A wave of helicopters from the 176th Assualt Helicopter Company (ASHC) swoops down during the early morning hours on a surprise insertion of combat. troops. (Photo by Americal IO)

SOUTHERN CROSS

AMERICAL DIVISION

Vol. 3 No. 17 CHU LAI, VIETNAM May 15, 1970

Col Lee departs

By 1LT David Coffman

LZ HAWK HILL (196th INF BDE IO) – Colonel James M. Lee, Wilmington, N.C., recently completed his tour as commanding officer of the 196th Infantry Brigade. Colonel Lee will serve as the G-3, XXIV Corps for his next assignment. Lieutenant Colonel Edwin Kennedy, Gulfport, Miss, succeeded Colonel Lee as the brigade commander.

Colonel Lee's tour with the Chargers has been an active one. When interviewed with by a correspondent, the Colonel once remarked, "The war has not slowed down in the 196th area of operations. Fierce, often brutal conflicts with the enemy occur on a daily basis."

Brutal as these conflicts were, they took a steady toll of the NVA and the Viet Cong.

The enemy effort was eroded in other ways during the Colonel's tour.

Colonel Lee graduated from West Point in 1950, having previously served during World War II as an enlisted man. Included among his many decorations are the Silver Star Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster. Purple Heart and the Combat Infantryman's Badge First and Second Awards.

Prior to his departure, Colonel Lee had warm words for the officers and men of the 196th: "Your courage, cheerfulness under extreme hardship, willingness to seek out and destroy the enemy, and your skill in doing so, have been a constant source of inspriation to me. I shall never forget you."

Rangers inserted, make daring escape

By SGT Thomas C. Elmer

LZ BAYONET (198th INF BDE IO) – It was a matter of evasive action and a series of timely decisions which allowed a long range patrol to successfully evade a superior enemy force. The team from Company G, 75th Infantry (Ranger) unfortunately found themselves inserted in the midst of a small NVA basecamp.

The long ordeal southwest of Chu Lai resulted in two NVA killed and the precarious extraction of the team from the mountainous terrain of the 198th Infantry Brigade area.

"We had just set foot on the ground," said Sergeant Gregory A. Kowalczyk, New Britain, Conn., "when we spotted one NVA soldier wearing a green uniform standing near the bunker. He was pointing to us so we knew there had to be more."

The element quickly manuevered to find concealment beneath the thick vegetation and continued to move several hundred yeards until they encountered a stream. Here, assuming they had lost the enemy, they decided to establish a night laager at the location.

"We removed our gear," Sergeant Kowalczyk said, "and sat down to rest in the silence when we heard a dog barking and brush breaking to the south. Our team leader then immediately moved to a vantage point to visually recon the area."

From his observation point he failed detect any movement from where the noise had come, but as he continued to scan the terrain he spotted two NVA with weapons approaching his position from the north. Both carried flashlights with red filters and flashed them about attempting to locate the team's position. After warning the others to get ready to move, the team leader returned to his position. Another member of the team soon relieved him and as he watched the movement he saw three more NVA following the first two.

After several minutes, they established communication through a relay contact and moved to evade the oncoming enemy force.

"They were on a trail which led to our position," said Sergeant Kowalczyk," we let them get about 20 yeards from us and then tossed several frags in on top of them. We killed one."

Soon after gunships arrived and sprayed the surrounding area to allow the team to be extracted by a K McGuire rig lowered through the trees.

Later, in their rear area, Specialist 4 Mortin Jokingly added, "We got the upper hand by quick thinking, but I'm sure glad we heard that dog."

Col Hume new Chief

CHU LAI (Americal IO) – Colonel A.G. Hume replaced Colonel Thomas H. Tackaberry as Chief of Staff for the Division. Colonel Tackaberry completed his tour in the Republic of Vietnam and returned to America for another assignment.

Colonel Hume comes to Americal from the famed 1st Infantry Division.

He returned with 1st Division's colors to Ft Riley, Kansas to assist in the ceremonies there. The Big Red One has become part of the NATO commitment.

After the completion of the ceremonies, Colonel Hume returned to Vietnam to become the new Chief of Staff for the Americal Division.

Div. Recap, Action in late April high, enemy loses 143

CHU LAI (Americal IO) – Division soldiers accounted for 143 enemy soldiers killed during the last week of April as action remained light until the last day of April when it rose sharply.

In the 11th Infantry Brigade area of operations "Warlords" of the 123d Aviation Battalion spotted and engaged two VC on a hillside overlooking the Ve River 10 miles northwest of Duc Pho. The two VC were wounded and their AK-47s captured.

Later in the same area 123d Aviation gunships killed three NVA.

The next day Primo Aviation killed nine NVA in the Suoi Phuoc River Valley 22 miles northwest of Duc Pho. Two SKSs and one AK-47 were captured in the action.

Alpha Company, 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry found two wounded VC in a tunnel two miles south of Duc Pho. The 11th Brigade soldiers detained the two enemy and confiscated nine hand grenades.

The next day Alpha Company again saw action when they combined with Primo Aviation to kill four VC in the lowlands three miles south of Duc Pho.

Meanwhile, Delta Company, 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry engaged three NVA who appeared to be collecting food from villagers. One of the enemy was killed and an SKS rifle confiscated in the action which took place in the Ve River Valley, two miles southwest of Duc Pho.

Alpha Company, also of the 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry surprised four NVA soldiers who were swimming in the Tra CAu River five miles west of Duc Pho. One of the enemy was killed and two wounded and detained by the 11th Brigade "Jungle Warriors."

Action in the 198th Infantry Brigade area of operations was very light during the last week of April.

An element of Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry, was led to a heavily booby-trapped area by a Vietnemese boy.

Under the boy's direction, the infantrymen found four 82mm mortar rounds buried at 50 meter intervals along a trail. One 82mm mortar round was found placed on top of a buried 105mm artillery round. The booby traps were destroyed in place.

In an area 12 miles northwest of Quang Ngai City, an element of Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry observed three VC wearing black shirts and blue shorts.

As the enemy soldiers crossed an open rice paddy and tried to hide in a tree line, one of them was spotted by an alert rifleman who opened up with M-16 fire, killing him.

"He was running and had just entered the woodline," said Specialist Four Edward R. Crown, Flora, Ill. "when they got him." The infantrymen also captured one pack with ten pounds of rice.

Later in the week, H Troop, 17th Cavalry discovered an enemy grenade factory while sweeping through low coastal

continued on page 2

ARMED FORCES DAY 1970

Americans everywhere will observe Armed Forces Day on 16 May. Traditionally, it has been a day to honor and pay tribute to United States service personnel stationed around the world. It is a day when the military "reports to the nation" and is marked at home by open houses and displays at military installations around the country.

