PSYOP Team Hits Beach, Loses Mudfight

By SGT
ALFRED ANTHONY JR.

SON TRA—"From the boat it looked friendly as Coney Island, but landing there turned out to be as rough as Normandy on D-Day," said 198th Inf. Bde. PSYOPS team leader, SGT Robert L. Hilliard (Newport News, Va.), referring with tongue in cheek to his most recent pacification mission on the banks of the Tra Bong River, six miles southeast of Chu Lai.

The psychological warriors had tied their two Ski Barges — small and quick craft for negotiating narrow waterways — to a post about fifty meters off shore. Down the beach, the village fishermen were drying their nets on the sand.

Plan Broadcast

"We planned our afternoon mission here to cover the land area by radio relaying a broadcast from our boats to an O2-B aircraft equipped with speakers," said CPT Banta York (Sumter, S.C.). "Then we planned to deliver some newspapers to the people on shore."

The PSYOPS team approached the shore where Vietnamese youngsters frolicked in the shallow water. "We'd been here a few times before," said SP4 Carl E. Perkins (Louisville, Ky.) driver of the security boat, "but we never had to fight for the beach before."

Underwater Escape

The "fighting" referred to by the Americal soldier started when the youngsters — with mischief in their eyes — noticed the approaching Americans.

When team leader Hilliard and Perkins swam to shore, they were greeted by 50 unclad children. It seemed the tall American swimmers were just the impetus the crafty children needed to pull off a company-sized "raid" on the 198th soldiers.

Hilliard beckoned to Perkins on the far left and an accompanying Army correspondent in the center to take the better part of the swim underwater.

"Each time we would come up for air the kids would splash a little, then retreat laughing onto the beach," said Hilliard. "We got into shallow water one or two feet deep, but kept on our stomachs, planning to stand up quickly at the last minute if the kids charged us," he added.

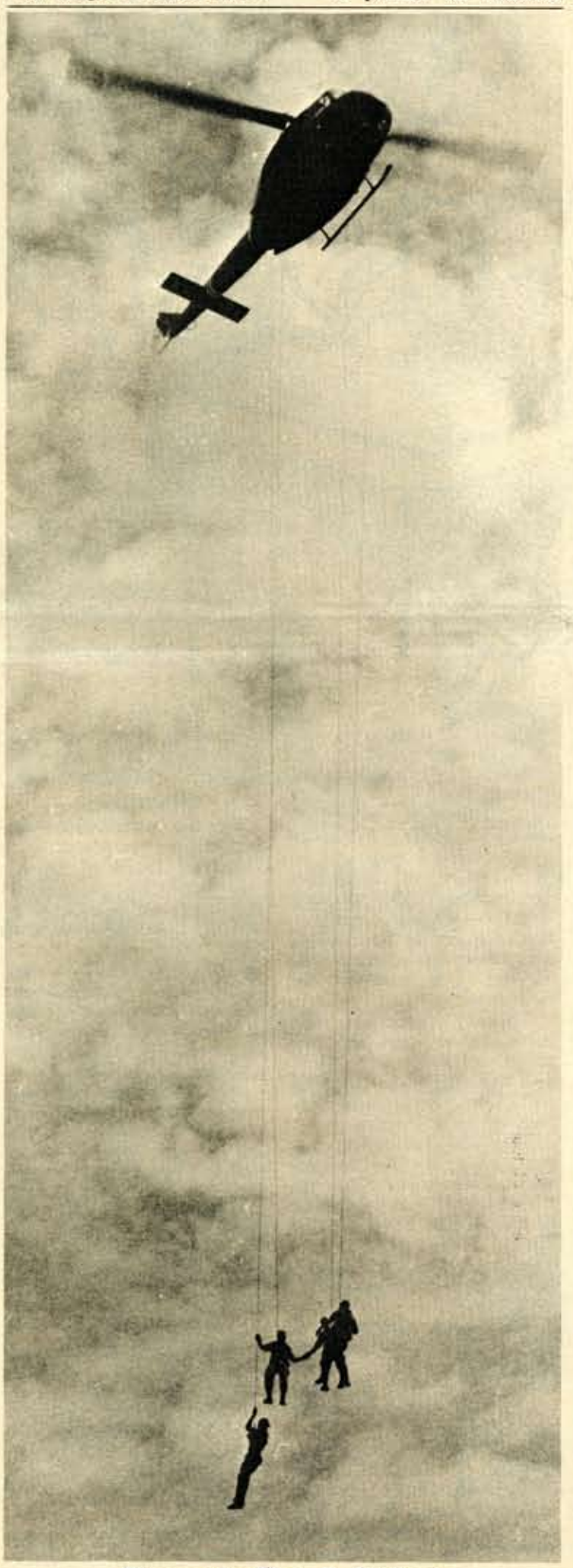
And the children of Son Tra village did charge, using laughter as their loudest war cry.

