, the concrete slab and rails were destroyed, but the abutments of the bridge were untouched, as planned.

An Army combat engineer cautiously works with an ARVN engineer as they attempt to disarm a booby trap placed in the path of progress on the Mo Duc Road, 20 miles south of Chu Lai. Americans and Vietnamese worked hand-in-hand to complete the project, even on this delicate task.

Enemy Dislikes An Allied Dish

CHU LAI—When properly mixed by D Troop, 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry, the ingredients of a successful operation result in a first-rate fighting machine. An ageless recipe for success in battle is to combine speed with flexibility and a heavy dose of firepower.

Add to these standard portions a new flavor in the form of ARVN ground forces and the result is a U.S.-ARVN combined force operating with precision and lightning speed which the enemy is quickly learning to respect and fear.

Speed is the key to the operation. First to arrive in the selected area are the Light Observation Helicopters (LOH), Cobra gunships, and the Command and Control ship of D troop.

Conducting a quick visual reconnaissance of the objective area, a landing zone is selected, movement of the ground forces is determined, and possible enemy evasion routes are identified.

To the enemy on the ground, hidden in a bunker, it appears safe; just another reconnaissance mission, and as long as he stays hidden, the enemy soldier is safe.

But that illusion is short-lived, for within 15 minutes Huey "slicks" land, dispatching the ARVN infantrymen.

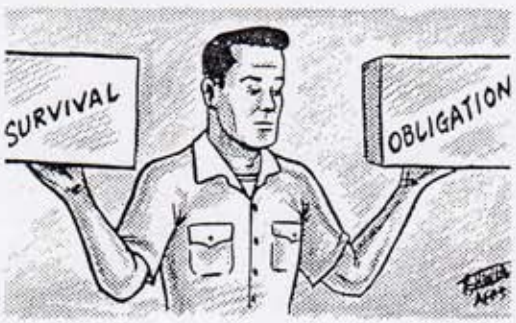
While D Troop circles overhead, ready to unleash its deadly firepower, the ARVNs are systematically searching the area for traces of the enemy.

Called "eagle flights", the allied operations have proven successful.

Despite the obvious difficulties of communication, the Americans in the air and the ARVNs on the ground team up for a formidable strike force.

Although all the operations are planned in advance, there is freedom to improvise.

Joint U.S.-ARN U.S.-ARVN command decisions can be made as the Command and Control ship scans the area. Thus, if it seems advisable to expand or alter the operation, the changes can be made smoothly and efficiently. (1/1 Cav IO)



'Doc Doolittle' Treats Cow

CHU LAI — When an aidman from the 3rd Battalion, 16th Artillery says that he will treat "anyone or anything at any time," you'd better believe it.

Recently, a Vietnamese worker approached SP4 George Brown, upset because her family's cow had been injured. Knowing how valuable and important the cow was to that one Vietnamese family, Brown asked the woman for the details without batting an eyelash.

Brown cared enough to help. He asked for a veterinarian to accompany him on a "house call" to the cow.

The veterinarian and Brown traveled to Dong Phu village to treat the four-legged patient.

"Actually, I didn't know anything about cows but with the help of the vet, I learned quickly, Brown said, "I found that treating a cow really isn't too different than treating people."

Having patched the cow up, the men returned to their normal duties.

"Although a cow may not be too significant to us, it meant a great deal to that Vietnamese family," Brown said.

"But more important, I hope that I showed them an American is willing to go out of his way to give assistance." (Div Arty IO)

PF's Don't Buy VC Sales Pitch

LZ HAWK HILL — The VC propagandists thought they had chosen the perfect setting for a political broadcast.

Here were infantrymen of the 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry, night laagered with Popular Force soldiers in dense jungle 12 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

The crackle of the loudspeaker was followed by a quick introduction and a sales pitch, aimed at the Popular Forces.

The answer was not slow in coming. A keen whistling was the first hint that the VC broadcast team was in trouble. Ten well-placed mortar rounds from a nearby 196th Brigade fire base completely demoralized the efforts at persuasion.

The tinny voice squealed a parting imprecation and no more was heard.

"I think they were a little surprised at the reaction they got," grinned PFC Jackie Smith (Barbourville, Ky.) of Delta Company. "I'm sure they didn't expect an answer quite that soon."

