SOUTHERN CROSS

AMERICAL DIVISION

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INFANTRYMEN STAND GUARD while a member of their squad searches an enemy bunker. These F Troop, 8th Cavalry soldiers are in a recent operation 10 miles northwest of Tam Ky. (Photo By SP4 J. B. Majerus)

ARVN, U.S. Force Gains New Respect

By PFC Toby Prodgers

FSB LIZ – The integration of American and ARVN forces is past the experiment stage in the Americal Division.

Recently Company C of the 11th Brigade's 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry, and the 2nd Company, 3rd Battalion, 4th ARVN Regiment worked together in smoothly conducted operation six miles northwest of Duc Pho, that demonstrated the effectiveness and compatability of joint, Allied forces.

The Americans and ARVNs interchanged their elements to produce an approximately 50-50 breakdown of forces.

They conducted a sweep through 515 Valley, destroying enemy fortifications, eliminating enemy supply sources, and removing possible centers of enemy operations there. The two forces set up ambushes together, conducted patrols, and pulled guard together.

Tactically, the allied operations worked out well with each outfit respecting the methods and techniques of the other. Communications were no real problem as hand and radio signals proved to be effective as well as the words and phrases common to each nationality.

In operations also turned out to be a profitable teaching exercise. The ARVNs demonstrated to the Americans the field expedient methods of cooking pigs and chickens, and how to live off what natural food sources were available.

The sharing of food was a common undertaking. Also, living and working together necessarily instilled in each force an understanding of the cultural attitudes of each group.

"We've learned to respect these people. They do some things differently than we, but you wouldn't think of arguing with an ARVN lieutenant who has been fighting this war all his life," related CPT James J. Donovan (South Orange, N.J.).

"Mostly we've learned about the Vietnamese themselves. They're an aggressive, well-trained, and disciplined group, and we're happy to be working with them," he added.

Operationally, the integrated team was a much more effective force than either unit working alone. The Americans brought to the operation the necessary artillery and air support as well as a systematic resupply.

The Vietnamese proved invaluable on PSYOPS missions, being able to explain accurately and fully to the civilians the purpose of the pacification missions and exactly what their role is in the area.

The ARVNs also supplied their keen sense of detecting the enemy and their ability to ferret out VC and VC suspects from the civilian population. (11th IO)

Bridge Teams Narrow Gaps

By SP4 Ron Adams

FSB DEBBIE – The large wooden bridge, with its perimeter of bunkers and fighting positions, appears like any other in Quang Ngai Province. But "Bridge 104" is being jointly secured by a combination of Vietnamese and American soldiers.

These 11th Brigade soldiers, working with the Vietnamese, are from the mortar platoon of Company D, 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry, and have been involved in this Vietnamization project since October.

The American team is composed of men who man the 81mm mortar tubes and assist in reconnaissance, combat patrols and ambushes with the Vietnamese troops.

SGT Raymond Olsson (East Patterson, N.J.), who heads the operation, explained what the objective of the program is. "We were placed here to work with these Regional Forces soldiers so they may have a better understanding of how the American soldier operates," said Olsson.

"We often go out on patrols with the Vietnamese elements. They are fast learners and seem to be very cooperative," he said.

SP4 Ringo Bixby (Revere, Mass.) and SP4 Paul Steele (Indianapolis) agreed that they both had confidence in the troops. "When we first began to work with them," he said, "we were a little unsure, but now they pull perimeter guard while we man the mortor tubes."

Recently a Revolutionary Development Cadre (RDC) group moved onto the bridge to work in the surrounding hamlets and fields with the civilian population. They also contribute to the security of the bridge.

The individuals are from the 39th RDC Group, who were recently named the best cadre in Vietnam.

A squad leader of the American soldiers, SGT Andolpho Delos Santos (Dominican Republic) told of great improvement in the abilities of the Vietnamese troops. "They are alert at all times, and on patrols they seem to know exactly where the enemy will be hiding," he said.

The bridge assignment offers water sports for recreation. A fresh water stream runs beneath the bridge, and the Vietnamese and American men swim and bathe in the cool water.

During Tet, the Vietnamese presented the Americans with a special dish, cooked with rice and crushed peanuts and rolled in corn husks.

Viet Recon Effective

LZ HAWK HILL – Air mobility and the cavalry concept are nothing new to the men of F Troop, 8th Cavalry, the "Blue Ghosts" of the 123d Aviation Battalion.

However, to the officers and men of Recon Company, 5th ARVN Regiment, it is a new approach to an old problem: finding and fighting the enemy before he has a chance to slip away, a tactic at which he is a past master.

The 5th ARVN Rgt.'s Recon Co., commanded by 1LT Chuyet, got its first introduction to the cavalry concept while participating in a joint American-Vietnamese eagle flight operation about 10 kilometers west of LZ Hawk Hill.

With the aero riflemen of "Blue Ghost" acting as pathfinders and controllers for the Cobra gunships, the ARVN and American troops dropped out of the sky in a number of lightning raids on likely enemy base areas that had been picked as a result of ARVN intelligence information and "Blue Ghost" visual reconnaissance missions.

During the course of the day, five targets were hit resutling in three VC kills and a number of detainees.

The exercise served as an excellent shakedown for the ARVN's and sold them on the potential of eagle flights.

