Kham Duc repels sapper attack, 16 killed

By PFC Richard Campbell

KHAM DUC (196th INF BDE IO) – Sixteen NVA sappers died recently in the first serious test of the defenses of Kham Duc airstrip, 35 miles west of Tam Ky.

Striking minutes after four a.m. on a black, moonless night, heavily armed sappers belly-crawled over a brush-covered cliff to focus their attack on the artillery pieces guarding the major supply line for forces operating in the area.

The devastating, close-in fighting lasted until dawn.

"There was no moon that night," recalled Specialist Four Jack Hobbs, Tinney, N.M., on perimeter guard for Battery A, 1st Battalion, 82nd Artillery. "It was so dark I could barely see 10 feet in front of my fighting position."

Suddenly there was an explosion. A generator had blown up.

"I popped a hand flare," said Specialist Hobbs, "and saw seven sappers on their stomachs 25 yards from my pit."

More hand flares went up. Mortarmen from Company E, 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry, 196th Infantry Brigade, fired illumination, and soon the entire artillery perimeter was as bright as day.

"When the illumination started popping overhead, the sappers got up and started to run further inside the perimeter," recalled Private First Class Jeff Lee, Dover, Del. "We opened up with M-16s, M-60s and hand frags."

The artillerymen brought down two NVA with grenades. M-16 rifle fire killed several more enemy who were underneath a 2½ ton truck. Another NVA was cut down just as he aimed an RPG launcher at the battery Fire Direction Control (FDC).

As sappers continued to enter the artillery perimeter, Sergeant James Humphrey, New Bern, N.C., an artillery squad leader, hustled his men out to their 105mm howitzer.

"Our commo had been destroyed," remembered Sergeant Humphrey. "I yelled over to the FDC and asked permission to fire some rounds into the enemy."

The crew lowered the barrel parallel to the ground and pointed directly at the advancing sappers. Then Sergeant Humphrey got his OK.

"We fired three rounds," he said, "and I saw five or six drop to the ground."

"I'm pretty sure there were more sappers outside the wire waiting to come in," Sergeant Humphrey added, "but I think those rounds we fired definitely changed their minds."

Mortarmen from Company E, 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry, 250 yards away, received suppressive enemy mortar and rocket fire throughout the morning.

"When the sun came up we took a look around," said Specialist Hobbs. "Dead sappers were lying all over the place."

Fourteen dead enemy were found inside the perimeter, two more outside. One dead NVA was found face down with the index finger of his right hand through the safety ring of a CHICOM grenade. He had been killed just as he was about to throw it.

Sergeant First Class Jack Bevel, Beeville, Tex., platoon sergeant for Company A, 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry, led a patrol that morning in order to find the trail that the sappers had used. The "Chargers" found that the sappers had cut their way up a thickly vegetated cliff to within 150 yards of the perimeters wire.

"They put white 'Chieu Hoi' leaflets along the trail so they could find their way back," said Sergeant Bevel. "However, they never got a chance to make the return trip."

Division recap

196th Bde finds enemy basecamp

Action decreased noticeably in the past week's action as units of the Americal killed 103 enemy soldiers. In Operation Frederick Hill "Chargers" of the 196th Infantry Brigade killed 40 enemy soldiers and destroyed an enemy basecamp. Elsewhere in Operation Geneva Park the "Brave and Bold" of the 198th Infantry Brigade also found and destroyed a large enemy basecamp and tallied 31 enemy soldiers. In Operation Iron Mountain the "Jungle Warriors" of the 11th Infantry Brigade also found and destroyed a large bunker complex consisting of 30 bunkers and from 50 to 70 fighting positions.

Frederick Hill

An enemy base camp, believed to be less than two months old, containing over 50 hooches, numerous medical supplies and a large rice cache, was siezed by Company C, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry early in the week northwest of Tam Ky.

First Lieutenant Sammie M. Bush, Snyder, Okla., company commander reported one of his patrols came upon some well used trails near an extremely steep draw in the densely-wooded, triple-canopy jungle.

"They found a blood trail and some used bandages strewn along one of the trails and followed it up the draw to the enemy base camp," said Lieutenant Bush.

Approximately two hours after spotting the camp, Company C staged and assault.

After a fierce firefight the enemy fled. Four blood trails were later found leading to the

(continued on page 6)

SOUTHERN CROSS
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Charlie Troop, 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry responds to enemy rocket propelled grenade fire near Hiep Duc by literally putting smoke on them. (Photo by SP4 Herbert Brady, 523rd Sig Bn)

11th Brigade 'Warriors' find 242 tons of rice

By SGT Bill Lake

FSB BRONCO (11th INF BDE IO) – Utilizing the fundamental tactic of "cordon and search" with the emphasis on search, 11th Infantry Brigade "Jungle Warriors" have confiscated 242 tons of enemy rice so far this year.

Displaying their disapproval with the soldier's operations, enemy snipers have plucked away while infantrymen using wooden poles and steel rods uncovered hidden rice caches throughout souther Quang Ngai Province. "Thumping," a method originated by the "Jungle Warriors" has been the most effective means of discovering buried rice and is accomplished by pounding the ground with a wooden pole unticavity is found–usually containing rice in plastic bags. Probing the ground and hooch floors with a metal rod is also an effective means of finding hidden caches.

On a two day operation five miles south of Duc Pho recently, elements from the 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry uncovered a respectable 7,000 pounds of rice.

"Company D executed a combat assault into the 'Rice Bowl' area and immediately placed a cordon around two small hamlets suspected to be VC controlled," explained Lieutenant Brian DeMary, Beaumont, Tex. As soon as the search started rice caches began to turn up.