SP4 George Brown, a medic for the 3rd Battalion, 16th Artillery, administers an injection to a wounded cow belonging to a Vietnamese family living in Dong Phu village. Brown showed the family that an American cares enough to go out of his way to help those who need it. (U.S. Army Photo)

The Military

Final Briefing

She's

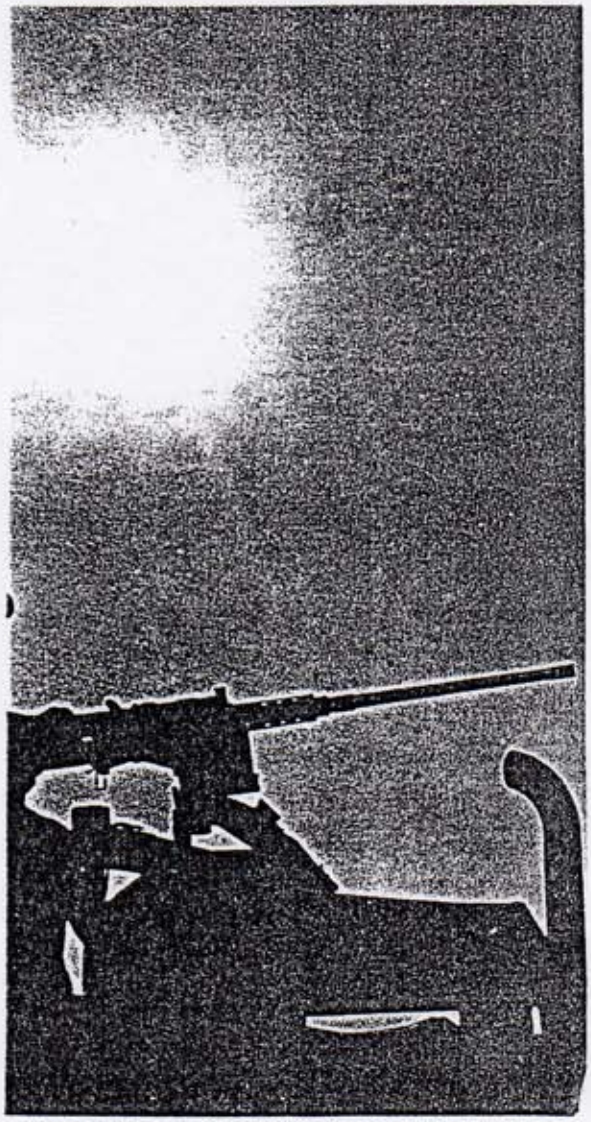
The convoy run between Chu Lai and Hawk Hill is just one example of how transportation and security personnel team up to accomplish a single mission. Though the regular convoy could almost be called a "milk run", the men who do the job allow no room for laxity in their work.

Vehicles are carefully loaded the night before the run. Shortly after sunup, they begin to take their positions in the line within the Chu Lai perimeter. Weapons are checked and approved only when they are functioning properly. Drivers and mechanics, after long hours of preventive maintenance, know that all the vehicles going on the mission are performing as well as possible.

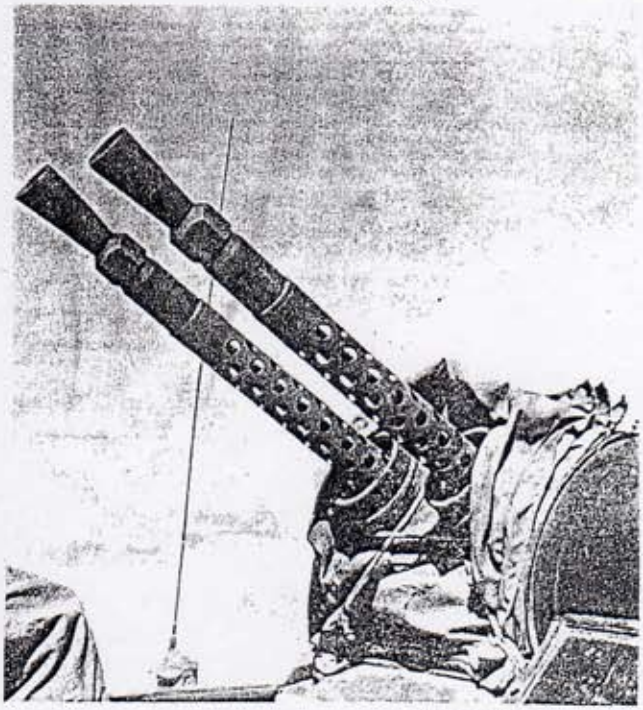
As the men of B Company, 22rd S & T Battalion wait for the minesweep teams to clear all sections of the road between the two end points of the run, the convoy commander briefs them on the mission and the standard operating procedures that will be observed during the upcoming mission.