The "Blue Ghost Blues" who accompanied the ARVN's on the ground had nothing but praise for their allies who despite their unfamiliarity worked with the helicopters like they invented air mobility.

As they touched down, they were met by bursts of AK-47 rifle fire. The combined ground force burst from their helicopters and swept toward the source of the enemy fire.

Within minutes, they swept up a mortar firing position within 40 meters of where the choppers had unloaded. The weapon was complete with ammunition and optics. The seven NVA soldiers manning that position were killed.

'Quick Draw' Artillery FO

LZ CENTER – Two infantry platoons recently called in the artillery on approximately 20 NVA soldiers, sending them running for their lives.

Later, the infantrymen collected 15 new NVA rucksacks, one SKS-40, one AK-47 and one dead NVA.

The action was described as "short, sweet and very fatal" by one of the men of C Company, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry, 196th Brigade.

The forward observer for the mission, 1LT Girard H. Takiguchi (Oakland, Calif.)

"We saw the NVA and had the rounds coming in on them before they even knew we were there," he said. "We hurt that unit pretty badly without one American getting a scratch." (Div Arty IO)

Redeployment Rationale

The reduction of United States forces in the Republic of Vietnam is part of the continuing Vietnamization program and has been worked out in close coordination with the leaders of that country.

It is designed to give the Republic of Vietnam increased capabilities in self-defense in the fight against oppression and in the fight to assure the right of self-determination.

Troop reductions in Vietnam commence with a reduction in the authorized troop ceiling. That is, the total number of United States forces authorized to be in Vietnam is cut.

For example, the authorized troop ceiling of 540,000 at the beginning of 1969 was reduced to 524,000 effective August 31, 1969.

The second reduction lowered that ceiling to 484,000 personnel spaces as of 15 December 1969.

The reduction in personnel has been managed primarily on a unit basis, dealing essentially with authorized strengths. Once a new troop ceiling is determined, a reduction or redeployment of units is planned to meet the new space authorization figure.

Certain units are selected for elimination from the force structure in Vietnam and then are inactivated or redeployed.

However, the personnel in these units are not necessarily returned to the United States. The basic policy of a 12-month tour for individuals continues to apply.

In planning a reduction in personnel to meet the reduced troop ceiling figure, the overriding requirement is maintenance of the combat readiness of units remaining in Vietnam.

Within that requirement, a policy of individual equity is followed. It would be unfair and uneconomical to return soldiers who had recently arrived in Vietnam ahead of those who served there several months longer.

Because units in Vietnam regularly receive replacements for men completing the 12-month tour, most units have individuals who arrived in Vietnam only weeks before the announcement of troop reductions was made.

Hence, many members of designated units do not return home immediately. Those personnel who have significant portions of their one-year tour remaining are reassigned to other units in Vietnam.

The inactivation or redeployment of units is not intended to change the basic principle of the 12-month tour in Vietnam.

After determining a troop reduction, there are still substantial forces remaining in Vietnam for whom replacements must be furnished.

Thus, while men counted in troop reductions are not replaced, individuals must still go to Vietnam as replacements for personnel completing their 12-month tours in other units.

The Army must meet its world-wide commitments within the total number of authorized personnel. About one quarter of the entire Army is in Vietnam.

Adhering to the Vietnam 12-month tour policy requires the replacement of practically all individuals there each year. This heavy personnel replacement has made it necessary to select some individuals for involuntary second tours in Vietnam.

The primary consideration in selecting an individual for assignment to any area is the need for his particular grade and military skill.

The Army's objective is that no individual will be returned to Vietnam for a second tour until all others of the same skill and grade have served an initial tour there.

Whenever possible, individuals of other grades and skills are substituted to alleviate this problem.

Units returned for inactivation are not redeployed as full strenth units. Only a relatively small number of personnel are returned with the colors of each unit, and they are usually those who have completed or are nearing completion of their tour.

An example of a unit going returned for inactivation with a small number of personnel is the 3rd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division.

Personnel serving in a unit which has been designated for redeployment or inactivation should not assume that they will return home immediately.

Rather, they should wait until specific details have been determined and until they are notified, as individuals, that they are returning home or being reassigned to another unit in Vietnam.

It is the Army's desire to manage troop reductions in such a way that, insofar as possible, equitable tours are maintained for all personnel. (USARV)

The Causes Of Sin

By Chaplain (MAJ) Leonard J. Lukaszewski
Assistant Division Chaplain

Every sinful act is a voluntary act. It is an act of the will. But it is an act of the will that is out of order.

It is an act of the will against the rule of right reason or the eternal law of God.

When a pickpocket steals a man's wallet, the sin is not in his hand but in his will which chooses to take unjustly the property of another man. The will is directly the cause of the decision to steal.

But this choice or decision to steal is contrary to the law or rule of reason.

The will is therefore indirectly the cause of the lack of order in the act which makes it sinful.

Therefore the will is the cause of the sinfulness of the act. Every sinful act is an act of the will.

Man's reason can be the cause of sin through ignorance. The murderer who says he would not have killed if he had known what he was doing testifies to the fact that ignorance can lead to sin or to moral guilt must be properly evaluated.

Since every sin is a voluntary act, involuntary ignorance excuses a man from sin altogether. When a man's ignorance is not his own fault, then the sinful act which he commits through that ignorance is not a sin at all.

But the case changes when the ignorance is voluntary or due to man's own fault. He could have known the truth easily and he was obliged to discover it.