Although here in Vietnam the combat environment precludes participation in the traditional ceremonies marking the occasion, I am certain your gallant efforts in this war torn land are foremost in the minds of all Americans on this day. Your "report to the nation" has been carried on daily by your diligence and perseverance in the face of the Communist aggressor. You, the American servicemen and women, have held "open house" for the free world, and your actions have reflected your true professionalism and dedication to the cause of freedom cherished by Americans everywhere. Your sacrifices have been many, your accomplishments great, and history will record the magnificence of your deeds in thwarting the Communist enslavement of the Republic of Vietnam.

Your devotion to duty and steadfast courage in these trying times is in keeping with the time honored and greatest traditions of America the Free, and you may take just pride in your loyal and faithful service to your country.

Frank T. Mildren

FRANK T. MILDREN
Lieutenant General, US Army
Deputy Commanding General

Part 4 of a special series on R&R

Bangkok, Thai girls beckon you for R&R holiday

CHU LAI (Americal IO) – The city is alive, pulsating with the movement of over 1,800,000 people and a myriad of darting vehicles. Man and machine merge profusely in this port city and flow in a thousand colorful directions. Intense colors, bright during day time, glitter at night as neon signs and brightly lit store-windows flash advertisements that capture the eye in a rainbow of color. This is Bangkok, one of the cities offered to you for your R&R tour.

An exotic city of lights and sights, a land where the ancient blends with the modern in a bustling metropolis, Bangkok is just a jet's jump away for the R&R bound soldier. For entertainment, sightseeing and shopping, there is no place in the world quite like it.

After you land in Bangkok and make a brief customs check at the airport, you are boarded on a bus destined for the R&R Center located downtown where you will convert your money and make hotel reservations. But first you are directed into a large conference-like room where a pretty Thai girl will show you slides on what you can see in the city.

Then you are given the opportunity to change your money and make hotel reservations. The exchange rate is approximately 20 Baht for one U.S. dollar; one Baht equals a nickel. Under no circumstance may you cash a Treasury Check or personal check with a money changer, or make purchases with "greenback" on the economy.

Fine Hotels

Offered for your comfort are some of the most modern hotels in all Asia, with nightly rates that range from $6 to $12 for a single room and $12 to $16 for a double. All R&R Center recommended hotels, for $6 a night, offer air conditioned rooms complete with bath and 24 hours room service. You have the option, however, to stay at whatever hotel you please, the only stipulation being that the R&R Center knows where you will be staying.

Now that you have settled into your room and changed into some lightweight civilian clothes you almost forgot existed, you are ready to discover the allure of Bangkok.

Your first glance at the flow of vehicles outside the hotel may confuse you as you wonder which mode of transportation you should take. Buses and streetcars operate throughout the city but visitors tend to favor taxis. Taxi fares average about 25 cents a mile. Be sure you set a price before you start.

The Thais expect you to bargain, so do not accept the first price because it is usually to high. If you plan much traveling, a cab can be rented for the length of your stay for about $25.

Now that you have an idea on how to get started toward fun-time, the problem lies in where to go to have that fun. Numerous possibilities arise.

Night Life

After a satisfying meal you are prepared to take in the night life, which will easily surpass your expectations of a swinging time. Nightclubs galore, in both eastern and western style, await you featuring music, dancing, and other professional entertainment. Beautiful Thai girls will be your dance partner for about $2 to $4 an hour. The company of a hostess can be your for the price of her drinks. You may never again experience a night like the one in Bangkok.

So as to not ruin your chance to cram activity into every minute, you would be wise to heed a few precautions. One is to remember that the tap water in Bangkok is unsafe for drinking. Your hotel will provide pitchers of potable water in your room. Another is to eat in the better restaurants and avoid food served by street vendors or in nightclubs.

Also available to you are PX facilities, including a snack bar and commisary. military medical facilities for routine treatment or emergencies are there as well.

Division Recap, Action high

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hills just east of the Tra Bong River.

An artillery forward observer, working with the cavalrymen 10 miles southeast of Chu Lai, spotted the entrance to a spider hole. The men who checked out the hole, dug into one wall and found a boarded up section which opened up to the factory.

In a room ten feet by six feet by three feet high, the cavalrymen unearthed one CHICOM hand grenade, two homemade bangelore torpedoes two bags of empty soda and C Ration cans, two bags of Chicom hand grenade handles, one Chicom bangelore torpedo, four empty torpedo cannisters, one 105mm high explosive artillery round and one pressure type firing device. All of the munitions were blown in place.

The 196th Infantry Brigade area of operations saw the heaviest action during the last week of April.

"Professionals" of Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry uncovered a moderate size cache in the rugged highlands 18 miles southwest of Tam Ky.

Discovered in a camouflaged enemy shelter were 130 pounds of potatoes, 25 pounds of rice, five chickens, two pounds of salt, two pounds of fish and 25 pounds of beans.

Nearby, 400 garden hoes, 20 shovels and an enemy semi-automatic rifle were discovered.

Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry, working seven miles northwest of Tam Ky, spotted and engaged five VC. As Alpha Company opened fire, one VC was killed while the remainder scattered into nearby woods.

Later in the afternoon, a VC rallied to the village chief at the base of Hill 74, 10 miles northwest of Tam Ky. After questioning, it was learned that the enemy killed earlier by Alpha Comany was a team leader for a VC sapper squad.

An NVA patrol wandered into a Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry night attack position 10 miles northwest of Tam Ky. "We saw them when they were about 25 meters away and set off two claymore mines," said Specialist Four Ronald Tanner, Missoula, Mon. "We checked out the area, and found two dead NVA and two AK-47 rifles."

The infantrymen also found one pack, two CHICOM grenades, and other small items of enemy equipment.

F Troop, 17th Cavalry came accross a cache of approximately one ton of rice. The rice was packed in bags in an area five miles northwest of Tam Ky.

The troop gave 500 pounds of rice to Regional Force soldiers and the remainder was extracted to Hawk Hill.

Action increased sharply on the last day of April as 196th Brigade soldiers and allied and support units killed four VC and 39 NVA.

The action began at 2:00 a.m. when NVA sapper units truck simultaneously at an American firebase and an ARVN support base 25 miles west of Tam Ky. The bases were shaken by RPG fire, 60mm mortar fire and enemy small arms fire.

The attackers carried satchel charges and continued to fight without slacking for almost an hour after daylight at both bases. Mortar poundings followed as the enemy were eventually repelled.

American artillery and infantry units teamed up to kill ten NVA at LZ Siberia

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 3212. The editors reserve the right to edit all contributions.