"All the caches were buried approximately a foot underground and were found by probing with metal rods and digging with shovels," stated Recon Platoon Sergeant Bob Davidson, Kansas City, Mo. This two day operation is believed to have uncovered a major rice market for the VC and NVA operating in this area.

A week later, Company B, 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry, uncovered 20,000 pounds of enemy rice while working in the 'Rice Bowl' eight miles southwest of Duc Pho.

"This was a complete company-size effort," explained Second Lieutenant Charles Dannison, South Haven, Mich., forward observer for Company B, "one platoon cordoned a section of huts while another moved in to search. Eveyone was uncovering small caches of rice."

"Rice was so abundant and hidden in so many different places," commented Specialist Four Larry Tamashiro, Honoluly, Hawaii, platoon medic, "it took us two days to uncover and bag the cache."

Added Sergeant William Beard, Elmwood, Ill., "The enemy didn't like our confiscation of their food supply at all. As we were loading the sacks on vehicles for extraction we received fire from several directions."

In one of the largest rice caches ever found in the First Military Region, Company C, 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry conducted an intensive nine-day search operation that produced 97,— pounds of enemy rice adjacent to the South China Sea tem miles north of Duc Pho.

On the sweep through the area Sergeant James E. Balcarczyk, Lackawanna, N.Y., and Alan P. Denucci, North St. Paul, Minn., entered an old church, fallen into disuse. Once inside the two men discovered rice hidden in coffin-like boxes. Intensifying their search. they came up with almost two and a half tons of the enemy food stapel and sparked a company size search operation that was to last for the next nine days.

"At first we found simple caches hidden under woodpiles, haystacks, and in bunkers. As time went on we found them buried in gardens with fertilizer spread over the rice. It'd be in the pig pens, under the mud, straw, and dirt. Ninety per cent of it was in plastic bags," explained Staff Sergeant John G. Moore, Oxford, Ala.

During the entire operation enemy harrassment was frequent and often intense. Sniper fire came principally from the mangrove swamps in the area and suspected enemy basecamps were located by patrolling in three of the outlying swamps.

Working on a highly educated guess, members of Company A, 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry recently uncovered 10 tons of enemy rice while working in the lowlands 25 miles northwest of Duc Pho. Revealed Lieutenant Colonel Roger A. Culbertson, Longview, Wash., battalion commander, "This rice has been taken from a VC controlled village. We had expected to find a cache, because we have often detained VC in this area with money and orders to buy rice from the villagers."

If the statistics hold true the VC and NVA are likely to become more upset with the "Jungle Warriors!" rice discoveries.

Part 3 of an R&R series

Hong Kong has everything on your list

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) – To most people, Hong Kong brings thoughts of the mysterious Orient, Old Charlie Chan movies and fishing junks. Once they have been there, however, most people have a different idea of this British Crown Colony.

Hong Kong is, perhaps, the most beautiful, fascinating and cosmopolitan city in the East. As such it offers to the visitor a mixture of sights, sounds and tastes that has no equal anywhere else in the world.

The two and a half hour flight from Vietnam is a most enjoyable change of pace for the combat soldier. It is highlighted by a superb meal and the first decent cup of coffee in a long time – this appears to be a dream come true.

Airport officials in Hong Kong are concerned with getting you on your way to five days of pleasure so customs checks are fast and efficient.

Buses at the airport will take you to the R&R Center on the Kowloon side of the colony where pretty young hostesses greet you at the door with a cold glass of beer.

R&R Hotel reservations are made for you months in advance at any one of more than 15 hotels in the Hong Kong Kowloon area. Before leaving the R&R Center, you will be presented with a choice of hotels that vary in price from $4 to $11 a night. These hotels have been approved for their clean, Western facilities.

The economy minded person might like to check into the Shamrock Hotel. Middle of the road prices will get you an excellent room by any stateside standards: the President, Empress or Park all ofer outstanding accommodations from $7 to $9 a night. Where else can you walk into a top notch Hilton Hotel but in Hong Kong for $10.50 a night.

While you are at the R&R Center you will be allowed to convert $100 American to $600 Hong Kong dollars. The rest of your money can be exchanged at local banking facilities and there only. All of the authorized exchanges are listed in the R&R brochures.

Once you have had a bath and a good night's sleep, the many sights of Hong Kong are there to greet your amazed eyes.

One will have to agree, not all the sights of Hong Kong center around Kowloon's Nathan Road. A five minute ride, costing only ten cents, across the bay to the Hong Kong side of the colony on the Star Ferry will bring you close to the bottom of the famous Victoria Peak. The cable-car ride to the peak is a thrill in itself. When you've reached the top you can see for hundreds of miles in any direction with the sprawling city below you.

A tour of the new territories can be arranged by any of the local tour agencies. On this interesting journey, you'll pass the re-settlement area where refugees from the Communist China mainland have decided to start anew. As you trip progresses, you'll find unspoiled beaches and virgin fields passing your window. The climax to your trip is sure to be at the northern-most border of Hong Kong where the panoramic view at the Lok Ma Chan police post includes a look beyond the Bamboo Curtain into Communist China.

Because Hong Kong is a free port, items from all over the world are sold at the lowest prices anywhere.

Stereo and camera equipment is sold at hundreds of street shops throughout Hong Kong. Some of the best hand-made clothing featuring materials of any kind are sold at this Far Eastern business hub.

Whether you are looking for any of these items, carvings, watches, perfumes, leather, good china ware or 10,000 other curios, check out the prices of the China Fleet Club located on the Hong Kong side before you buy. Also, customs will require you show them a comprehensive Certificate of Origin (CCO) on any Chinese made objects. Ask for it when you make your purchase.