Ignorance of one of the circumstances of a sinful act may excuse a man from one sin, but not from another.

A burglar is surprised in the act of theft by a policeman. He draws his gun in the dark and kills the policeman.

Later he discovers he has killed his brother. Had he known the policeman was his brother he would not have fired the gun at all.

His ignorance excuses him from the sin of fratricide, but it does not excuse him from the sin of murder, because he knew he was shooting at a man ever though he did not think the man was his brother.

The point at hand is that men must constantly strive to maintain a good, healthy will and a well informed mind.

Awards & Decorations

SILVER STAR MEDAL

SP4 Adrine E. Bonner, 11th Bde; PFC Richard Carlson, 11th Bde; CPT Boyd M. Harris, 11th Bde; PFC John Johnson, 11th Bde; 2LT Michall A. Ross, 196th Bde.

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

1LT Gary G. Ellis, 123rd Avn Bn.

SOLDIER'S MEDAL

1LT Alan G. Vitters, 11th Bde.

BRONZE STAR MEDAL WITH "V" DEVICE

PFC James R. Battersby, 196th Bde; SP4 Peter Brown, 11th Bde; SSG Roy C Bullock, 23rd MP Co; SP4 Gary P. Dino, 11th Bde; SP4 John Dobson, 198th Bde; 1SG Larry K. Ferguson, 196th Bde; SP4 John T. Floyd, 196th Bde; SP4 Joe H. Hernandez, 11th Bde; SP4 Howard T. Hoffman, 11th Bde; PFC Ronald E. Jones, 11th Bde; SSG Joseph A. Michaud (1st OLC), 198th Bde; SSG Alan K. Milton, 196th Bde; SP4 Samuel E. Rice (1st OLC), 11th Bde; SP4 Jesse Spencer, 196th Bde; SGT Jose D. Valdez, 11th Bde; SP4 Kenneth H. Walker (2nd OLC), 11th Bde; CPT Stanley F. Yate (2nd OLC), 196th Bde.

AIR MEDAL WITH "V" DEVICE

WO1 James A. Waterbury (3rd Awd), 14th Cbt Avn Bn; CPT Rufus J. Fields, 123rd Avn Bn.

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL WITH "V" DEVICE

SGT Anthony J. Alfieri, 196th Bde; PFC Harold R. Bergman, 196th Bde; PFC Jerod C. Caputo, 82nd Arty; PFC WIlliam Cawley, 196th Bde; SGT David G. Chupp, 196th Bde; SP4 Chet V. Clendenin Jr (1st OLC), 196th Bde; PFC John T. Cockrum, 196th Bde; PFC Paul H. Cromer, 196th Bde; SGT Ronnie L. Culver (1st OLC), 82nd Arty; SP4 Byron M. Dugger (1st OLC), PFC John W. Enterline, 196th Bde; PFC Monroe Hand, 196th Bde; SP4 Arthur M. Hardy (1st OLC), 196th Bde; PFC Philip F. Hults, 196th Bde; PFC Robert G. Hutchinson, 196th Bde; PFC Michael A. Katchmar, 11th Bde; PFC Thomas A. Kennedy, 196th Bde; CPL David F. Kinion (1st OLC), 82nd Arty; PFC Leo S. Martinez, 196th Bde; SP4 Nobuhiro Matsuyoshi, 196th Bde; PFC Isaac L. Mitchell, 196th Bde; PFC Fredick L. Mueller, 196th Bde; SGT Bruce D. Nielsen, 196th Bde; PFC Frederick A. Parker, 123rd Avn Bn; SP4 Sheldon L. Porter (1st OLC), 196th Bde; PFC Michael H. Post, 196th Bde; SGT Richard R. Rhode (1st OLC), 82nd Arty; PFC Jose M. Rivera, 196th Bde.

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 Adminsitration. Below are some representative queries.

Q – I am attending school under the G.I. Bill, and my wife has given birth to a son. How do I notify the VA of this additional dependent?

A – Forward immediately to your VA regional office a copy of the child's birth record. Be careful to write your VA file number on the document. It is advisable to attach a note advising the VA that you are training under the G.I. Bill.

Q – My husband was killed in service, and I am thinking of taking advantage of the educational benefits available from the Veterans Administration. Will the VA assist me in working out a program?

A – Yes. You may apply to the VA for vocational counseling. Professional counselors may be able to help you decide on a productive and rewardinng program.

Q – When must veterans and dependents receiving pensions return the income questionnaires received with their October checks?

A – Jan. 15 was the deadline. Anyone who has not returned his questionnaire should do so immediately as required by law. Assistance in completing questionnaires may be obtained from the nearest VA office.

Proud Men Serving Our Action Army

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.

Division Troops was represented by SP4 James D. Fletcher, 23rd MP Co.; from the 523rd Sig. Bn., SSG Virgil Bennett, HHC, and SSG Raymond Burns, A Co.; from the 26th Engr. Bn., MSG David Heidt, HHC, and SP4 Blanchard Olivis, E Co.

Support Command had PFC Michael Meehan and SSG. James Young, 23rd Admin. Co.; SP4 Thomas Gilbert, 63rd Inf. Plt. (CT); SFC James F. Guttierrez, HQ & A Co., 23rd Med. Bn.; SP4 Walter Chisolm and PFC John Sullivan, HHC, 23rd S & T Bn; PSC Paul Ikeda, Cbt. Ctr.