When word comes down that the road is open, no time is wasted in getting the vehicles rolling. Security is provided by amphibious vehicles with twin .30 caliber guns, jeeps carrying mounted M-60s, and .50 caliber guns on ring mounts atop some of the larger vehicles.

Photos By
PFC Laszlo Kondor
Americal IO



Security Is A Ready Weapon



Watchful Gunner On

Roadrunners

Stuck In His Mind

Moving Out

Periodically, the convoy commander reports by radio on pre-determined checkpoints the convoy passes as it lumbers along. Most of the drivers have passed them many times, but they remain alert, knowing the price of even a moment's carelessness.

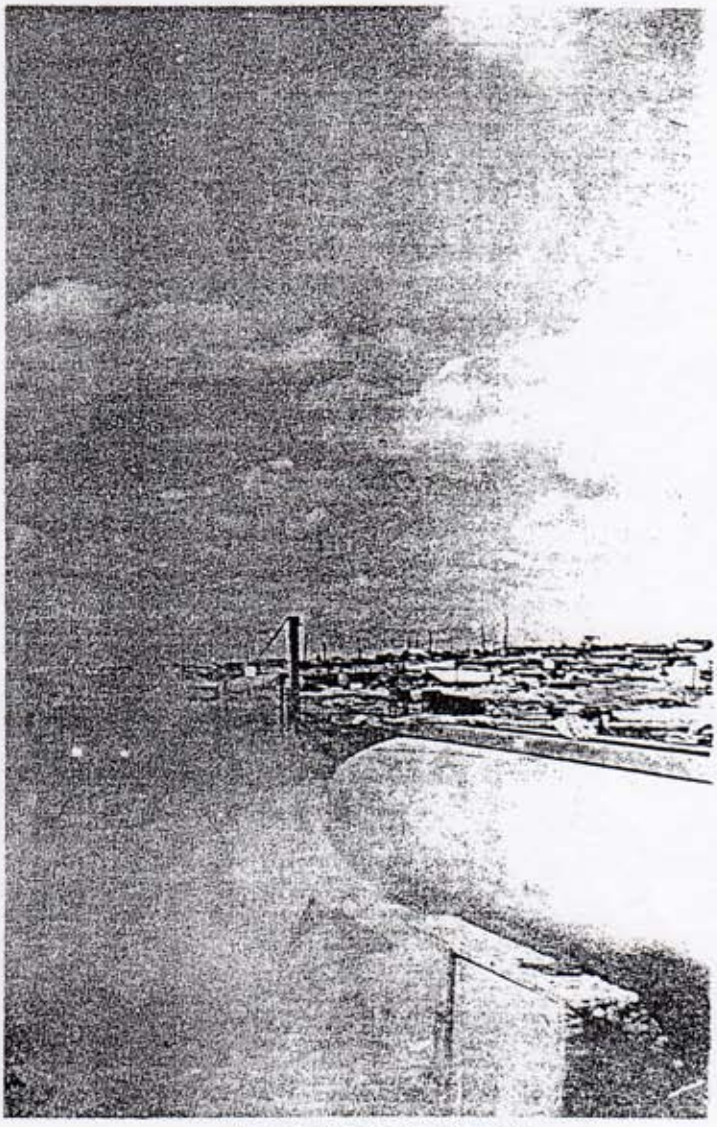
Many drivers paint words on their trucks pertaining to what is on their minds. For some, it is lyrics to a popular song. Some choose cities or states; one displays his wife's name.

As the vehicles move off the highway onto an unpaved secondary road, hazards increase in proportion with the density of the dust clouds. High above the blinding, choking dust, the fleecy clouds hang still, last remnants of the monsoon in this part of Southeast Asia.

Finally, the convoy reaches its destination. Relieved that the first part of the mission is over, the drivers have a chance to wash off some of the road grime that seems to cake in their throats and grind away at their eyeballs.

When the trucks are unloaded and all pre-run checks have been made, the vehicles are rolling again, heading back to Chu Lai to await their next mission.