Armed with harmless handfuls of sand, the children bellowed joyously upon seeing the three soldiers take refuge in deeper water. "Again we went under," said Hilliard, "and this time when we came up they were lobbing in the 'heavy stuff.' " The Vietnamese had gone in waist deep and were packing the soft, grey mud of the river bottom into some incredibly accurate dirt bombs.

Kids Triumph

"The children obviously held the upper hand," said CPT York, viewing the battle from his boat through binoculars. Finally after three more attempts at taking the beach — and three more retreats — the "Brave and Bold" soldiers "chieu hoied" to the friendly Vietnamese.

With arms raised and SSG Thieu, an ARVN PSYOPS interpreter, calling words of surrender over the boat's loudspeaker, the children of Son Tra took the PSYOPS men captive and heartily received the Vietnamese newspapers which the Americans had come to give the villagers. (198th IO)



Puppets On A String

A Huey helicopter is pulling all the strings as rangers from G Co. 75th Inf., learn how to use the rope and pulley device that may be just the thing needed to extract reconnaissance teams from enemy invested areas. This test took place over the South China Sea near Chu Lai. (Photo by SP5 Thomas Maus, Americal IO)

SOUTHERN CROSS
AMERICAL DIVISION

Vol. 2, No. 18 Chu Lai, Vietnam July 30, 1969

Americal Captive Alive, Snatched From NVA Camp

CHU LAI—A daring combat assault-rescue executed by Vietnamese and U.S. units freed a seriously wounded Americal soldier from the NVA in a mountainous region 17 miles southwest of Tam Ky. The rescue mission evolved from information received from a Hoi Chanh resulting in the formation of a combat assault team that included a reconnaissance element from the 5th ARVN Regt., 2nd Div., and a Regional Force company. They were transported near the NVA hospital complex by helicopters of the 1st Bde., 101st Airborne Div., under operational control of the Americal.

Ground forces led by the Hoi Chanh moved 1500 meters through oppressively hot jungle and found the enemy location and began to search for SP4 Larry D. Aiken, 20 (Jamaica, N.Y.). An Americal forward observer on the ground with the ARVNs said the Vietnamese had moved about 300 meters up a stream when Aiken was spotted.

A helicopter piloted by MAJ Gary F. Dolan (Savannah, Ga.) from B Trp., 2nd Sqdn., 17th Cav. was called in and hovered above the trees.

Descend From Chopper

A Vietnamese Army volunteer was then lowered from the chopper in a McGuire rig, a device with leg loop, ropes, and a wooden yoke attached to the craft and operated by a pulley-like attachment. He was followed by PFC Robert Bohler (Austin, Tex.), a doorgunner on the ship, who rappelled to the jungle by means of a single rope.

The wounded trooper was swiftly placed on the Huey and evacuated to the emergency room at the 91st Evac. Hosp. in Chu Lai. He was treated by Dr. (MAJ) Michael E. Carey (West Hartford, Conn.) and Dr. (CPT) Ronald E. Bush (Stockport, Ohio).

"The NVA hospital was naturally camouflaged beneath tall, thick, bushy trees," said 1LT William E. Colvin (Spartanburg, S.C.), a forward observer with the 1st Bn., 14th Arty., attached to the Vietnamese for the operation. "There were about 10-15 huts with a massive underground tunnel complex beneath, it was impossible to see from the air," LT Colvin added.