No visit to Hong Kong is complete without trying Chinese food. There are four basic styles of Chinese cooling in Hong Kong to choose from, each represent a different geographical area.

Cantonese food is perhaps best known for its shark's find and bird nest soup. Then there's Szechuanese, a style favored by those who like highly spiced foods. Third is Pekinese, the type closest to Western cooking made famous by its Peking Duck. Finally there is Shanghai, a must for anyone who likes seafood.

2 units decorated for valor

By SP4 Kenneth Perry

FSB BRONCO (11th INF BDE IO) – In a recent ceremony here Lieutenant General James W. Sutherland, XXIV Corps commander, presented Company C, 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry, 11th Infantry Brigade and first platoon of E Troop, 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry with the Valorous Unit Award for their actions while engaged in military operations on 12 and 13 May 1969 in the Division's area of operation.

On the 12th of May while operating in a suspected enemy area near the village of Nga Man, Company C uncovered a battalion sized base camp. Heavy contact was made with what was later identified as a reinforced company of NVA regulars. As the battle intensified, the apparent strength and preparedness of the enemy necessitated committing the first platoon Echo Troop, 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry to assist in the bitter struggle. The fury and effectiveness of the allies returnefire prevented the main force of the enemy from regrouping and caused them to become completely disorganized. Through their continuous valorous actions and unrelenting pursuit of the fleeing enemy, they precipitated the route of the hostile unit.

The toll on the enemy after a heavy day of fighting was 50 confirmed NVA killed, one 7.62mm CHICOM heavy machinegun, two RPD machineguns, four AK-47s, two mortar pits containing 20 rounds of 82mm ammo and 16 rounds of 60mm ammo.

Sandpiper program

By SP4 William Hayes

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) – The end of summer this year won't slow down the activity at the new Sandpiper Service Club across the street from the Ky Hoa flight line.

The two yellow buildings on the hillside will feature the usual Sandpiper facilities through the month, according to Miss Rita F. Collins, club director.

In addition to the music room, TV room, tape listening room, ping-pong, billiard room, lounge and table top games, September holds the promise of special activities all month.

Two floor shows, appearances by the Special Services rock band and the Americal Combo will highlight evenings at the Sandpiper during the month, said Miss Ellen Keneshea, program director.

These special programs, along with the regularly scheduled movies and popcorn, barbecue, billiards, volleyball and ping-pong tourneys, provide plenty of opportunity for recreation for the man with an afternoon or evening to spend in Chu Lai.

If you have some free time this month, stop by the Sandpiper Club, whether you're on stand down, just passing through, or enjoying a few hours away from your job.

You're welcome in the exclusive and prestigious Sandpiper Club if you qualify as an enlisted man in the US Armed Forces.

Operation Amnesty helps drug users

By PFC Guy Winkler

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) – The AMERICAL Division this week launched OPERATION AMNESTY to assist personnel with a drug problem to "come clean" without getting involved in legal action. OPERATION AMNESTY is part of a new DOD Marijuana and Drug Suppression Program.

Conducted jointly through the Division Provost Marshal, Division Chaplain and medical authorities, OPERATION AMNESTY provides help for persons who are abusing drugs and want to stop.

Lieutenant Colonel Everett I. Perrin Jr., Division Provost Marshal, said that persons who turn themselves in under OPERATION AMNESTY to either a military policeman, chaplain, doctor or medic will not be subjected to legal penalties as long as they follow two simple steps: 1) voluntarily turn themselves in and, 2) ensure that they are not carrying any drugs in their possession at the time they turn themselves in.

Chaplain (LTC.) Teddy R. Pope Jr., division chaplain, said, "We're trying to get all the new men who come through the combat center aware of the fact that such a program is available.

If there is a man who is not already under investigation and who feels he wants help, we have offered to be available twenty-four hours a day, everyday."

14th Aviation Battalion given valorous citation

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) – In ceremonies here recently the 14th Aviation Battalion, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Dean G. Boyle was awarded the valorous unit citation.

The citation, presented to the unit by Lieutenant General James W. Sutherland, XXIV Corps commander, recognized the high quality of general conduct and valorous completion of mission related to the 1968 forced evacuation of besieged Kham Duc. At that time the five maneuver elements of the 14th CAB assisted materially in the hasty evacuation of large numbers of Civilian Irregular Defense Groups and dependents, plus US forces, from Kham Duc, which was receiving heavy indirect fire and ground attack from an enemy force estimated to be two NVA Regiments.

Representing the Division at the ceremonies were Brigadier General Theodore Mataxis, ADC of maneuver; and Brigadier General Roy Atteberry, ADC support. Additionally, Lieutenant General Lam, representing the 2nd ARVN Division was present.

Montezuma Tower, located 465 feet above FSB Bronco is the site of the 11th Infantry Brigades defense coordination. The changing of the watch is signified by a flashlight trail down the wooden ladder. The sky is streaked with star trails recording the earth's rotation in this time exposure. (Photo by SP4 Peter R. Sorensen)

SOUTHERN CROSS
AMERICAL DIVISION

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builds new bridge 39th Engineer Bn

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) – With the need for roads and bridges remaining high in Vietnam, elements of the 39th Engineer Battalion recently completed a permanent reinforced concrete bridge on Highway One 75 miles southwest of Da Nang.

The battalion's Company A, began the project in mid-May without the specialized equipment and personell needed to augment the old Song Ve Baily bridge.

In spite of these handicaps, the bridge company completed the structure six months ahead of the originally scheduled completion date. The old bridge will remain for foot and light vehicle traffic.