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New military pay scale , 8.1 % hike retroactive

Pay Grade	Under 2	Over 2	Over 3	Over 4	Over 6	Over 8	Over 10	Over 12	Over 14	Over 16	Over 18	Over 20	Over 22	Over 24	Over 26
O-10	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	$2,426.70	$2,588.70	$2,588.70	$2,588.70	$2,750.40
O-9	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	$2,103.30	2,264.70	2,264.70	2,264.70	2,426.70
O-8	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	$1863.90	$1,941.30	2025.90	2,103.30	2,188.20	--	--
O-7	--	--	--	--	--	--	$1,540.80	$1,540.80	1,617.90	1,779.90	1,902.30	--	--	--	--
O-6	--	--	--	--	--	$1,132.50	1,132.50	1,132.50	1,170.90	1,356.00	1,425.30	1,456.20	1,540.80	1,540.80	1,671.30
O-5	--	--	--	--	$ 971.10	971.10	1,001.10	1,054.50	1,125.00	1,209.30	1,278.60	1,317.00	1,363.50	--	--
O-4	$ 652.50	$ 793.80	$ 847.50	$ 847.50	862.50	901.20	962.40	1,016.70	1,063.20	1,109.40	1,140.30	--	--	--	--
O-3	606.30	677.70	723.90	801.60	839.70	870.00	916.80	962.40	985.80	--	--	--	--	--	--
O-2	486.00	577.20	693.30	716.40	731.40	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
O-1	417.60	462.60	577.20	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
													--	--	--
COMMISSIONED OFFICERS WHO HAVE BEEN CREDITED WITH OVER 4 YEARS' ACTIVE SERVICE AS ENLISTED MEMBER															
O-3	--	--	--	$ 801.60	$ 839.70	$ 870.00	$ 916.80	$ 962.40	$1,001.10	--	--	--	--	--	--
O-2	--	--	--	716.40	731.40	754.50	793.80	824.70	847.50	--	--	--	--	--	--
O-1	--	--	--	577.20	616.50	639.60	662.40	685.50	716.40	--	--	--	--	--	--
WARRANT OFFICERS															
W-4	$ 617.40	$ 662.40	$ 662.40	$ 677.70	$ 708.30	$ 739.50	$ 770.10	$ 824.70	$ 862.50	$ 893.40	$ 916.80	$ 947.40	$ 978.60	$ 978.60	$1,054.50
W-3	561.30	609.00	609.00	616.50	624.00	669.60	708.30	731.40	754.50	777.30	801.60	832.20	862.50	862.50	893.40
W-2	491.70	531.60	531.60	547.20	577.20	609.00	632.10	654.90	677.70	701.10	723.90	747.00	777.30	--	--
W-1	409.50	469.80	469.80	508.80	531.60	554.70	577.20	600.90	624.00	647.10	669.60	693.30	--	--	--
ENLISTED MEMBERS															
E-9	--	--	--	--	--	--	$ 701.40	$ 717.60	$ 734.10	$ 750.30	$ 767.10	$ 782.10	$ 823.50	$ 823.50	$ 903.60
E-8	--	--	--	--	--	$ 588.60	605.10	621.00	637.50	653.70	669.30	685.80	726.30	726.30	807.00
E-7	$ 369.90	$ 443.40	$ 459.90	$ 476.10	$ 492.30	507.90	524.10	540.90	564.90	580.80	597.00	605.10	645.60	645.60	726.30
E-6	318.90	387.30	403.20	419.70	435.90	451.80	468.30	492.30	507.90	524.10	532.50	--	--	--	--
E-5	275.40	339.30	355.50	371.10	395.40	411.60	427.80	443.40	451.80	--	--	--	--	--	--
E-4	231.60	290.10	306.60	330.60	347.10	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
E-3	167.70	233.70	249.90	266.40	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
E-2	138.30	193.50	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
E-1	133.20	177.00	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
E-1 Under 4 months	124.50														

Secure Hau Duc thrives today

by SGT Bob Nordyke

LZ HAWK HILL (196th INF BDE IO) – In the spring of 1968 seven Vietnamese families moved into the new Hau Duc Controlled Fire Zone. Today, through the combined efforts Major Nguyen Van Thanh, district chief, and Americal soldiers, new Hau Duc district is the home of nearly 10,000 refugees.

These refugees, who had been living in Phuoc Chau and Hau Duc valleys, were preyed upon by the 2nd NVA Regiment forces that were using the valleys as staging areas for their operations. The rice harvest was so garroted by the NVA that the people were faced with the choice of moving or starving.

The choice was made. Early in 1968 the first families moved into new lands at Hau Duc that had just been swept clear of the enemy by Major Thanh's forces and units from the 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry.

Soon hundreds of Vietnamese families followed the steps of the first refugees to new Hau Duc. News of the new land and security was spread by leaflet drops from the battalion's psychological operations office and the population grew quickly.

Three large hamlets make up the population centers of Hau Duc Controlled Fire Zone along with many tiny villages tucked into the nearby smokey green hillsides 15 miles southwest of Tam Ky.

Major Thanh's administration of popularly elected village and hamlet chiefs has avoided the usual pitfalls of resettlement over-population as well as the accompanying health, sanitation and food problems. At Hau Duc when a new refugee family arrives, instead of being crammed into a refugee camp, it is immediately intergrated into one of the villages. The family is assisted in building a home and given a plot of land to till.

The people have built their own homes using American furnished tin for the roofs. They are clean, well constructed and laid out with streets in the villages.

New arrivals are given a start by the villagers and expected to make their own living from there.

The agricultural program at new Hau Duc is one of the best in Vietnam. An ever increasing population has an increased need for arable land. Every day trees are felled on the surrounding hillsides and fires set to clear more land for agriculture.

Captain Menice M. Rawls, Bastrop, La., is the head of the American advisory team at Hau Duc speaks with respect for Major Thanh and optimism for the future," I've predicted that by December the people will be 100% self-sufficient. Major Thanh plans to buy some pigs; the land on the hills now being cleared will be used to grow sorghum to feed the pigs and pretty soon we will have enough to start a little trade with Tam Ky and Tien Phuoc."

Future plans also call for the saving enough money from the government funds to buy two tractors next year.

Another important phase of the development is the educational program. The people have built seven schools in the district's villages and already need two more. All children attend daily classes, although in half day shifts due to space limitations. All the villagers over 18 who can not read or write attend nightly classes until 10:30.

Hau Duc is a Vietnamization story that would have been impossible had it not been for the effectiveness of Major Thanh's forces in securing the district. The three Regional Force companies and the seven Popular Force platoons that provide security for the area have built up an excellent defense system and patrol the area aggressively.