Both the lieutenant and his radio-telephone operator, SP4 Raymond Colson (Randle, Wash.) had joined the ARVNs at Tam Ky and were in the first lift when they descended on the jungle LZ.

Combined Operation

During the entire operation, Air Force forward air control planes were slowly circling overhead, ready to call devastating artillery and jet strikes if needed.

"This maneuver was initiated by the Quang Tin Province Chief, COL Hoang Binh Tho, and developed into a combined operation involving Vietnamese, U.S. Air Force, and Americal forces," said MG Lloyd B. Ramsey (Somerset, Ky.). "It is a fine example of the resourcefulness and iniative of the Vietnamese government and military units in accomplishing a difficult and dangerous mission," he added.

Captured in Battle

Combat veteran Aiken, who entered the Army on June 12 last year and arrived in Vietnam on Nov. 9, was taken prisoner during the vicious Battle of Nui Yon Hill, three miles southwest of Tam Ky on May 13. His unit, the 2nd Plt. of C Co., 3rd Bn., 21st Inf., 196th Inf. Bde. was engaged by an estimated NVA company while on a search and clear mission.

A team of six men, including Aiken, was providing security while his company maneuvered into position. The NVA eventually were routed by Americal and 2nd ARVN Div. forces, though Aiken was listed as missing in action.

Re-ups For $8,000

LZ BRONCO—Two hours after he reenlisted, SP4 Iam R. Mcleish (Ludlow, Mass.), formerly with the 3rd Bn., 1st Inf., walked out of the division finance office with a smile and $8,155 richer.

In addition to the tax-free Variable Reenlistment Bonus (VRB) and a 30-day leave, Mcleish received immediate reassignment of his choice and is now a helicopter repairman with the 176th AHC.

Previously, Mcleish, who plans to make the Army a career, had worked as a cook, but he had a primary MOS of a helicopter repairman. The senior 11th Bde. career counselor, SFC Ed Crawley (Waycross, Ga.), carefully outlined the benefits to Mcleish before he enlisted for the highest VRB ever paid a "Jungle Warrior."

To be eligible for the VRB, a man must have 21 months active service time behind him. If his MOS falls under one of four categories, he is paid his base pay times the number of years he reenlists times his VRB designator, determined by his MOS, plus one. (11th IO).

Religion And You

Chaplain Anniversary

BY CHAPLAIN (LTC) JACK C. RANDLES
Acting Division Chaplain

On July 29, the Army Chaplaincy celebrated its 194th anniversary. The legal and official beginning of the Army Chaplaincy is to be found in a resolution of the Continental Congress adopted in 1775. A total of 179 clergymen, who can properly be called chaplains, have been identified with the period of the Revolution.

The number of chaplains serving in the Armed Forces from 1775 until today rises and falls according to national need. During World War II, almost 8,900 Chaplains served in active duty status with a maximum of 8,171 at any one time.

It is significant to note that the nation has never had to resort to conscription to secure enough chaplains for its needs. Every chaplain is a volunteer.

It is important to note that our country has never sent a soldier to any land without seeking to provide for that soldier's needs. The status of his morale, morals, and spiritual health is a matter of national concern. The presence of the chaplain with the soldier is indicative of that concern.

War is a grim desolating business. It can brutalize a nation, blunt its moral and spiritual perception. A portion of a Chaplain's work is to see that this is minimized for American Servicemen.

The history of the Chaplaincy goes beyond patriotism to dimensions of the spirit which so many are only beginning to seek and understand.

As I complete my tour of duty in Vietnam, I commend the chaplains of the Americal Division to you. They are men of God, men of immense professional skill, men of deep compassion and men who are available to be of service to you in any way within the bounds of right.

RE-UP! ARMY

Variety Of Good Jobs Available

Are you mechanically minded? Would you like to qualify for a new job here in Vietnam? Well the Americal Reenlistment Office has the answer for you. Some of the jobs available in the mechanical field are discussed in this article.