Armored Vehicle



The Sky Above, The Dust Below

Combat In Review

Grenadier Takes Aim

A ranger takes aim with his M-79 grenade launcher on a suspected enemy position as his M-60 armed teammate looks on. The two men, members of Co. G (Rangers) 75th Inf. (Abn.), are participating in a series of long range reconnaissance patrols in an area southwest of FSB Siberia.
(U.S. Army photo by PFC Laszlo Kondor)

'Chargers' Uncover A Weapons Cache; Aided By Hoi Chanh

LZ HAWK HILL — Before long, Viet Cong operating in the area of the 196th Bde. may be reduced to using slingshots and pea shooters. Aided by Hoi Chanh ralliers, the brigade uncovered more than 20 thousand rounds of small arms ammunition as well as 141 mortar, rocket and antitank rounds within a recent five-day period.

The first discovery was made by Co. B, 3rd Bn., 21st Inf., after a brief skirmish 14 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

"A Hoi Chanh was leading us to the suspected cache," said PFC Clark Taylor, (Leesburg, Fla.) of the unit, "when we spotted two NVA ahead."

One enemy was killed and the other wounded and captured. After extracting the wounded enemy to a nearby base, the company moved on. They did not have far to go.

"The cache was well-concealed along the side of a trail," said Taylor. In addition to 2 thousand rounds of small arms ammunition, they found numerous mortar, rocket, and RPG rounds.

The next day, three miles to the west, B Co., 4th Bn., 31st Inf. uncovered a second enemy cache in a tunnel complex.

There, they collected 1,800 small arms rounds, as well as dozens of mortar rounds and fuses.

Three days later, the Bravo Gimlets hit the munitions jackpot again. Once more they were aided by a Hoi Chanh.

He led a patrol to the base of a hill.

"Then he too, took us up a narrow path," said SP4 Roy Frugi, (De Quincy, La.). "It was overgrown with thick brush."

The cache, hidden behind several stone walls, contained 9,700 rifle rounds, more than 6 thousand rounds of machine gun ammunition, 42 RPG rounds, and six mortar shells.

"The enemy goes to great lengths to amass stocks of ammunition," said COL James M. Lee, commanding officer, 196th Brigade, "and with the aid of the ralliers, our units have definitely crippled his efforts." (196th IO)

Cavalry, Infantry Rout Enemy; Kill 20 In A Day Length Battle

LZ HAWK HILL — Elements of the 196th Brigade and 1st Squadron 1st Cavalry thwarted an NVA attack and triggered a day of fighting in which 20 enemy lost their lives.

The infantry and armor task force was moving across open ground 14 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

The massive tracks of B Troop, 1st/1st were sweeping west accompanied by a platoon from D Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry. Company B, 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry was operating to the south.

The calm was shattered as an NVA patrol emerged to the front of B Trp.

"Seven of them ran across the trail," said PFC Steven Russell (Irving, Tex.) of Co. D. "They weren't more than 20 meters away."

Engines whined and roared as the tracks catapulted into position for an on-line assault.

"We swept for 200 meters," said PFC Russell, "but it looked like they had disappeared."

The open field vanished as the tracks thrashed into the jungle, still in search of the enemy.

The troops who had been on the tracks until this point, dismounted.

Just at that moment, the enemy opened up with RPG's and small arms fire.

But the NVA barrage had come too late. The Americal soldiers were already on the ground returning fire. The tracks raked the area with .50 caliber machinegun bursts.

'Blue Ghost' helicopter gunships from F Troop, 8th Cavalry and artillery were called in.

The NVA scrambled away leaving two dead. Sweeping the area, the Americans found eight more bodies 500 meters away.

To the south B Co. had begun to search the brush. A burst of fire rang out from an enemy bunker, and again the action picked up.

The B Co. soldiers assaulted the bunker, killing 2 VC. The 196th soldiers were just regrouping when the whole area seemed to erupt with enemy fire. The infantrymen called for support.

The helicopter gunships spotted two VC running for a bunker. They were cut down by a blaze of machinegun fire.

On the second sweep, a chopper destroyed the bunker itself with a rocket. Another VC was killed as he tried to escape from the smoldering ruin.

Four more enemy were shot as they tried to escape through open fields to bring the total enemy dead to 20. (196th IO)

Mix-Up Is Fatal

FSB SAN JUAN HILL—A simple mix-up became a fatal error for three NVA recently when they took a wrong turn in 11th Brigade territory.

Four NVA were moving down a trail on the banks of the Song Tra Cau River, ten miles west of Duc Pho, when they noticed an American platoon walking on a parallel trail 35 meters from them.