First Lieutenant Richard Fort, Claremont, Calif., psychological operations officer for the 1st Battalion spoke of the effectiveness of Major Thanh's forces. "Hau Duc is one of the few areas where there are no contested people. Infiltration is zero. If a VC tries to come into a village and hide at night, it's very simple, he's either immediately killed or arrested."

The five man advisory team stationed at Hau Duc acts almost entirely in a military role, leaving the resettlement problems to the Vietnamese elected officials. Their main job is to help with the defense of Hau Duc, give classes on American weapons

A nurse from the Division's 27th Surgical Hospital returns child to mother after treatment. The Vietnamese Ward of the 27th Surg. has been in operation for over one year, treating both the wounded and the ill.
(Photo By 1LT Joe Hebert, Amcal IO)

Scout no spelunker

FSB BRONCO, (11th INF BDE. IO) – Caked with mud, a Kit Carson Scout recently emerged from a "tunnel of horrors" where he had wrestled with a six foot VC and dodged an exploding CHICOM grenade.

The scout, Huynh Bong, who was working with an 11th Infantry Brigade Recon element at the time, escaped with only a slight case of shock and a rather muddy face.

The Recon platoon of the 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry had been patrolling the southern end of the "Gaza Strip" near the mouth of the Tra Cau River one mile north of Duc Pho when Bong spotted the entrance to the tunnel, well concealed in the brush. He blew the cover with a claymore to clear it of possible booby traps. Then he borrowed a .45 caliber pistol from First Lieutenant Warren Waterbury, Ashland, Ky., and entered the hole.

"As soon as he went in, the VC grabbed him hard by the arm. The next thing we heard was an explosion and I thought for sure Bong was dead. Then he popped out of the hole.

PFs , mortars hit Viet Cong

LZ HAWK HILL (196th INF BDE IO) – A Hoi Chanh, a Vietnamese patrol and Division mortar shells recently crashed a late night VC meeting. The operation resulted in 11 enemy dead and several captured weapons.

The incident began as a routine night patrol for an element of Vietnamese Popular Forces (PF) from Observation Post 74, a combined American-Vietnamese outpost seven miles northwest of Tam Ky. The small hilltop accomodates the PF and soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 2st Infantry.

"About midnight the patrol returned with a Hoi Chanh," said Sergeant David Lingel, Oklahoma City, a mortar sergeant for the 196th Infantry Brigade. "Mr. Duc, a PF company commander interrogated him and learned that some VC had planned a meeting to be held at a nearby hooch area."

Mr. Duc coordinated preplanned mortar fire with Sergeant Lingel. Their plan was made and the men alerted.

"The PF knew this area very well so it was no problem for them to find the VC, Sergeant Lingel added.

About 4 a.m. Mr. Duc called for the supporting mortar fire. He had positioned his men so that all the escaping enemy would be cut down by small arms fire.

A search of the area resulted in two AK-44 rifles

Binh Quay villagers return to ancestral lands

By SGT Jim Tannesen

LZ HAWK HILL (196th INF BDE IP) – The once distant wish of returning to their ancestral lands has finally materialized for the people of Binh Quay village, located eight miles northwest of Tam Ky.

In August of 1969 a Viet Cong offensive pushed the villagers out of the myriad of tiny hamlets that make up Binh Quay. But the villagers did not resign themselves to the life of nomadic refugees. They waited for their chance to return.

A combined effort involving Mr. Duc, the local Popular Forces leader, Division soldiers and the villagers themselves has made the return possible.

Overlooking the vast rice paddies and heavily vegetated islands that make up the village is a nearly complete observation post (OP), manned by Mr. Duc's 60 Popular Forces soldiers and a company from the 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry. Cor struction of the base is the first step in permanently reclaiming the land from the enemy.

"Mr. Duc used almost every waking hour since the VC took over to solicit support for his project," says Captain Alfred Porter, Des Moines, Iowa, commanding officer of Company A. "The only favors he asked were for the purpose of helping build the OP and return his people to their land."

"Most of them live in refugee centers around Hawk Hill but they walk to the OP every day. They start out early in the morning, probably before the sun comes up, and by seven you see several hundred of them coming through the rice paddies."

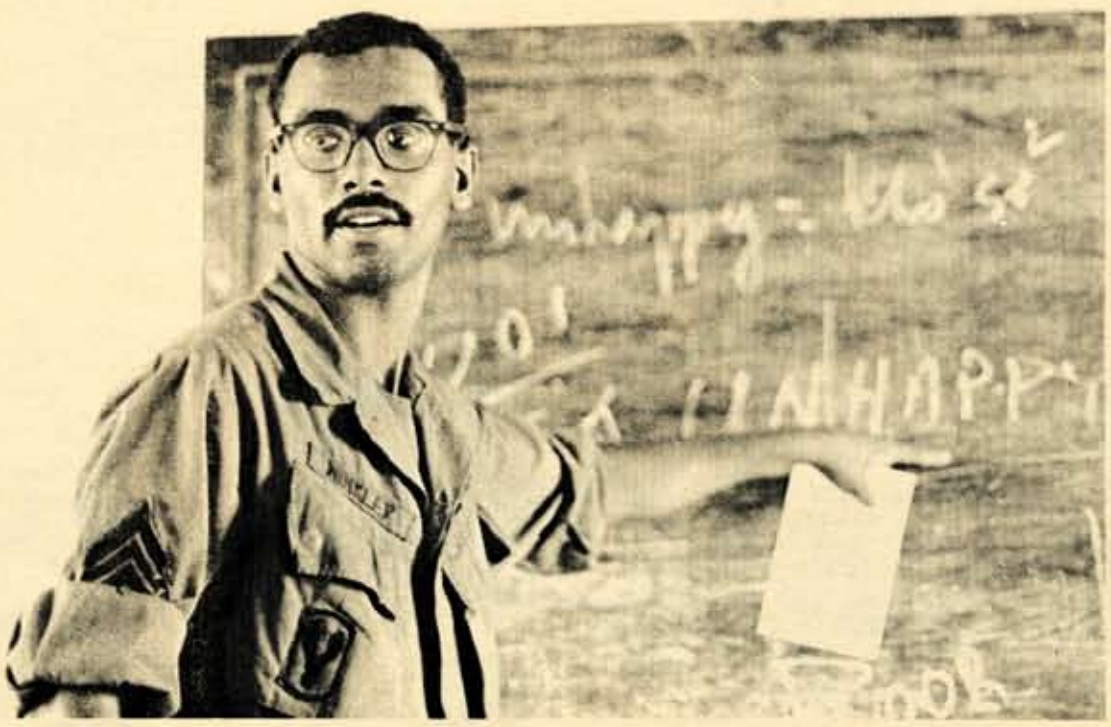
Each day the steep sides of the OP are spotted with Binh Quay villagers who patiently hack away at the vines and bushes that cover the hill. Clear fields of fire are slowly emerging as a result of their persistent efforts.