The fledgling construction engineer worker, as an assistant, learns to maintain, repair and operate heavy equipment such as graders, cranes, tractors, pumps and diesel engine components. He could use pneumatic and hand tools, felling trees or removing earth; his job site could be asphalt or concrete roads, railroads, railroad beds or airstrips.

Engineers

Training, experience, and aptitude might determine specialization in maintenance of construction and support type engineer equipment (powered bridging equipment, for example), or he may operate and repair self-powered machines used in concrete and asphalt surfacing operations, or his specialty might consist of operating and repairing earthmoving equipment. He may be assigned to hoist and transport heavy objects, and perform excavation with crane equipment, or as a quarryman, operate and repair self-powered machines used in crushing, grading, and cleaning rock and gravel, or digging wells.

He might install, maintain, and repair engineer equipment peculiar to missile systems, air conditioning units, missile elevators and related components.

Automotive Maintenance

This career field begins with several distinct MOS areas of auto mechanics. Besides the mechanic there is a fuel and electrical systems specialist.

Also concerned with internal-combustion engines is the track vehicle mechanic (who might also repair special wheeled or amphibious vehicles).

An allied but separate MOS field can be found in vehicle recovery. The specialist in this field performs recovery and evacuation operations for abandoned, damaged, or disabled vehicles.

Transportation

The motor transport field is divided into three phases. The operator of wheeled vehicles of less than 4½ tons; the driver who operates tractor-trailers and similiar heavy cargo vehicles; and the truckmaster or dispatcher, who controls and coordinates motor transport movements.

In the Army's aviation maintenance field the jobs include inspection, adjustment and maintenance of aircraft. MOS specialties can be found in single or multi-engine helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft.

How can you qualify for these jobs? Simply by contacting your career counselor. If you're in the "boonies" and cannot get in, drop a note in the mail and we will get out to see you!

SOUTHERN CROSS
AMERICAL DIVISION

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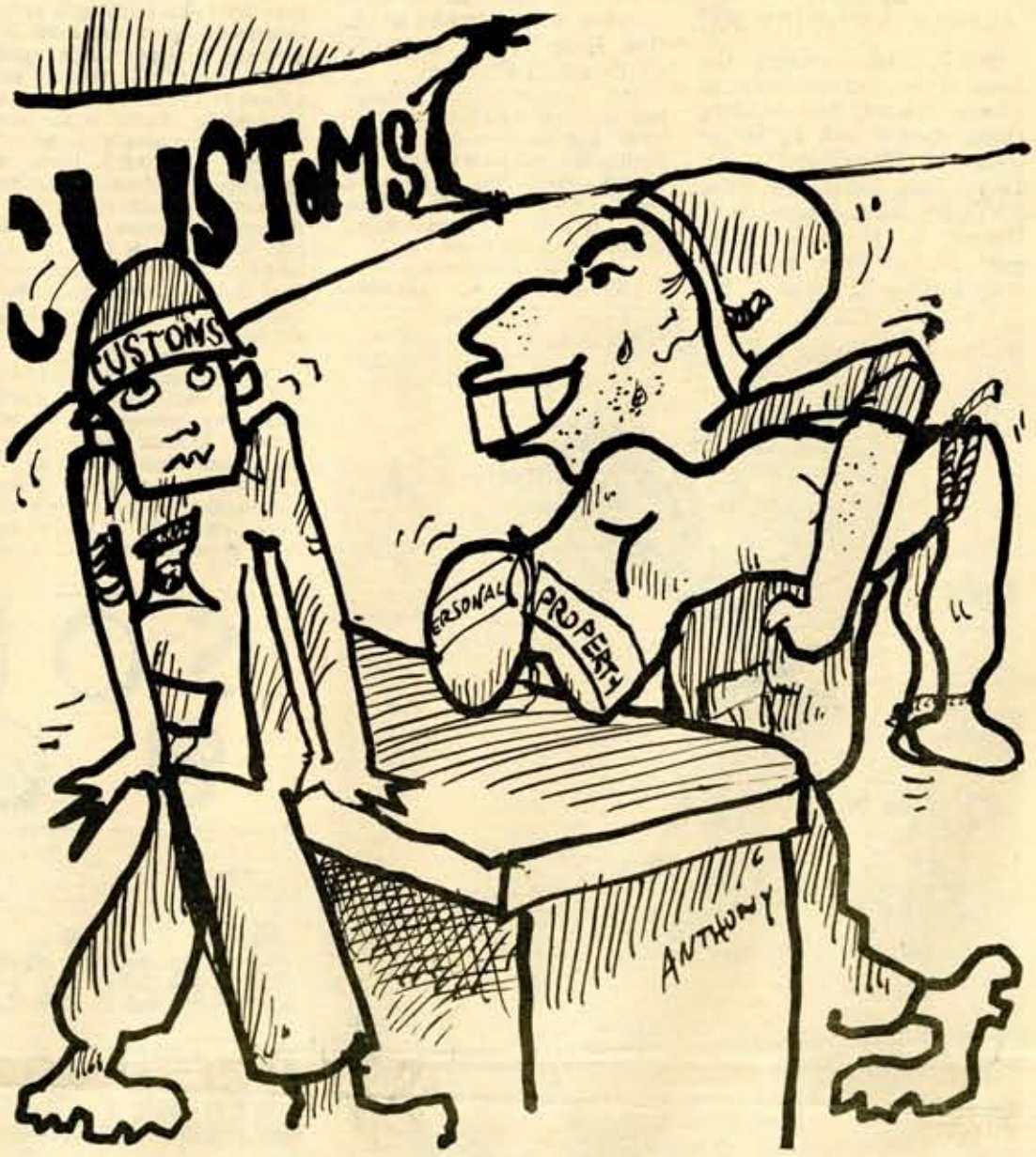
Customs Laws For You