The 3rd platoon of Company D, 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry noticed them too, and opened fire wounding one of the NVA soldiers. Assuming that this was the lead element of the patrol, the enemy turned and ran down the trail in the opposite direction. However, the 3rd platoon was the rear element of the column.

"In their attempt to escape, they simply succeeded in running the entire length of the column," said 1LT James G. Allen (Springfield, Mo.), D Co. commander.

Having run 150 meters from where they were first sighted, the trio of NVA met the lead element—the 1st platoon.

SP4 Phil Bigham (Rushville, Ohio) said, "We held up when we heard the 3rd platoon fire on the enemy. We figured they would run the other way, but we were ready for them when they popped up on the trail next to us."

The confusion was costly for the enemy. The NVA trio was killed and two AK-47's were captured. (11th IO)

Kings Of Rice

Rallier Leads 196th To Big Rice Capture

By SP4 Larry Granfield

LZ PROFESSIONAL — The infantrymen were right on top of an enemy weapons cache and didn't know it.

"Then," related CPT James F. Kettrick (Scranton, Pa.) "our Vietnamese guide got that 'expression of certainty' on his face."

Taking their cue from the local soldier, the 196th Brigade soldiers uncovered 17 enemy weapons and a ton of rice.

Company C, 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry was searching an area 10 miles southwest of Tam Ky. They were accompanied by a Civilian Irregular Defense Group.

A Vietnamese who had recently rallied to the Government of Vietnam was guiding the allies to the suspected location of the enemy weapons.

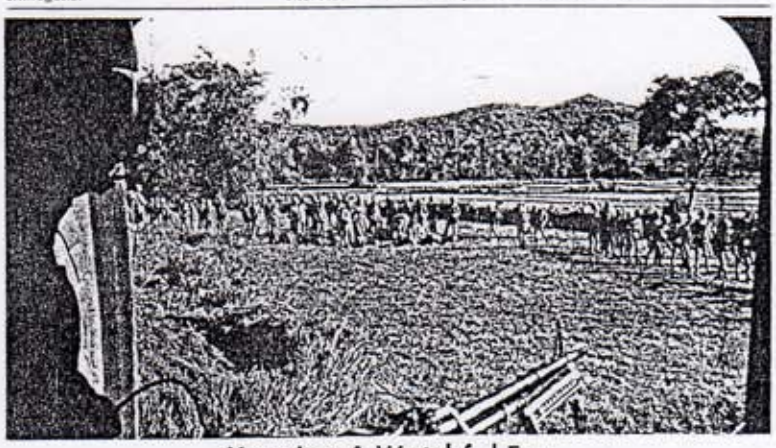
"We had gone over four miles," said CPT Kettrick, commanding officer of C Co., "and I was beginning to have second thoughts about finding anything."

Then the guide, a Hoi Chanh, stopped. The Americans saw nothing, but the rallier walked right over to the well-hidden enemy firearms.

The weapons confiscated by C Co. consisted of 14 rifles, one shotgun and two 9mm submachineguns.

The allies also uncovered a ton of rice. The weapons were extracted to LZ Professional.

The rice was carried by helicopter to Tam Ky for distribution among the Vietnamese people. (196th IO)



Keeping A Watchful Eye

The watchful eyes of a 122d Assault Support Helicopter Co. door-gunner scan the treeline as 4/6th ARVNs prepare to board the CH-47 Chinook for movement to an Americal Div. fighting zone outside of Quang Ngai prior to a combat assault. (Photos by SP4 William Gilpin)

Miss Bell says: "Make 1970's Joint Fund Campaign even more successful than 1969's."

The 13 national health agencies participating in the 1970 overseas Combined Federal Campaign are placing renewed emphasis on educational programs aimed at both the general public and the medical profession.

Along with medical research and services to patients and to communities, education is one of three features of any national health agency's activities.

Generous contributions to these agencies through the 1970 CFC will help guard your own health and will help others who need help.

Better Make Ready For Your R&R Processing

DANANG—The varied pleasures of the nine R & R cities are yours for the asking during your tour in Vietnam. Everyone involved in getting you to your destination wants to do just that, as quickly as possible.

However, there are some rules you should know about to make their job easier and your processing faster.

A basic list of requirements includes: a military haircut, complete immunization, proper clothing for travel, at least the minimum amount of money, and absence of all illegal items.

Most of these are self-explanatory, but a few need to be clarified.