Division Artillery retains PFC Vernon Brown, HHB, 1-14th Arty.; SSG James Smith, A Btry., 3-82nd Arty.; from 3-16th., SFC Frank Roulette, Svc. Btry., SSG Isaac Hart, A Btry., SGT Robert Snow, C Btry.

The 16th Combat Aviation Group keeps SFC Ronnie D. Hodges, HHC; SSG Richard Lampman, 71st Avn. Co.; SFC Joseph Barnett, 174th Avn. Co.; from the 723rd Maint. Bn., SP6 John J. Hehn and SSG Peter Farrin, E Co.

The 196th Infantry Brigade re-upped SFC Carl Higginbotham, HHC; from 4-31st Inf., SGM Antonio Guterrez, HHC, PFC Charles Wilson, A Co., PFC Steven Chapman, D Co., 1SG Robert McDermott, E Co.; from 1-46th Inf., PFC Daniel Koch, B Co., SP4 Frank White, PFC Jimmie Davis, PFC Stanley Bradley, PFC Dan Farmer, all from D Co.; from 3-21st Inf., PFC Steven Giczi, B Co., SP4 George Williams, D Co.; from 2-1st Inf., SP4 Jimmie Ogden, HHC, SP4 Larry Sidebottom, PFC Michael Shaffer, SP4 Carlos Reed, PFC Alan Turner, PFC Robert Brady, PFC Barry Mogil, PFC Gerald Albracht, PFC Eugene Williams, PFC Walter Dembowski, PFC Joseph Seid, PS4 Donald Evans, all from A Company, PFC Larry L. Laurenzana and PFC Ernest Harris, C Co., SP4 Howard Walter, D Co.

SOUTHERN CROSS
AMERICAL DIVISION

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Security Improves In Division AO

By SP4 Toby Prodgers

FSB LIZ – Pacification and redevelopment of Vietnamese communities is a thriving reality in I Corps.

A company of infantrymen operating in southern Quang Ngai Province is daily demonstrating the feasibility of long-range Allied plans to produce secure and prosperous villages by eliminating VC influence.

Company B, 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry of the 11th Brigade is currently securing a two-mile stretch of Highway One, just north of Duc Pho, and has succeeded in virtually isolating the more than 5,000 persons there from VC forces in the area.

Without access to the population, the enemy can no longer rely on the civilians for food, supplies, intelligence, and manpower.

Providing security for the civilians has led to their increased productivity and autonomy along the highway and evolved as a direct result of Allied operations against local enemy strongholds.

Company B was assigned the mission of integrating its operations with Regional Forces (RF) and Popular Forces (PF) soldiers to eliminate enemy acivity.

The VC used Highway One as an intermediate link between enemy main force elements in the mountains to the west and the agriculturally rich communities near the coastal area.

To successfully interdict the flow of VC traffic, the combined force found it necessary to set up along the highway on a permanent basis.

Specific missions were directed against VC bases located in the hamlets of Dim Giao, Vinh Hien, Thuy Trieu, and Van Tuong.

Eventually, the Allied cordons, sweeps, and saturation patrols severely limited the enemy's mobility and severed his control of the population.

To gain the support of the people, the Allies encouraged Revolutionary Development (RD) teams to work in the hamlets and take up residence within them. To accomplish this goal, Company B set up a number of permanent defensive positions with the government forces and installed perimeter wire and bunkers.

Major Buu Tuong, Duc Pho district chief, supplied additional PF platoons to supplement Allied strength.

"Two days after we moved into our positions on the bridges and in the hamlets, the village chiefs, hamlet chiefs, and RD teams were staying in the hamlets," said CPT Boyd Harris (Pontiac, Ill.) B Company's commander.

"The RD teams went right to work organizing the people, putting up a double barbed wire fence around the hamlets, and building houses for the people relocated from areas that could not be secured," he said.

"We worked up operations in which the RFs, PFs, and U.S. troops combined to move into all the areas with RD teams to relocate the people to the secured areas. The Vietnamese soon moved in of their own volition to take advantage of the security we offered," CPT Harris said.

"Arrangements were made with Duc Pho District to furnish extra food for the relocated persons.

"Also, enemy rice caches found in the outer areas by patrols were bagged and distributed to the relocated persons until they were able to establish themselves and rely on the local economy to procure their food," he said.

With a foothold in the former VC stronghold, the Allies placed priority on pacifying the area, developing the economy, and upgrading the standard of living.

Medical civil action programs were instituted on a regular basis with advisory teams administering direct medical and educational aid in three different locations at least three times a week.

The civilians soon accepted and supported the presence of the Allies, and numerous instances of their providing information on enemy activity were cited. The Voluntary Information Program under which the civilians located and turned in enemy supply and ordnance caches began to flourish.

In a one-month period, the allies killed 105 enemy with intelligence supplied by local residents.

The battalion psychological operations officer, CPT Andrew Lisowski (Columbus, Ga.) said the local citizens began to take an active part in the pacification effort.

"The people are coming forward with information instead of staying aloof and not becoming involved," he said.

"They feel more confident and secure now because we are here to help them. They no longer live with the fear that the VC will enter their homes to harrass them and take away their young men, food, and money," he explained.

The U.S. and Vietnamese forces have two ultimate pacification goals.