Combined American-Vietnamese patrols are clearing the area of the Viet Cong intruders. Supporting fire from Echo Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry mortars has claimed the lives of eight enemy soldiers and wounded another 13.

The commander of Alpha Company is impressed with the performance of the Popular Forces soldiers. "They are good at finding booby traps," says Captain Porter. "They are aware of the signs that indicate a booby trapped area and know where to look. We have learned a lot from each other."

A project of equal priority with the construction of the OP is harvesting the rice crop. During the VC occupation the rice paddies were planted and cultivated by the Viet Cong force. With security provided by Alpha Company, the villagers are now harvesting the rice. The crops will be taken to the OP where it will be distributed among the Binh Quay villagers.

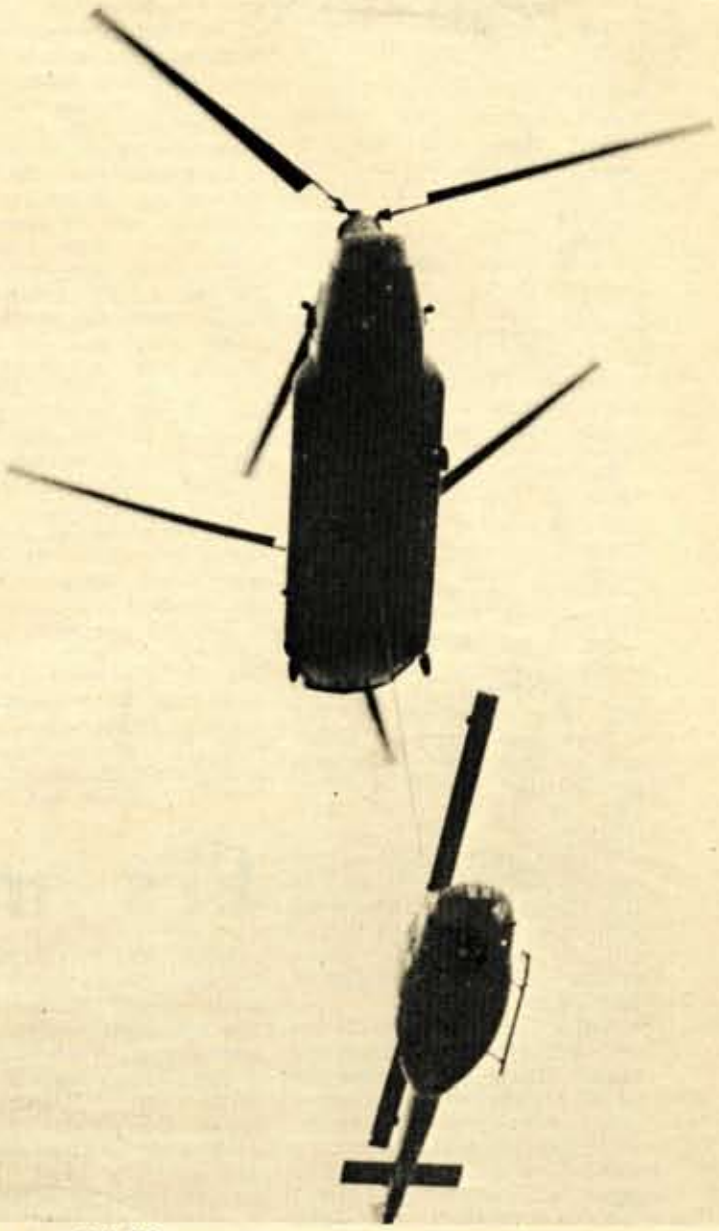
Two refugee camps have sprung up directly north of the hill. The occupants, numbering about 100, are primarily people from Viet Cong occupied hamlets who have decided to seek the protection of South Vietnamese and American forces. "The Popular Forces soldiers provide security for the refugees at night," added Captain Porter.



Sergeant Preston Winkler, Baltimore, points out an English word on the blackboard, a cue for his Vietnamese students to pronounce the word in unison. Sergeant Winkler, a member of 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry, teaches English classes every Tuesday and Thursday at Ky Le Village, seven miles north of Tam Ky. "The most difficult part," says the 196th Infantry Brigade civil affairs worker, "is getting the students to pronounce each word properly.
(Photo By PFC Lazlo Kondor)

Hercules and Boxcars support man on the ground

With guidance from his door gunner and a man on the ground, the pilot eases the helicopter down at a fire support base. In addition to their supply carrying duties, the CH-47 also has a troop carrying capability.



The powerful lift capabilities of the Chinook is illustrated in this photo which shows the hook carrying a Huey chopper which had developed mechanical problems.

On the flight line in the early morning hours, these helicopters stand ready for their day's duties. The Chinooks carry two M-60 machine guns s in the nose as their standard armament.

Swinging high is this l
the enemy. Under c
helicopter is often the

CHU LAI (16th CAG IO) – Everything from mail to bullets is transportable by the men and aircraft of the 14th Combat Aviation Battalion's two support helicopter companies. "Hercules" under the command of Major William Jones and "Boxcars" under the command of Major Brian Foote fly the re-supply missions to the remote landing zones and fire support bases throughout the Division's area of operation.