"There is a military regulation governing haircuts and sideburns," said Marine MAJ William C. Wessel, OIC, DaNang R & R Center. "If a man does not comply with our interpretation of the regulation—and we are lenient—provision is made to get his hair cut here without jeopardizing his vacation.

The DaNang center handles all I Corps personnel going on R & R.

The processing, according to MAJ Wessel, starts 30 minutes before manifest time, three hours before scheduled take-off.

"The idea that each soldier must arrive the day before his flight for processing is a false one," he said. "The only advantage to an early arrival is a personal one if the soldier can't arrange transportation on the same day as his flight out."

The process of getting you to the R & R site, once you have entered the large metal building in the DaNang center, begins with your name being called off for manifesting on the list, and goes right through to the final briefing when you are given the last chance to give up illegal items without suffering any penalty.

"What is considered contraband or illegal may vary from country to country," MAJ Wessel noted. "For instance, Australia won't allow tobacco products." The Australian authorities also bar magazines or books containing "cheesecake" photos.

Your unit R & R clerk can advise you of any items that may be illegal in other countries.

Some items are illegal in all R & R countries. Marijuana, knives with blades longer than three inches, explosives, and weapons fall into this category.

By regulation, you must be carrying at least $250 in order to leave Vietnam on R & R. The only exception is if you can prove that persons meeting you in Hawaii are bringing the equivalent of the amount you lack.

"There is also a $500 maximum that can be carried without the commander's approval," MAJ Wessel added.

Acceptable civilian attire is authorized while traveling to all R & R cities except Hong Kong. On flights to Hong Kong, only the class "A" uniform is authorized.

You needn't worry about taking your fatigues or rifle with you. These items will be checked at the DaNang center and held for you until you return. Your fatigues will even be cleaned and pressed while you're away; it's all part of the service.

If you want to have a great R & R with no hang-ups on either end, adhere to the few regulations. Then, as MAJ Wessel said, "Just sit back and leave the driving to us." (XXIV Corps IO)

Tower Eases Air Jam

By SP4 Mark Geiser

FSB 4-11 — "Hercules 137 this is 4-11 control tower with air hazards, over."

"This is Hercules 137, send them."

"4-11 control, roger that, firing out of . . ." the ground voice listed grids, azimuths, and maximum ordinances for artillery missions being fired; he then advised the pilot, "you are clear for landing at the present time."

This is one of the sounds of operations at the new aircraft control tower on this 11th Brigade firebase. The eight foot square structure, perched 15 feet above the highest point of the firebase, was constructed to accommodate air traffic in and around the area, generally heavy due to the proximity of busy Quang Ngai City airport.

The idea began in September of last year when two men from the 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry were chosen for an on-the-job training course dealing with aircraft control.

SGT Michael Burr (Boulder, Colo.) and SP4 James Lewis (Pinehurst, N.C.) attended the month-long school.

The course was given under the supervision of the tower operators who control all the air traffic coming into 11th Brigade Headquarters at FSB Bronco. The course included instruction on landing patterns, weather readings, artillery fire plotting and emergency landing procedures.

After completing the course, the newly-trained tower operators began laying the groundwork for the new tower facility. The tower was positioned for a view of all three helipads, all mortar and artillery firing positions and all aircraft approach and departure routes.

The structure which is complete with meteorological equipment keeps close coordination with the tactical operations center, artillery, and resupply areas to keep the incoming aircraft informed of all air hazards. Guidance is also given to aircraft passing through the area.

The facility became operational in December and has been guiding about 35 aircraft per day.

According to Burr, "Judging from the favorable comments we receive from the pilots, the facility is very successful. After all, they're the ones who should know." (11th IO)

Mortar Unit Mascots

These three dogs, pets of a mortar unit on this small hilltop, have singularly appropriate names. The mother of the pups, "Girl" looks on while a Division soldier plays with "Mortar" and "Four-Deuce." (Photo by PFC Laszlo Kondor, Americal IO)

First Base To Fire Base

By SP4 Carl Ekengren

LZ SIBERIA — As a cannoneer at C Battery, 3rd Bn., 82nd Arty., a soldier is a long way from a baseball diamond.

PFC Robert Jones, Jr. (Elkton, Md.) played baseball since he was a junior in high school. He played several positions but found his niche as a first baseman and right fielder.

In his senior year he was spotted by scout for the Washington Senators. He accepted their contract to play in a rookie league, for Geneva, N.Y. upon graduation.