"The men are mighty proud of this bridge," said Sergeant First Class Orville W. Troesch of Springfield, Ill., bridge NCO for the project.

"We're all combat engineers. Before we started the bridge, we had no experience in this kind of work," he said.

One of the problems met by the bridge officer, First Lieutenant Alfred N. Mack of Troy, Penn., was the lack of enough arc welding machines and men to operate them. With help from Mr. S. Robinson, a civilian welding and steel advisor working for Quinn-Budlong Corporation, the on-site platoon soon had four welders crackling to join the steel with lasting welds.

"Without Mr. Robinson's help, we's still be out there welding today," said one of the battalion's staff officers.

Mr. Robinson credited Company A with the early completion.

"These young engineers had no experience, but were willing to learn," he said.

At a brief opening ceremony, Colonel Nguyen Van Binh, Quang Ngai province chief, expressed thanks on behalf of the province residents. He pointed out that the new Song Ve bridge would permit the communication of ideas more powerful than the largest truck, more valuable than the most precious goods.

Also at the opening ceremony were Brigadier General Harry C. Schraeder, Commanding General, 18th Engineer Brigade; Brigadier General Theodore C. Metaxis, ADC (maneuver), Americal Division; Brigadier General Roy L. Atteberry, ADC (support), Americal Division; and officers of engineer units supporting the Division.

A Company, 26th Engineer Battalion help ease the need for bridges in Vietnam as they put the finishing touches on a bridge seven miles northwest of Duc Pho.
(Photo by SP4 Peter R. Sorensen)

Mr Morale of the 2nd-1st

By PFC Guy Winkler

KHAM DUC (AMERICAL IO) – The one person whom everyone is more glad to see anywhere in Vietnam is the "guy with the big red bags."

At Kham Duc, the guy with the red bags is the bridge between "the world" and some dug-in bunker for the soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry, 196th Infantry Brigade. He brings letters and packages from home. He's the mailman.

Sergeant Bill Seman, Pittsburgh, is the mailman for the soldiers at Kham Duc. Every morning before sunrise, Sergeant Seman is awake and waiting for a helicopter to take him and the mail from LZ Hawk Hill to Kham Duc. "Sometimes I have to wait for hours," he says. "But a chopper always comes, and off we go."

When he arrives at Kham Duc, he can expect to find dozens of men waiting anxiously for the chopper to touch down. The mail is distributed and everyone who has waited that long night is again reassured that someone still loves them.

But this isn't the end of the day or all that's required of a mailman for Kham Duc. He's the medium for command messages and he handles personnel problems and carries personal necessities that are hard to come by so far from the rear area.

When he arrives at Kham Duc each morning, the day is just beginning for Sergeant Seman and the men staying there are just beginning to write letters home in response to the ones they just received.

It's not a rarity to see the mailman passing the time by loading or unloading resupply choppers for the men in the field.

It's a big job with a lot of burden and responsibility, but the mail and other items for the men at Kham Duc comes and goes with one man who can be trusted and who cares enough to get the job done right.

Enjoying a steak dinner with all the trimmings are these soldiers of Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry, 198th Infantry Brigade. The company was on patrol southwest of Chu Lai at the time.
(Photo by PFC James N. Dunn, 523rd Sig. Bn.)

3 consecutive months

723rd receives mess award

By MSG William Turner

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

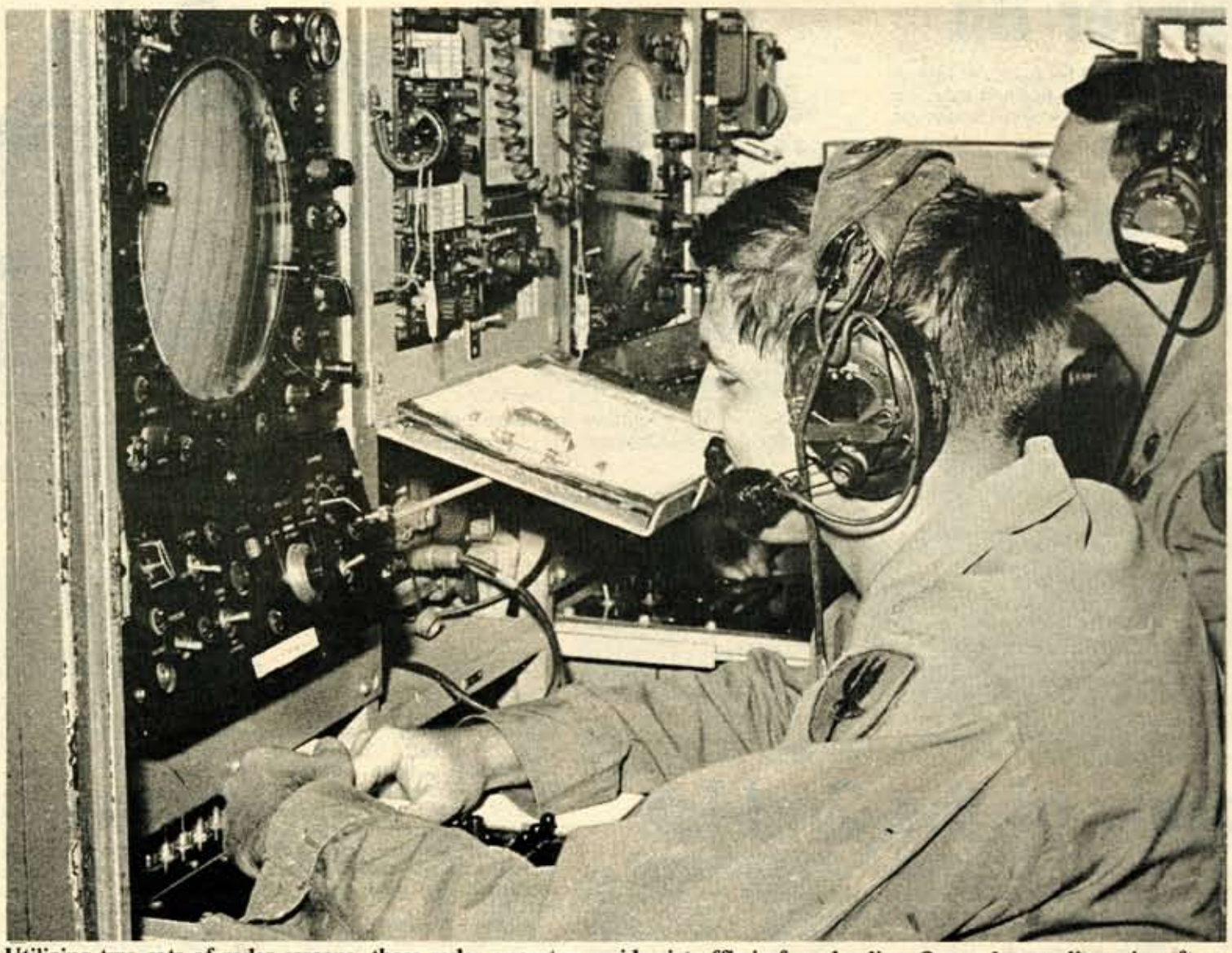
Coming in for special praise was Specialist Slaughter, the baker, who keeps the mess line stocked with hot rolls, cakes, pies and a special spice cake.