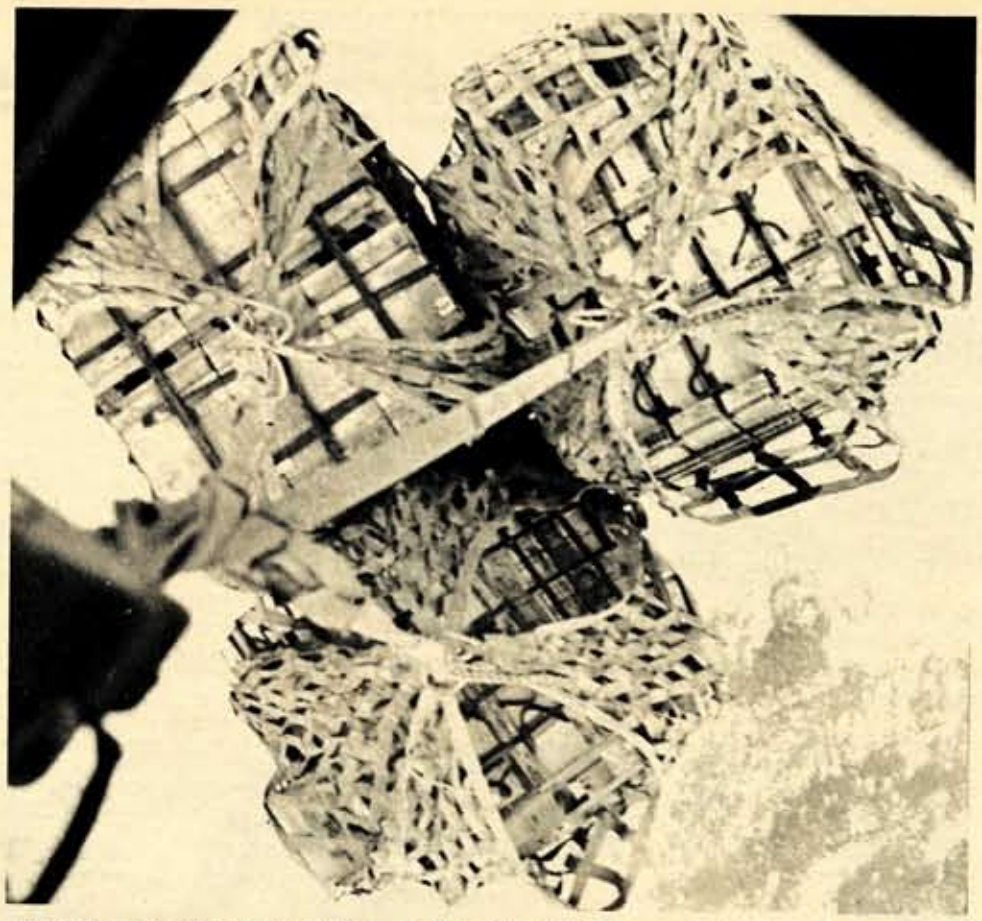
Hercules, also known as the 132nd Assault Support Helicopter Company, and its companion the 178th Assault Support Helicopter Company fly an average of 900 hours each month in support of units.

The work horse of these men is the Boeing-Vertol CH-47 helicopter. The Chinooks carry over 22,000 passengers and 11,000 tons of supplies every month. The reliability of the Chinooks and the pride the men take in their work is reflected in the thousands of accident free hours flown.

The enemy has named the big choppers "Buffalo" reflecting the enormous payloads of the Chinook. Another aspect of the Chinook's abilities, is the variety of cargo it can carry. They are capable of carrying artillery pieces, fuel and ammunition slung in cargo nets under the choppers belly. Troops are ferried in the choppers too.

All in all the Chinook's silhouette is a welcome sight to anyone stationed at a LZ or FSB.

Text by PFC Larry Campbell
Photos by 16th CAG IO



Swirling clouds of dust rise as this "Hook" descends to the chopper pad The chopper will pause only long enough to pick up another cargo load.

All of the Army's helicopters undergo periodic maintenance checks to spot trouble before it happens. These aircraft repairmen are working on the rear rotor and tail assembly of the helicopter.

d of ammo destined for the eventual delivery to nbat condition such as these in Vietnam, the nly means to deliver supplies.

Bombs disposed by EOD team

Master Sergeant Sherwood Gaddy and Specialist 5 Steve Hall probe the area around and unexploded 500 pound bomb searching for possible booby traps. The men are Explosive Ordnance Disposal experts.

Sergeant Gaddy carefully clears away the dirt from the nose section of the bomb. The discraded tail fin assembly is at left.

Photos and story by SSG Tim Palmer

FSB CENTER (AMERICAL IO) – "I hope all we have today is a 250 pounder." said Master Sergeant Sherwood F. Gaddy, Anniston, Ala. one morning as he and Specialist 5 Steve Hall, Clear Lake, Iowa headed to the boonies. These trips are daily occurrences for at least one of the four Explosive Ordinance Disposal teams working throughout the Division.

The mission this morning was unclear. All they had gotten was a reference from headquarters about a large unexploded bomb lying near a slightly populated area in the mountains somewhere near LZ Center. As it turned out LZ Center was merely a reference point and the chopper inserted them on a hill approximately two and half miles south of the mountaintop fire base.

This location, known as "Butterfly Hill" throughout the 196th Infantry Brigade was being used as a day patrol base by Bravo Company, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry. Just a few hours earlier Bravo Company had cleared the area of an 81mm mortar round which had been booby trapped with a trip wire. The troops decided to defer any work on the big bomb to the professional EOD team.

As the team jumped out of the chopper on the tiny grass covered LZ, Captain Benny Wedding, Hobart, Ok., met them with particulars concerning the bomb.

That morning a patrol of the first platoon had been routinely searching the area just off Butterfly Hill approximately 700 yards from the company command post. Adjacent to a small complex of grass-topped hooches inhabited by a single Vietnamese family living in the desolate area by choice, the patrol found the bomb. Appearing to have been there for several days, the bomb lay on its side less than 40 yards from the Vietnamese hooches.

"I did not know what it was at first." recalled the patrol's pointman Private First Class James Vandale, Charleston, W. Va. Private Vandale was credited with the find. "When I finally realized it was a bomb, I got out of there quickly."

Accompanied by one squad of the first platoon for security, the EOD men made their way down the mountainside traveling in the center of the squad a safe distance between each man.

Upon reaching the bomb's location, Sergeant Gaddy's first cleared the family to a safe nearby location. Then he and Specialist Hall went to work.

"The first job is to excavate the ordnance to the point where it can be determined if the fuse is still intact. We also check for booby traps." commented Sergeant Gaddy.

"Often the infantry helps with the digging, especially if the projectile is lodged deep, but when the digging starts to get close to the bomb we take over." he continued.

In this case the EOD experts did all the digging around the 500 pounder. The nose of the bomb was partially buried by its impact.

After determining that there was no immediate danger of detonation or booby traps, they decided to attempt moving the bomb to a small gully before blowing it in place. "Ordinarily we would have blown it in place," commented Specialist Hall, "but we wanted to save the family's hooch."

And so they did. To the unbelieving eyes of the infantry posted as security, Sergeant Gaddy hitched a strap to the tail section of the bomb. Then he and Specialist Hall sweated, grunted and tugged 500 pound of explosive for almost 225 yards.

With professional ease the bomb was charged, fused and blown in place within ten minutes. Although the resulting crater was impressive, the home of the Vietnamese family was not harmed. And the threat of possible enemy utilization of the ordance was dissolved.

Asked if they like their unique work, Sergeant Gaddy, a veteran of five years with EOD said, "There's nothing like it in the Army – it's great."