First, the government forces must attain a level of combat efficiency that will enable them to successfully eradicate enemy presence in the area.

"As far as their infantry is concerned, the only reason they need us now is for support," CPT Harris said. (11th IO)

AN AWED ASSEMBLY of villagers watch as SP6 Robert Harris (Atlanta) of the 29th Civil Affairs Company makes a last minute adjustment on this youngster's artificial leg. SP6 Harris, who works with the 11th Infantry Brigade, weekly transports young amputees to the Quaker Service Prosthetics Center in Quang Ngai for fitting and therapy. (U.S. Army Photo)

Scholarship Given To Viet Student

LZ HAWK HILL – Five hundred piastres a month may not seem much, but to Nguyen Thi Kim Sa, the sum looks like a million dollars.

Kim Sa is a student of Ky Le elementary school, in the area of 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry, 196th Infantry Brigade.

Thanks to a scholarship program, which has awarded her 500 piastres a month for one year, Kim Sa will be able to continue her education.

The quiet Vietnamese girl is a deserving recipient of the scholarship. She is in the upper third of her class.

Her father, an ARVN soldier, was killed by the Viet Cong, and her uncle could not provide her the financial support she needed to continue her schooling. Now that has changed.

The 196th Inf. Bde. is allocated 45,000 piastres a year for distribution to local schools.

In the area of 2nd Bn., 1st Inf., two people–the headmaster of the chosen school and the battalion civil affairs officer, 1LT William Bacon (Roswell, N.M.)–jointly decide who will receive the scholarship.

"Education is what the Vietnamese people need," says SFC Akio Teramoto (Gilroy, Calif.), a member of the 196th Inf. Bde. civil affairs team. "If we can give them a desire for more schooling, then we can call our program a success."

The Americans hope to increase the Vietnamese incentive for more schooling by giving them increased opportunities through scholarships. (196th IO)

CIDG Guides Division Unit

By SP4 Robert E. Daniels

FSB SAN JUAN HILL – A joint force of American soldiers and the combat reconnaissance platoon from the Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) at Bato, 16 miles west of Duc Pho, killed seven NVA in a recent combined operation.

The CIDG platoon was broken down into three squads with each attached to the line platoons of Company A, 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry, 11th Brigade.

CPT Warren P. Haugen (Lakeview, Ore.), commander of Company A, said, "This system worked very well, as the CIDGs can spot the enemy faster than my men and are also able to read trail signs better."

Leading the 2nd platoon of Company A on patrol, the CIDG element started the descent down a rugged mountainside which was covered by heavy brush and crisscrossed by a maze of trails.

"The CIDG element was 75 meters ahed of us when we heard them open up," said SP4 John Bradley (Covington, Va.). "Things were really tense as we tried to catch up to provide fire support for the lead element, but all of a sudden the firing ceased and we heard victory cries from the CIDGs."

They had surprised six NVA and downed five of them

SGT Mark Lloyd (Seattle, Wash.), Special Forces advisor to the CIDG recon platoon, called CPT Haugen and told him they were in hot pursuit.

"We caught them in a draw and we moved in for the kill," SGT Lloyd said.

The CIDGs wasted no time in assaulting the enemy and killed two NVA.

Speaking of the benefits of combined operations, CPT Haugen said, "The CIDGs move with stealth and silence and by watching them, my men have learned to move through the heavy brush without making noise, allowing us to walk right up on the NVA before they know we are there."

2LT Phu Van Loc, executive officer of the recon platoon, remarked, "When you work with American forces you have gunships, artillery and medevac support, so my men are not afraid.

"I would like to work with the Americal Division forces."

District Area Grows

LZ WEST – To provide lasting safety for the Vietnamese civilian is today one of the foremost aims of the allied war effort.

Americans and Vietnamese operating in the area of the Division's 196th Infantry Brigade have taken another step toward this goal.

Hiep Duc District, a remote but thriving outpost of pacification 22 miles west of Tam Ky, recently doubled its area of control.

The progress of Hiep Duc, originally a relocation center, has been steady and rapid. One thousand refugees were moved into the area under the security of 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry.

In less than a year the population swelled to 4,000. The district chief, MAJ Soan, and the commander of 4th Bn., 31st Inf., at that time LTC Cecil M. Henry (Rome, Ga.), jointly decided to expand the district south to cover 600 more people.

"The people there had chosen to live in an insecure area rather than leave the soil which their ancestors had worked," said 1LT Michael Donohoe (Buffalo), civil affairs officer, 4th Bn., 31st Inf. "We wanted to provide security for these people without taking away their homes."

Vietnamese Popular Forces moved in to clear the area. When the few remaining guerrillas had been driven out, defenses were set up to guard against their return.(196th IO)

The Rangers Of The Americal

Part One Of A Two Part Series

Deep in the mountainous jungle of Vietnam, a well-traveled but camouflaged trail winds its way among the dense vegetation of triple-canopy jungle. At intervals along the trail, subtle trail markers can found by searching eyes.

These markers indicate infiltration routes for NVA and VC troops on their way to the piedmont and coastal plains of southern I Corps.

Sometimes rocks or sticks are placed in a pattern to indicate the trail route. Sometimes tree trunks are marked or defaced.

On one of these marked trees is nailed a red, white, and black patch. It is the shoulder patch worn by men of Company G, (Ranger) 75th Infantry.