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

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

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

327th Aviation Detachment airtraffic



Utilizing two sets of radar screens, these radar operators guide airtraffic in for a landing. One radarman lines aircraft up with the runway while the other adjusts altitude for the setdown.

By SGT Bill Lake

FSB BRONCO (11th INF BDE IO) - "Guide, Follow Safety"--the unit motto of the 327th Aviation Detachment is a fitting description of the unit s members who keep airtraffic at this 11th Infantry Brigade firebase moving. Handling an average of 14,000 landings a month, and sometimes as many as 22,000, the 22 members operating the Duc Pho Army Airfield can boast that they have never had an accident due to airtraffic control.

"Our basic job is safety,' stated airfield commander Lieutenant Colonel Don Willey, Athens, Ga.. ' and safety enters into the three daily landings of C-123s, and our control of all the helicopters that utilize the 19 helipads on this firebase.'

Utilizing two sets of radar during heavy airtraffic reduces that chance of a mid-air collision in the five nautical miles for which the field is responsible. "One radar operator brings aircraft into alignment with the airstrip while the other guides them in for the landing," explained Specialist Four Mark Grube Grants Pass, Ore. Continued Specialist Grube, ' Our main problem is directing aircraft around artillery and bringing them down during the monsoon season. We have a switch on the radar that eliminates a lot of the rain from the screens and we can sometimes utilize landing from either end of the strip to miss artillery."

The radar at the Duc Pho airfield is capable of covering 80 miles but generally it monitors a 25 mile radius. If weather conditions deem it neccessary the radar can carry traffic to Chu Lai.

"Another device we have to increse safety over the airfield is the Interrigator, Friend or Foe (IFF)." stated Staff Sergeant John Sargent, Wheeling, W.Va. "This is an electronic device which operates on a mutual frequency with an aircraft that wants to land. To eliminate mistaking the landing aircraft with others in the near vicinity the IFF system makes the object aircraft appear larger on radar."

The 5th Weather Squadron, a detachment of the USAF is also an intergral member of the air-safety team at the airfield. Giving weather observations every hour or every 15 minutes if neccessary, the squadron lets controllers in the tower know how the wind and weather are going to affect landings or take-offs.

"The direction of all our airtraffic is determined by the wind ' explained Sergeant Sargent. We try to land all aircraft into the wind to increase stability.' '

As each airplane and helicopter pilot approaches the airstrip, he can do so with the knowledge that it is safe for a landing. The margine of safety can be attributed to the equipment, the standards, and dedication of the men who operate the airfield.

After giving clearance for takeoff, this airtraffic controller at the Duc Pho Airfield watches a C-123 speed past the tower.

Taxiing in after a perfect landing, this C-123 has this rada thank for assisting in the safe landing.

controllers of Duc Pho

A C-123 lifts off the runway on one of the passenger flights that leave Duc Pho daily. Only one aircraft is cleared for landing or takeoff at a time.

Story and photos by Sergeant Bill Lake

unit and the men who operate it to

A "Dolphin" utility helicopter passes in front of the Duc Pho Airfield after being cleared to land at one of the 19 helipads on the 11th Infantry Brigade firebase.

All three brigades uncover large basecamps

(continued from page 1)

camp.

Confiscated from the enemy base camp were 4,500 pounds of rice, 40 pounds of assorted medical supplies, five NVA ruck sacks and one AK-47 rifle.

The next day the "Gimlets" of the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry, killed three VC who walked into their defensive position west of Tam Ky.

Later in the week Company D engaged 10 NVA in thick jungles northwest of Tam Ky. The infantrymen called in gunships to assist. A later sweep of the area revealed two NVA dead.

In areas southwest of Tam Ky, Company C, 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry while on a search and clear mission found graves containing three NVA, dead approximately seven days.

Company D scored on two more NVA with small arms fire later in the week capturing one AK-47 in the process.