Specialist Hall mentioned that sometimes the infantry men appear embarrassed, even apologetic, about calling for help from the EOD. Especially if the call turns out to be a false alarm.

The ordnance specialist urge line units not to hesitate calling for the EOD if they have something they're not sure of

Sergeant Gaddy (right) and Specialist Hall carefully move the bomb from its resting place with the assistance of a trooper from Bravo Company. Bravo's point man discovered the dud bomb.

Hello out there all you big Americal soldiers. The VA has asked me to clear up some misunderstandings about two types of military discharges. The problem exists between "honorable" and "general" discharge certificates and is causing some of you Viet-vets unjustified difficulties. Remember that both of them acceptable for veterans' benefits. The general discharge always has the qualifying phrase "under honorable conditions" because this type of separation is issued as evidence of honorable service. Some ex-servicemen reported having difficulty obtaining employment after showing potential employees their general discharge certificates. (Photo by SP4 J.B. Majerus)

Kalamazoo kids charge "Chargers" with mail

LZ HAWK HILL (196th INF BDE IO) – "Hi, my name is Glenda. I live with my Mom and Dad and I do not have any brothers (sic) or sisters..."

The letters came in a large brown envelope, some misspelled and almost illegible, but everyone a special message for a brigade of infantry soldiers.

Last February the city of Kalamazoo, Mich. (pop. 95,000) adopted the 196th Infantry Brigade with the help of American Red Cross Representive, James Stowell. The good folks in Kalamazoo sent soap, books, pens and paper. And one very understanding little girl from Westwood School tried to slip a six-pack of Budweiser in with the gifts.

The 5th grade class at Westwood in eastern Kalamazoo sent gifts with their packet of letters directly to Mr. Stowell.

"I wish every man in the brigade could read them," sighed Mr. Stowell.

"Hi, Soldier," trilled one. "My name is Barbara Kowal...I'm eleven. I have a cat and a little brother..."

The children sent two packages of goods and Mr. Stowell expects eight more. An ex-major in the Army, he is a stocky genial man who visits the field companies often; bringing packages from veteran's organizations, Red Cross chapters and people who care a lot – like 11 eleven year old Amy Jagodnik who wanted to send beer to the infantrymen but her "groovy" teacher wouldn't let her. Amy included a picture of herself – a smiling little blond girl in a green dress – and her address.

The letters were like notes from a little girl to her big brother. Only two of the letters were from boys.

"Dear Soldier. How are you? I am fine. I'm going to tell you about myself and my family." Miss Patricia Ann Dean was emphatic and precise. "I m about 4 feet 8 incs tall. I have brownish black hair. I collect stamps dolls and rocks. I have a cat that looks like a tiger. My mom is a house wife. My dad draws transmissions. My brother has the chicken pox. P.S. Please write back."

'These letters are priceless." stated Brigade Commander, Colonel James M. Lee. Wilmington, N.C.

BoxcarsawardedMUC

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) – A presentation on the "Boxcars" flight line gave the 178th Assault Helicopter Company, part of the 14th Combat Aviation Battalion, the Meritorius Unit Citation, First Oak Leaf Cluster. The award is for the period June 1, 1967 to May 31, 1968.

Brigadier General Edwin L. Powell, Assistant Division Commander--Maneuver, presented the award.

The officers and men of the company worked long and difficult hours under extremely hazardous conditions and intense hostile action to successfully airlift thousands of allied troops into tactical landing zones. With great skill and courage, they provided excellent aviation support, critical supplies and combat equipment to the ground elements enabling them to sustain operations against the enemy.

Mr. Grainger, Army chow checker

By SP5 Richard Merritt

LZ HAWK HILL (196th INF BDE IO) – On some days Chief Warrant Officer Jack Grainger becomes a culinary snoop. Mr. Grainger, food service director for the "Chargers", never sets a schedule for visiting the brigade. "The cooks would be extra sharp and ready for me," smilled Mr. Grainger.

Nabbing mess stewards with dirty soup spoons and salty asparagus tips is a small but important part of the job. In Europe he served a whole division, 52 mess halls in all. Before that he was a mess supervisor, before that a mess sergeant and before that a cook. The man knows his job pretty well; he was promoted from the ranks in 1966.

"Back in the States if a man didn't want to eat in the mess hall, he could go to MacDonald's for a hamburger." Mr Grainger pointed out. "On the fire bases, there's no place to go. I look forward to getting the best

His job could be termed as that of a "balancer". In Vietnam supplies are sometimes difficult to obtain. Yet one mess sergeant may have a large quantity of one item, say scouring powder, and another, maybe on the same base, is overstocked with mopheads. Mr Grainger passes the word and a trade is worked out.

Because he knows a cook's job from top to bottom, he can tell what they need. In a sense, he is also a liaison man especially at the forward fire base messes. One of the newer innovations in the Army's mess program is the 42 day master menu. Already in use in Europe, it offers the serviceman a choice of meals not just main courses. Two food lines are set up. One with snacks such as sandwiches, soup and salad; the other with a full meal.

Sometimes the infantrymen tell Mr. Grainger just what they think of the food.

"When a private tells you the food is good, you know it's a fact." commented Mr Grainger. "But when they say it doesn't taste good or that there isn't enough of it, I check that mess hall out good and fast."

Americal adopts BigRedOne soldiers

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) – Since February more than 1,400 former First Infantry Division soldiers have swapped patches and are now wearing the stars of the Division.

The tremendous increase in the numbers of in-country transfers was caused by the recent departure of the Big Red One from the Republic of Vietnam. Their redeployment was part of the third phase of President Nixon's program to Vietnamize the war.

After completing field operations with their former units, the men enjoyed a stand down period of three to five days in Di An. From there most of the men went to Long Binh to await transportation to their new unit.

For the troops assigned to Americal, the flight to Chu Lai was not far off.

Reporting in at the Combat Center the processing began all over. First stop was the orderly room for a briefing, then on to personnel and finance. Within three to five days orders were cut, and the men were on their way to their new units, happy to say goodbye to those early morning formations and police calls.

Delta Company, 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry operating out of FSB San Juan Hill received some of the new men. Specialist 4 Gayle Green, Palo Alto, Calif., was a squad leader and is now serving as a rifleman. He exclaimed, "I never would have believed that Vietnam had mountains like these – it's amazing."

Specialist Edward Ratliff, Pikesville, Ky. sums it up this way. "One thing I really like about the Americal is working with platoon size elements much of the time. It's a good feeling to know that there's so many of you around."