The story of how the patch got there is also the story of the men who put it there. When these specially-trained Rangers set out on a mission far from other friendly elements, they apply all their experience and cunning to their mission.

As the men of Company G prepare for a mission, their faces reflect their concentration on the task at hand. The way they wear their field gear indicates the degree of professionalism the officers and men have reached in their work.

They are the faces of concentration, patience, and determination. They are the faces that have seen the enemy without being seen. Faces the enemy has grown to fear.

NEXT WEEK: A team from Company G is inserted to seek out the enemy in his own back yard.

Photos By
PFC Laszlo Kondor
Americal IO

Combat In Review

Enemy Shuns Contact

AO Action Remains Light

CHU LAI – Action in the Division varied during February from light to moderate, with most activity encountered with small enemy elements or individuals.

Viet Cong and NVA troops were hunted out of their hidden locations by infantrymen on combat assaults, search and clear missions, and sweeps run by elements of company size or larger.

In spite of the combat being almost exclusively small engagements, numerous enemy weapons and supplies were confiscated. Occasional captured documents proved helpful to intelligence sections at all command levels.

An enemy Tet offensive failed to appear immediately after the holiday. American and Vietnamese forces stepped up operations prior to Tet in order to be aware of increased enemy activity and deal with it.

Intelligence gathered from various sources in the field has indicated low enemy unit strength and food shortage during this period.

Ground forces continued to depend on helicopter units for fire support in addition to the regular indirect support they provide to field units and firebases.

Jet fighter strikes pounded enemy concentrations at safe distances from friendly units in several areas of southern I Corps tactical zone, resulting in heavy damage to enemy structures and infantry units.

Small reconnaissance elements continued to run missions in the western reaches of the Division area of operations, providing military intelligence through observations and captured enemy material and equipment.

Mechanized units continued to operate in several areas whose terrain is suitable for their operations. The Sheridan Assault Vehicles continued to be effective against enemy positions. The comparatively lighter Armored Personnel Carriers churned through areas of enemy resistance.

In several relocation areas, American and Vietnamese military units worked closely with GVN agencies to make progress in the combined pacification program.

While some areas continued to work on projects to provide basic necessities for persons living in them, others took steps to help local residents foster their own pacification efforts.

Revolutionary Development (RD) teams upped the number of population centers affected by their work, made possible by Allied efforts to increase the number of pacified areas.

In those areas where pacification efforts are still underway, military operations were aided by participants.

SSG ALVIN LINKER (Charlotte, N.C.) of the F Troop, 8th Cav., "Blue Ghost" aero rifle platoon moves aside the thatched door of an enemy bunker as he prepares to search the abandoned structure during a recent operation 10 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

(U.S. Army Photo by SP4 J.B. Majerus)

Dog Foils Enemy

LZ HAWK HILL – A scout dog named Erick recently took a nasty hunk out of a large NVA force 13 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

The alert canine twice detected NVA positions during a two hour struggle which cost the enemy 27 dead.

Alpha Company, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry, 196th Brigade, was moving along the side of a hill. The scout dog and handler were up with the point man. Suddenly the dog froze.

"As soon as Erick alerted," said SP4 Iley A. LeBouef, scout dog handler, "we knew there was something up there."

Three infantrymen crept up ahead. They spotted an NVA observation post. The brief exchange of fire resulted in two enemy killed.

The company pushed on through the tangled brush. After they had gone several hundred meters the dog stopped again.

"This time he alerted on an enemy base camp," said CPT Bernhard S. Wolpers (Montery, Calif.), commanding officer.

The Americans killed three NVA in the base camp. Three more were killed trying to get away. Alpha Company ate dinner at the enemy site and then moved on towards their night laager.

The enemy was not far away. A large force had scurried out of the base camp and hastily set up their positions, hoping to surprise Alpha Co. However, this too was destined to fail.

"They fired at us too soon," said CPT Wolpers, "We were higher up than they were and had the advantage from the start."

CPT Wolpers split his platoons and soon had the NVA in a crossfire.

"He's a very good dog," said CPT Wolpers. "He helped us out a lot that afternoon." (196th IO)

Heat Problems Begin Soon

The monsoon season is drawing to a close. We've seen the last of drenching rains and shivering cold. The flowers are blooming, the birds are singing, and the sun shines on Vietnam.

Enjoy the view, but beware of the heat.

First of all you can't expect to do as much when it's hot. No matter how strong you are and no matter how accustomed you are to the heat you should take it easy during the hot hours of the day. Get out of the sun, if possible, and take frequent rest breaks.

It is also important to eat. Your food contains salt to replace that lost in sweat. If you're not hungry, take a salt tablet, but never more than two per day. Be sure to drink at least a quart of water with each salt tablet or they'll make you sick to your stomach.

If one of your buddies gets weak or passes out, get him out of the sun and lay him down. Look at his skin. If it's wet, dissolve a couple of salt tablets in a canteen of water and have him drink it slowly.

If his skin is dry he is in serious trouble. (Amcal IO)

Div. Unit Awarded

The Presidential Unit Citation was recently awarded to the reconnaissance platoon, Company E, 4th Battalion, 3d Infantry, 11th Brigade for action against an enemy force near the hamlet of Phuoc Loc in Quang Ngai Province.

The platoon of 27 men was conducting a combat sweep operation on Sept. 6, 1968 when it became engaged with a battalion sized enemy unit.