Geneva Park

Early in the week H Troop, 17th Cavalry, moving into a village on foot, engaged and killed five VC as the enemy attempted to evade the cavalrymen's search. "When my men entered the village," said Captain Oliver Croom, Garland, N.C., troop commander, "the enemy tried to evade. But we got five before they could make it to a nearby treeline." The troopers also destroyed a mortar pit in the action.

The same day, Echo Recon, 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry, observed three VC moving west of Quang Ngai City. The "Ready Rifles" killed two and continued maneuvering. A shortime later, the Recon element spotted two more VC and killed them.

The next morning Charlie Company, while working in a heavily vegetated area southwest of Chu Lai, discovered a large enemy basecamp. The complex contained 10 bunkers, each having two or three entrances. There were also 50 fighting positions on a 300 yard stretch of trail leading to the camp. The infantrymen destroyed the entire complex.

The same day an aerial observer from the 1st Battalion, 14th Artillery, observed two VC on the ground below. The gunner opened up with automatic weapons to kill both.

The next day Bravo Company, 123rd Aviation Company inserted an aerial rifle platoon south of Chu Lai which found and killed five VC.

In mid-week action a long range reconnaissance patrol from G Company, 75th Rangers, on a mission northwest of Quang Ngai, discovered a battalion sized basecamp. The camp consisted of 130 to 180 bunkers, each containing a two man fighting position.

The next day the Rangers still working northwest of Quang Ngai engaged and killed three enemy and captured 45 bags of salt and 80 kilos of rice.

To conclude action for the week Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry maneuvering in an area northeast of Quang Ngai, spotted four VC moving across a rice paddy. The "Regulars" fired on the enemy with automatic weapons killing one.

Iron Mountain

Early in the week Recon, 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry discovered a massive bunker complex on a search and clear operation in the mountains southwest of Duc Pho. The complex consisted of 30 bunkers which were well camouflaged and had overhead cover. From 50 to 70 fighting positions were evident throughout the complex which was fortified with 16-inch logs.

The next day while working in the lowlands north of Duc Pho, Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry engaged an estimated six VC in a treeline. Three of the enemy were killed in the engagement and three AK-47s and one grenade were confiscated following the action.

The same day the "Sharks" of the 174th Aviation Company accounted for five VC killed in action in the lowlands northwest of Duc Pho.

In the middle of the week Company C, 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry discovered a 300 pound rice cache in the lowlands northwest of Duc Pho. The rice was found buried in a 55 gallon drum in an out hooch.

The next day Company D netted two VC with a stay behind ambush at their old NDP in the lowlands northwest of Duc Pho. Two AK-47s were confiscated in the engagement.

Concluding the week's action the "Sharks" of the 174th Aviation Company observed and engaged four NVA. Two of the enemy were killed in the action.

These men of Charlie Battery, 3rd Battalion, 82nd Artillery fire and reload a 105mm howitzer. The crew chief stands by to give further instructions. The battery is located on LZ Siberia.

(Photo by SP5 Rush Wood)

Mortarmen support Kham Duc

By PFC Guy Winkler

KHAM DUC (AMERICAL IO) – "Two gun, I have data. Prepare to copy." "This is two gun, roger, send it." "Direction two seven, zero, zero, deflection one, three, zero, seven, charge three two and three eighths, elevation one, zero, six, five. Gimme an up when you are ready." "This is two gun, roger we're up." "Gimme a hang it." "Roger, two gun hang it." "Gimme a shot." "Roger, shot out!"

A mortar gun from the mortar platoon of Echo Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry, 196th Infantry Brigade takes firing data from the Fire Direction Control (FDC) operating at Kham Duc. In support of light infantry companies operating outside the perimeter at the kham Duc airstrip, the mortarmen play an important role in keeping the enemy occupied.

Firing an average of three missions per day and scheduled fires during the night, the mortarmen's mission is a 24 hour job at Kham Duc. It requires promptness, precision and a skill from all men operating the 4.2 inch and 81mm guns. It's also an effective job as countless enemy soldiers would attest if they could.

Private First Class Richard Cardinal, Anoka, Minn., is an ammo bearer for one of the mortar guns at Kham Duc. It's his job to drop the charge in the barrel for eventual delivery to the enemy. "It can be a pretty risky job," he says. "The only thing you've really got to watch out for is to make sure your head is out of the way way when the charge is out."

The most responsible job of the mortar is that of the gunner. It's his job to set the gun on the stakes and set the data on the site so the round will hit its designated target.

After each mission, the tube is swabbed and cleaned for the next mission. All men work together from the minute the initial data call is given to the last rub of oil on the tube. And all stand by within shouting distance for the next mission.

He likes baggy pants

By PFC Richard Campbell

LZ HAWK HILL (196th INF BDE IO) – For Private First Class James Brendall, Albers, Ill., of the 196th Infantry Brigade, army trousers fit just fine–just make his large and baggy.

Private Brendell, a rifleman with Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry was posted as a security guard around a small village west of Tam Ky as his unit conducted a search of the hooches for enemy supplies.

Suddenly atuomatic weapons fire rang out from the adjacent woodline and Brendell dove behind the nearest cover, a fallen tree trunk.

"As the rounds whizzed over my head, I felt a burning sensation on the lower part of my right leg," remembered Private Brendell. "I though I might have been hit, but I couldn't see any blood."

After the enemy sniper had been quieted, Private Brendell sat up and took a closer look at the sensative area.

"I really couldn't believe my eyes," recalled Private Brendell, "but there were two bullet holes on each side of my right pants leg just below the knee. Two rounds in the initial volley of enemy fire had cut cleanly through my fatigue pants, leaving my skin slightly blistered."

He later admitted that his pants were a trifle large for him. But size is a secondary consideration for any infantryman in the field when a laundry bag of clean clothes comes out on a resupply chopper.