Jones admits being pretty proud of this since that year only 60 men out of 400 were selected.

At the end of the season he signed a contract for class "A" baseball. In this league he set two season records; three triples in one game and eight hits in eight times at bat in two consecutive games.

The next season during spring training he was offered a "Triple A" contract with Buffalo. In his two months with them he tallied up a batting average of .285; then he received his draft notice.

"One thing I found to be just as important on the artillery fire base as on the ball field is teamwork," said Jones, "The winning team is the one where everyone works together."

When he completes his two years of active duty, Jones plans to return to baseball where he hopes he will make the major leagues. (Div Arty IO)

Army Road To Freedom

By SP4 Toby Prodgers

FSB BRONCO—Not all of us enter the Army under the same circumstances, and certainly not all of us share the same motivation for becoming U.S. soldiers.

SSG Mihaly Toth, a supply sergeant for the 11th Brigade's 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry has a unique story of how he came to wear OD green.

A native of Hungary, he worked under the communist regime in Budapest for 12 years as a metalsmith prior to the Hungarian revolution of 1956.

"We found ourselves working more and more for less money. The Russian regime and the working conditions kept getting worse and were causes of the revolution. The pressure just got too great for me, so I escaped to Yugoslavia January 25th 1957," he related.

He was caught by the Yugoslav police, put in a detention camp, and then was transferred to an old German concentration camp in southern Yugoslavia near the town of Bayina Basta.

"The camp had families and single people living in it, about 1,800 Hungarian refugees in all. CARE and the Red Cross tried to help us, but the Yugoslavs took most of the stuff they sent us," he said.

There was no cleaning or laundry facilities, the food was poor, and a lot of persons were transferred out of the camp because of sickness he said.

"We didn't have any blankets, so in the winter we had to sleep under hay. For eight months, I wore the same clothes I escaped from Hungary in," he recalled.

Toth told how the Yugoslavs gave the refugees an ultimatum. He said that after 12 months in the camp, they were to be sent back to Hungary to face disciplinary action unless they agreed to stay in Yugoslavia and work for the government.

A third alternative, however, presented itself to Toth after his eighth month in Bayina Basta.

A U.S. Army recruiter came to the camp under the Lodge Enlistee Act of 1952, which provided that citizens of foreign nations could enlist in the U.S. Army, and after five years of service would qualify for U.S. citizenship.

Toth opted for the enlistment, and after the recruiter bartered with the Yugoslavs for his release, he went to a U.S. Naval camp in Naples, Italy, for three weeks, then to Frankfurt, Germany, to New York, and then to Ft. Jackson, S.C., where he attended a six-week English language school and received his basic training.

After 12 years of working under the communist Hungarian regime and eight months in a Yugoslav concentration camp, Mihaly Toth became a private in the U.S. Army—a rather unusual and roundabout way to become an American soldier and citizen.

(11th Bde. IO)

Mail Bag Special

The Mail Moves At The APO

By SGT John L. Smith

FSB BRONCO — In the early days of flight, air mail service was limited to a few routes between large cities. Now however, an airmail letter deposited in the corner mailbox is swiftly transported anywhere in the world.

In the Division's area of operations, "air mail" service is carried to its logical conclusion using helicopters to deliver the mail to forward firebases and even to men in the field.

Army Postal Office (APO) 96217, staffed by a detachment from 23rd Administration Company, provides mail service for the 11th Brigade and its supporting units.

SSG James Avery (Birmingham, Ala.) and nine postal clerks receive, sort and distribute an average of 6,000 pounds of mail a day.

Incoming bulk mail is divided into two categories; unit working mail and miscellaneous working mail. Unit mail arrives pre-sorted and is sent directly to the units in battalion and company areas.

Miscellaneous mail must be hand-sorted by the clerks according to unit, a process which requires about two hours daily.

Outgoing mail, collected from units within the brigade, must be sorted according to destination. Color-coded sacks distinguish mail going to the continental United States and Hawaii from mail for another location in Vietnam.

In addition to handling incoming and outgoing mail, the APO provides five other services: selling money orders, processing parcel post, stamp sales, certification of registered letters and personnel locator service. Each man arriving or departing the brigade fills out locator cards to allow his mail to follow him.

"To the men in the field, getting a letter from home is more important than a shower or even hot food," commented Avery. "It's our job to see that they get those letters as quickly as possible."