Two companies on operation kill 27 VC

A Sheridan Assualt Vechicle of Alpha Troop, 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry is re-fueled near Tam Ky. The troop was on a search operation with the 196th Infantry Brigade.
(Photo by SP4 Herbert Brady)

By SP4 Gerald Lamb

LZ WEST (196th INF BDE IO) – In a recent operation 21 miles west of Tam Ky, two companies of "Chargers" killed 27 Viet Cong in six days of fighting.

The operation, which took place on rugged Hill 441 was touched off by sporadic shots from enemy snipers. Delta Company, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry was situated on a ridgeline when they came under fire.

Bravo Company was inserted by helicopter at the western side of the hill. The air was filled with the whir of rotar blades as wave after wave of Huey slicks set down on the forest floor. Company B was deployed as a blocking force and Company D began to advance up the hill. Delta brought down the first VC of the operation with M-16 rifle fire.

As the men of Bravo began to establish a night laager, they observed 20 VC on a knoll ahead of them. Machine gun fire netted five enemy dead.

Then Delta spotted four VC. The infantrymen opened up with M-16 and M-79 fire and another VC lay dead in the bush.

The following afternoon Company B killed one VC who was moving toward a woodline. Just before dark, sweeps by several units of the company produced four more enemy kills.

During the night, Delta detected movement around their laager.

"I had just come on guard when I saw four VC about 125 yards from my position." said Specialist 4 Gary Drake, Carleton, Mich. The men opened up killing two of the VC.

The next day started quietly; both companies met little resistance as they converged toward the crest of Hill 441. However the action became heavier as the day wore on.

Company B spotted three VC and opened up on them. One fell dead while the other two scurried into the bush. A few minutes later Delta scored a kill and then observed three more VC. M-60 machine gun fire brought down two more enemy.

The following day Company D set up a defensive position in their previous night laager – after they disposed of one VC who moved into the area.

In the afternoon, Bravo killed one VC and found the body of another which was killed by artillery fire.

The next day the company engaged five more VC killing three of them. Artillery was called in resulting in one more enemy killed.

AFPS

DRUG MAN

Dope on dope ----- -----heroin

Morphine is derived from opium and heroin is produced from morphine. Both are usually seen as a white snowy powder which can be taken several ways but are most frequently injected. Narcotic addiction usually refers to these two drugs.

Morphine is called "M" and dreamer. Heroin is called "H", snow, junk, horse and nod. It is known as smack when mixed with marijuana.

Users are prone to respiratory failures until tolerance develops. Overdose deaths are fairly common because the drug compound can contain more pure heroin than the user expects or is able to tolerate.

23rd S&T has new CO

By SSG Vern Kaiser

CHU LAI (DISCOM IO) – Lieutenant Colonel Jozef Senna, Macon, Ga., assumed the command of the 23rd Supply and Transportation from Lieutenant Colonel Frank B. Wall, Springfield, Va., during a change of command ceremony.

Distinguished guest to the ceremonies included Brigadier General Edwin L. Powell, Assistant Division Commander - Maneuver and Brigadier General Roy L. Atteberry, Assistant Division Commander - Support. Colonel K.B. Barlow, 11th Infantry Brigade commander also attended.

Colonel Senna began his military career in the Navy in 1946. He entered the Army in 1948 and has served tours in England, Germany and is presently on his second tour in the Republic of Vietnam.

He comes to the 23rd S&T Battalion from an assignment as Executive Officer of the Division Support Command where he has served since last November.

Colonel Wall commended the men during the ceremony. "Your dedication and desire to accomplish the tasks at hand, your cheerful and rapid response to my every wish and command has been a very humbling experience and I leave you far richer than when I came to you. Thank you for your support which on your behalf I'm sure I can freely pledge to your new commander.

During the change of command ceremony, Colonel Wall received the Legion of Merit.

"Patches" – Americal's own war correspondent

By SSG Tim Palmer

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) – "Where are you from in the world?", she opens.

"Florida, madam."

"Oh goody. I'm going to do a story about you too. Sit right down there. What part of Florida?"

And so begins another impromptu interview between "Patches" Musgrove and just one of the many soldiers she talks with during the course of a year.

Patches, officially an overseas correspodent for the Jacksonville (Florida) Journal has been traveling throughout Vietnam since 1964 gathering material for her daily column.

"I do six columns a week." she says. Usually about four of them highlight a specific Florida soldier and the other two are my 'dirties'. By this she refers to her never ending attacks on controversial subjects related to the Vietnam scene.

Born in Wayne, Neb. in 1918, Helen Musgrove has become known to soldiers through out Vietnam simply as Patches. Although no one is quite sure who initiated the title, the reason is obvious. Adorning each of her eleven well faded jungle fatigue jackets are numerous, multi-colored unit patches – over 300 in all.

"I've never sewn on a patch I have not earned by working in the field with the unit."

And the field is exactly where Patches travels. In her search for a story she has been under fire "...more times than I care to remember." Once after hurridly exiting a chopper at a remote LZ under attack, Patches experienced some trouble talking. And that's an unlikely condition.

"I think some flying gravel from the downwash hit me in the mouth." she told the waiting escort party. Upon closer inspection, it was determined that shrapnel from an in-coming round had pock-marked the entire left side. "I lost three of my upper teeth on that one." was her own after action report.

Particularly close to the Division, Patches has been known as the "Americal Lady" since she began her wanderings through the Division's AO in 1967. In September, 1967, when the 196th, 198th and 11th Light Infantry Brigades were consolidated into what is now the Americal Division, Patches was the only correspondent in attendance. Thus she rightly derserves the title of the "first Americal Division reporter".

Patches began her career as a reporter by accident. After the death of her husband in 1959, she moved from her California home to Hong Kong where she opened a small factory producing women's fashions for export.

After various successes in the clothing field she came to Saigon in 1962 to inspect facilities for a possible extension of her business.

"It was that first trip to Vietnam that convinced me." she says, referring to the impression that her talks with American soldiers made upon her. "I decided that it would be much more rewarding to work and talk with the boys over here than to continue with what I was doing."

Patches arranged for a position with the Jacksonville paper as a correspondent. "My first story was about the milkshakes in the Saigon PX." she recalled. "When I asked the newspaper for insurance coverage they figured that was a safe enough bet." Her next release included a picture of her atop a tank loaded with soldiers. "That's when the insurance stopped."

Patches receives over 1700 letters every month asking her to stop in and say hello to Vietnam based husbands or sons.

"Patches" Musgrove, overseas correspondent for the Jacksonville (Florida) Journal interviews First Lieutenant Wickliffe Kirby, Bradenten, Fla., at Special Forces Camp Tra Bong.
(Photo by SSG Tim Palmer)