"I can remember the other guys joking about how big my pants were when I put them on," he said. "But from now on I'll take a baggy pair any day. They didn't actually keep me from getting hurt, but they may have brought me good luck."

Textbook trap tallies four

By SGT Thomas C. Elmer

LZ BAYONET (198th INF BDE IO) – In a combined operation south of Chu Lai, H Troop, 17th Cavalry, 198th Infantry Brigade, working with three Popular Force Platoons maneuvered in textbook fashion to trap and kill three Viet Cong, and capture several weapons and munitions. Later in another area, another platoon of the troop received one rallier who turned over one AK-47 and other miscellaneous items.

"We had moved out early in the morning to search the hamlet," said Captain Oliver L. Croom, Garland, N.C., troop commander. "Several hundred meters from the hamlet we met two Vietnamese boys who told us there were Viet Cong there."

Captain Croom instructed his second platoon to approach the hamlet from the north, while the first platoon moved in from the south. The point elements were to converge on the west while the Popular Force platoons and several cavalrymen swept through the village from the east moving toward the converging elements.

"When the men started sweeping through the hamlet," said Sergeant First Class Nemour P. Egana Sr., New Orleans, maintenance sergeant with the second platoon. "The Viet Cong tried to evade and ran straight into the second platoon. Seeing the cavalrymen, the enemy then fled in the opposite direction and ran into the first platoon."

One of the Viet Cong, realizing there was no way out of the perfectly executed trap, opened up on the first platoon with an AK-47. The cavalrymen returned fire with automatic weapons and killed three VC as the enemy attempted to evade across a rice paddy.

The cavlrymen then dismounted their tracks and policed up six CHICOM grenades, two AK-47 rifles, three AK-47 magazines, one carbine with two magazines, and several bags of medical supplies.

Meanwhile, the third platoon working 1500 meters to the west, received one rallier.

These cavalrymen are shown getting final clearances and instructions prior to moving out on a mission near LZ Hawk Hill. They are members of the 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry.

This Indian maiden's form proves the Madison Avenue adage that "It's what's up front that counts." Carol Willis is part Cherokee and since exposing her luscious figure in last month's Playboy, there have been hordes of admirers knocking at her teepee. But as gentle as she appears, the 21-year-old beauty has an ample supply of arrows in her delightful quiver and a suitor with the wrong appraoch, could find himself with a pale face...wouldn't that be a pleasant way to get shafted?

(Photo courtesy Playboy Magazine)

Battalion commander rescues downed 'Shark' chopper crew

By SP4 Kenneth B. Parry

FSB 4-11 (11th INF BDE IO) – With a gunship down and enemy nearby, a battalion commander, Lieutenant Colonel Roger A. Culbertson, Longview, Wash., of the 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry made the crucial decision to attempt a rescue with his command and control (C&C) helicopter. The rescue was successful, but to make room on the C&C ship, the Colonel and his operations officer, Captain Robert Graham, Parchogue, N.Y., had to remain with the downed gunship.

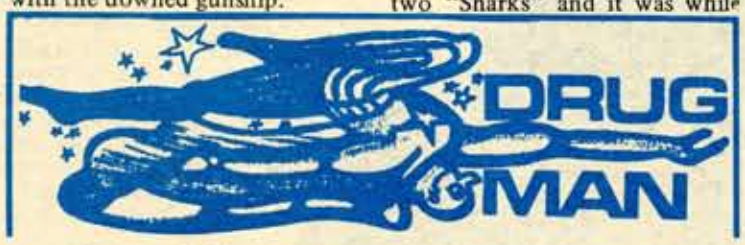
Earlier, two "Shark" gunships from the 174th Aviation Company (Assault Helicopter), flying in support of the 11th Infantry Brigade, returned the fire of five enemy personnel they had detected while on routine patrol 15 miles northwest of Duc Pho. On a resupply mission at the time, Colonel Culbertson used his C&C ship to airlift a nearby element of Company C closer to the initial area of contact. The enemy's automatic weapons fire continued to be directed at the two "Sharks" and it was while making a low pass over the target area that one of the gunships burst into flames.

Within minutes the Colonel's helicopter was on the scene and soon afterward, Captain Graham, along with First Lieutenant Bill Brumley, Dallas, Specialist Four Leroy Wilson, Lottsburg, Va. and the ship's two door gunners, Privates First Class Abbey and Woodard were placing the casualties on board.

With the nearest friendly element over 800 yards away, Colonel Culbertson and Captain Graham elected to remain on the ground so that the entire crew might be evacuated. Armed only with their pistols and a radio, the two officers waited nearly twenty minutes before Sergeant Stephen Ridnour, Linwood, Wash., and members of the fourth platoon reached their location. Reflecting on the situation, Captain Graham commented, "I only hoped the Colonel was a better shot with the .45 than I."

A sweep of the gunships original area of contact revealed one VC dead, medical supplies, and one AK-47.

Preparing to load an eight inch gun, this crew from D Battery, 1st Battalion, 82nd Artillery work in a mechanized way to fire their gun.
(Photo by SP4 Gerard Paulin, 523rd Sig Bn)



Tells it like it is . . .

How much marihuana is being used in this country?

The use of marihuana is increasing. In a recent nationwide survey, 4 percent of those queried responded affimatively to the question, "Have you ever used marihuana?" That would mean that more than 8 million people have tried the drug. Twelve percent of the young people indicated that they have tried it. Exact statistics are difficult to obtain because of the legal penalties.

In college surveys, two-thirds of those who said that they had tried the drug did so less than a dozen times. Another quarter are occasional users, and the rest–less than 10 percent–may be considered daily or heavy users.