While fighting against the automatic and small arms fire of the estimated 400-man enemy force.

The members of the platoon brought their wounded comrades behind the perimeters, directed airstrikes and artillery fire on the enemy positions and repulsed enemy efforts to overrun the platoon's defenses.

The platoon engaged the force until reinforcements

A sweep of the battlefield on the morning of the seventh revealed that the platoon had killed 48 enemy soldiers. Intelligence from captured prisoners indicated that the enemy force had suffered 88 casualties.

THE STEEL TRAILS that hold this 155mm howitzer in its place in the gun pit look exaggerated due to the wide-angle effect of a fisheye lens. The piece is part of C Battery, 3rd Battalion, 16th Artillery, located at Tam Ky.

(U.S. Army Photo By SP5 A.C. Barnett)

Shot Reveals Trophy

FSB 4-11 – A tripped wire often means danger to the infantryman. On this particular day it meant a war trophy for a soldier of Company C, 3d Battalion, 1st Infantry, 11th Infantry Brigade.

The squad of division soldiers was walking along a trail in dense terrain northwest of Duc Pho when the wire was tripped. A shot rang out and the infantrymen hit the dirt.

After an investigation of the site, an AK-44 was discovered tied by wire to a tree. A trip wire was run to the trigger to set off the single round in the weapon which was aimed a foot off the ground.

SP4 Daniel Smith (Jamestown, N.D.) tagged the weapon and now has a souvenir.

When asked why the weapon was aimed so low, MSG Huey Fautheree (Hampton, Va.) commented, "the weapon was probably set up as some kind of game trap. (11th IO)

She Likes 'Greens' And 'Blues'

This lovely lass is wild about servicemen. In fact, she says that goes for any man in uniform. If you don't want to miss a good bet, look into the "early out" recruiting program for the District of Columbia Police Department. If you qualify and apply, you may meet a girl like this while you're a civilian in uniform.

(U.S. Army Photo by J.B. Majerus)

Police Career Can Mean 'Early Out'

WASHINGTON (ANF) – The armed forces have initiated a special worldwide recruiting program among enlisted personnel to strengthen by 1,200 men the District of Columbia Police Department (DCPD).

Applicants are being sought for both police officer and civilian administrative positions.

Impetus for the police recruitment stems from a special Presidential request.

Under this special program, which in no way adds to or changes existing recruiting arrangements for other police agencies, the military will recruit applicants (both male and female) overseas and in the 50 states from Feb. 1 through June 30, 1970.

A special 150-day early release policy is authorized for applicants who are scheduled to complete their military obligation or term of service between Feb. 1 and Nov. 27, 1970, and who accept an appointment to DCPD as a probationary police officer or civilian employee.

The 150-day early release policy takes precedence over all obligations except those required by law (for example, completing a "payback" time of service for special civilian schooling received at Army expense while in service).

Personnel in a combat area for whom there "is a clearly overriding and critical need," and who cannot be released from service by June 30, 1970, are not eligible for the 150-day early out.

However, they do remain eligible for the existing Department of Defense Civilian Police Recruiting Program whereby a 90-day early release is possible.

Individuals 21 through 29 years of age can qualify for DCPD appointment if they:

1. Weigh at least 140 pounds, are from 5 feet, 7 inches to 6 feet, 5 inches tall and have at least 20/60 vision correctable to 20/20 with glasses.
2. Can pass a U.S. Civil Service written exam.
3. Have a high school diploma, equivalency certificate or a minimum of one year of police experience in a city with a half-million or more population.

Individuals 20 years old who will reach 21 years of age by June 30, 1970, and who are otherwise qualified, are eligible for the program.

Overseas and U.S.-based applicants who are accepted by DCPD will be authorized 14 and 10 days time respectively between separation and reporting date.

The DCPD has altered its established procedures to facilitate acceptance of military recruits, whereby commanders are being permitted to interview, test, screen, administer physical exams and evaluate applicants.

DCPD police officers receive a starting salary of $8,000 per year. Merit advancement opportunities as well as retirement, medical and family benefits are all available.

Individuals interested in applying for a position with DCPD should contact their commanding officer.

Letter From Home

By SP4 Ron Adams

While being so far away from loved ones while serving in Vietnam, a soldier's communications with these people comes entirely through letters and perhaps an occasional phone call, which normally consists of "Hello - over, I love you, over, I miss you - over, and I'll be home soon - out."

Letters to and from Vietnam become more than just ordinary letters, their meaning and value become so great to the readers that they become a collection of the writer's year-long thought patterns.

Many soldiers in Vietnam mail letters they receive back home, considering them much too valuable to burn or destroy.

Many letters from the "world" express the feelings of the people back home. These are the letters the soldier looks forward to after a long combat patrol through the mountains, or an edgy day behind the wheel of a two-and-a-half ton truck from Chu Lai to Duc Pho and back.

This is when he wants to hear those comforting words from home saying, "how are you, we're all doing fine and thinking of you all the time." There are the words that allow him to sink back onto his air-mattress or bunk, and forget about the day just ended.

Some letters from home are so universal that they can be put into print and understood by many. One such letter recently received by a soldier from B Company, 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry was written by his young wife and went like this:

The Letter

I never knew how wonderful
My life could really be,
Until I fell in love with you
And knew that you loved me.