Why are so many adolescents experimenting with marihuana now?

This is because marihuana is "in". Peer group pressures have led many to try "pot". Some use it as an act of defiance. Some are curious. While most adolescents do not continue using the drug, 5 to 10 percent be come heavy, daily users.

How are teenagers introduced to marihuana?

In general, adolescents are introduced to marihuana by others in their group. There is little evidence to confirm the belief that "pushers" need to "turn on" a novice. His "friends" do it for him.

Heavy marihuana users may go on to more dangerous drugs as a results of group pressures or of their own volition. Occasionally, a "pusher" will persuade the buyer to try a more dangerous drug.

How does marihuana get onto the black market?

Although truckload lots are sometimes detected, most marihuana smuggling and sales are small-time operations of a few pounds or less. Organized criminal syndicates have not been involved to date. About 80 percent of the marihuana comes in from Mexico. The rest is acquired locally.

POL keeps Americal running

By PFC Guy Winkler

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) – Flying over treacherous territory in the AO can be hazadous...but not nearly as hazardous as running out of fuel in an unfriendly situation.

The Army personnel at the Petroleum Point (POL) in Chu Lai make sure that incidents like that do not occur. It's their job to keep an ample supply of aviation gas (AVGAS), regular gas (MOSGAS), jet fuel (JP-4) and diesel on hand for distribution throughout the Division. But where does all this gas come from? How is it transported to Chu Lai, the intitial receiving point?

Tanker ships which shuttle up and down the coast of Vietnam from various sources in the southeast and the US carry the fuel essential to armed forces in Vietnam. US Naval tankers from Singapore and the states carry the fuel to Chu Lai where they anchor off the coast.

However, before the fuel is allowed to be pumped, samples must be obtained and tested for impurities at the testing laboratory on shore. When the ship reaches the point of cargo outlet, technicians from the lab go out to the tanker to secure the samples of each fuel and bring them back for a series of tests.

Using two eight-inch diameter steel pipe lines attached from the receiving point on shore to the ship, the fuel is pumped underwater at a rate of between 65 and 75 gallons per hour under 90 pounds per square inch of pumping pressure generated by the tanker.

The POL point in Chu Lai is at the 525th Quartermaster Company, first platoon which operates 28 fuel storage tanks.

The daily average issué of fuel from the POL at Chu Lai for AVGAS is 7,000 gallons. For MOGAS, it's about 30,000 gallons; diesel, 63,000 and JP-4, 2000,000 gallons.

Appearing to be a large oil refinery similar to the petroleum companies in the states, the Chu Lai POL has many features of a huge complex. The smell of gas accompanies the maze of towering tanks and men working at various points in the complex. In coordination with naval tanker personnel, the fuels are tested, received and stored for use to keep the traffic moving in the Americal.

Chinooks build instant LZ

By CPT James C. Semanek

CHU LAI (16th CAG IO) – How many times in the Division's area of operations can you look up to a rugged hilltop and spot a group of bunkers surrounding 105s? Perhaps you have wondered just how all that equipment and those people got up there. After a moment of speculation, discarding the notion that they "just did," you arrive at the logical conclusion that someone put them there, like a CH-47 Chinook.

The LZ originates in the minds of "higher, higher," as aviators call the ground commander, and the plan usually is not made known until the morning it is implemented.

Creating a new LZ in one day is a job that requires much planning and paper work before it ever gets off the ground. First of all, based on the needs of the ground troops and location of the enemy, a suitable area is chosen as the site for the fire base. Second, units involved are prepared for movement and times and location for pick-up are determined. Finally, with loads carefully selected in order of need at the LZ, the Hooks arrive to carry the men and equipment to their new home.

Within a few hours the barren hilltop begins to change as room is made for the people and supplies. By noon the artillery has been brought in and made functional and the ammunition is beginning to stack up. The infantry has established the perimeter and is prepared to protect the artillery personnel. After lunch the Hooks are at work again and by mid-afternoon the LZ is complete.

Now, where only hours before an uninhabited hilltop existed, there complete functional part of the Americal team. A new LZ has been born thanks to those noisy wind makers, the CH-47 Chinooks.

A CH-47 Chinook lowers a sling load of ammo for 155mm howitzers as the helicopters are busy hauling in the supplies neccessary to build an instant LZ.
(Photo by SP5 A. C. Barnett)

Mass 'Red' attack repelled by 4th-3rd

By SGT Robert Daniels

FSB SAN JUAN HILL (11th INF BDE IO) – A unit from the 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry recently came under an intense ground attack from an unknown size enemy force while securing a temporary fire support base, located 15 miles northwest of Duc Pho.

Enemy movement in the area had been intense during the initial establishment of the fire support base. "It was about noon one day when the "Reds" got on line and cut off the medical platoon from the remainder of the security forces," said Platoon Sergeant Willie Morgan, Colorado Springs, Colo.

Captain Lawrence Wan, Hong Kong, battalion surgeon, immediately consolidated his defense and rapidly held a briefing to plan the counter-assault phase. "The enemy had already secured an area to the immediate front of the medical platoon's bunker," said Sergeant Morgan.

Captain Wan decided that it would be best to use gasoline to drive back the massive wave attack. But a series of counter-attacks failed to push the enemy off the terrain they had secured earlier that day.

Realizing the ineffectiveness of the DDT, Captain Wan immediately threw down his gasoline drum and began to fight the "Reds" foot-to-body. However the red ants were equally persistant and retreated deep into the mound refusing to be driven from their home.

For his skill and daring in the "Battle for Red Mound," the medical platoon has decided to award Captain Wan a plaque for service above and beyond the call of duty.