When you're in love and happy
The days just come and go.
But when you're in love and lonely
The days move by so slow.

And now you're needed elsewhere
Although I love you so,
So I asked you not to leave me
When we both knew you had to go.

The tears I cry are deeply felt
And shared by many others,
But the suffering did not stop there
There are also all you soldiers.

You are witnessing starvation
Being wet for six months straight,
And yet all through the nation
We watch and pray and wait.

You are fighting for your country
And for all mankind too,
Away from home, away from friends
And away from those who love you.

So darling in a year's time
As your plane soars through the blue,
I'll be waiting as I always have
And together, we'll start anew.

A letter such as this could possibly stop the rain or clear the sky, at least in a soldier's mind.

All these things can be brought about by one simple, thoughful letter. In this poem, the wife shows her husband that she understands, and even though his being away from her is hard to cope with, she tries to be understanding and live with it.

To a soldier in Vietnam, a letter isn't just a letter, it becomes a brightening of the day, a step closer to home and the family, even though a half of a world away. (11th IO)

Monsoon Ends—All Is Well

SA HUYNH – "Water, water everywhere nor any drop to drink" is a line from a famous fantasy poem, but for the 6,500 residents of Sa Huynh, it was almost true.

Now due to the efforts of the 51st Revolutionary Development Cadre (RDC), the villagers' labor, and material from the Division, a new well system has been constructed in the hamlet.

The well project was one of several civic action programs being carried out by the 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry in the 11th Infantry Brigade's area.

WELL-WISHERS LTC George Hovey Johnson (Right) commander of the 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry, CPT Claude B. Snead, civic action officer, and Mr. Nguyen La of the Revolutionary Development Cadre inspect one of the four new wells built by residents of Sa Huynh.
(U.S. Army Photo By SGT. John L. Smith)

CPT Claude B. Snead (Clarkston, Ga.), psychological operations officer of the 4th Bn., 21st Inf. said, "The water supply in Sa Huynh was rancid and unsafe for drinking and was too far away from the village. Now the problem has been solved and the villagers have a safe, clean well system mainly due to their own efforts."

A total of four wells were built under the supervision of the 51st RDC personnel. The sites for the wells were carefully chosen both for purity of the water and convenience of the villagers. Each well is about 12 feet deep, and required three weeks to complete.

Steel culvert lines the shaft while a cement cover prevents debris from contaminating the water.

Mr. Nguyen La, 51st RDC leader and LTC George R. Hovey Johnson (Xenia, Ohio).

Soldier Has Tonsorial OJT

It was the summer of 1969 when David E. Hoss left his Indiana home in Fort Wayne, headed for South Vietnam.

He exchanged his barber's razor and scissors for a new M-16 rifle.

At Duc Pho airport, he was met by representatives from E Company, and fitted into a pair of camouflage fatigues. He was assigned to a reconnaissance unit, and soon was on his way to the bush.

Three months later, his battalion was in need of a man qualified to cut hair. The old barber was nearing the end of his tour.

Hoss notified his platoon leader of his qualifications, and from there word was sent up the chain of command, until the battalion commander received word, and called for an extraction helicopter. SP4 Hoss was brought to the rear.

Hos began work, trimming, shaving, cutting, clipping. His work continued steadily for days and nights, and finally he completed his task.

He had given every man in the battalion a neat hair cut.

"Ah," sighed Hoss as he fell back into his chair to relax after all those days of work, "now for a few days rest before returning to the bush."

As he was sleeping quietly, with the thoughts of hair on his mind, the door flew open, and there stood the first head of hair he had cut several days ago. The hair had grown back and was ready to be cut again.

COs Change In 2 Units

LZ CENTER--LTC John Misch, former division G-4, assumed command of the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry, 196th Brigade on 15 February.

Outgoing commander LTC Robert C. Bacon becomes the senior advisor to the 51st ARVN Regiment, I Corps.

LTC Joseph E. Hayden, Jr., former executive officer of Division Artillery, exchanged positions with LTC William F. Sifford, Jr., former commander of 3rd Battalion, 18th Artillery on 15 February. (Amcal IO)

SYMBOL OF COMMAND

LTC Robert C. Bacon (right) passes the 3rd Bn., 21st Inf. colors to 196th Brigade CO, COL James M. Lee. Awaiting the colors is the new 3/21st CO, LTC John Misch (center).
(U.S. Army Photo)

Help Your Department Of Defense Drive

With the current Overseas Combined Federal Campaign underway, campaign appeals again emphasize the importance of generous giving to meet enlarged needs.

More than 75 million needy people were aided by the participating agencies last year.

In addition to the 13 national health agencies benefiting from the drive, funds from the campaign are also distributed to 10 international service agencies.

Donors may give to an agency or agencies of their choice.

Military recreation personnel, civilian and military, use the services of the National Recreation and Park Association to provide wholesome and meaningful leisure activities for Americans everywhere.

Project HOPE is doctor, teacher, friend to the world. HOPE's medical personnel share their knowledge with local counterparts in developing areas, at home and in emerging nations.

Since 1953 International Social Service-WAIF has helped find loving homes for more than 20,000 orphaned or abandoned children, victims of war and disaster.

United Seamen's Service centers provide health and welfare services to the American Merchant Marine, which supplies the military and carries our industry's goods.

The American Social Health Association is a national voluntary agency.