By SP4
JAMES WM. BROWN

OK, you have expertly acquired a boxcar load of gadgets ranging from a 50-inch TV screen to VC boobytraps. You are ready to go home but first you must go through customs. Unless you are familiar with the law getting through customs may take a great deal of time, let's say your beard may turn snow-white and hang past your knees.

There are four exemptions to American personnel serving in Vietnam from customs duties. They are official, tourist, gift, and combat zone.

Anyone coming under official exemption must be employed by the Federal Government and returning to the U.S. under government orders at the close of an assignment from extended duty outside the territorial limits of the United States. In this case an individual may be allowed free entry of his personal and household effects, including automobiles.

All persons under tourist exemption who are returning residents are permitted duty free entry of certain articles provided the returnee has been out of the U.S. for at least 48 hours and has not used the exemption during the previous 30 days.

Gifts

Bona fide gift items are included in this exemption. Note carefully that the exemption is governed by the amount received in any one day. However, one may send gifts under a $10 value to more than one person.

Although gift packages are ordinarily sent by mail, any means of transport to the recipient is permissible as long as the articles pass through U.S. customs for clearance.

Military personnel who serve in a combat zone come under that exemption and are authorized to send bona fide gifts tax and duty free up to $50 value.

The $50 exemption applies only if the articles were purchased in or through authorized agencies of the Armed Forces of the United States. Articles purchased on the local economy are not included in this exemption.

The outer wrapping of such gifts will be inscribed with the following statement: "Bona fide gift—$50 exemption claimed under public law 89-368."

Also, the combat zone exemption is applicable to military personnel assigned to the combat zone while they are in a foreign country under the R&R program, as patients, on TDY, leave or while in transit to or from the combat zone assignment, if the articles are purchased in or through agencies of the U.S. Armed Forces.

Mailing from PACEX Mail Order in Japan is included in the exemption.

Restrictions

Certain prohibitions and restrictions are placed upon the four types of exemptions. Articles, particularly explosives or containers previously used for shipping high explosives having liquid ingredients, ammo, ordnance, weapons, lottery tickets, narcotics, obscene or treasonous printed matter, and switchblade knives are strictly prohibited.

Articles made in Communist China, North Korea, North Vietnam, or Cuba are not permitted to be imported into the states. Questionable items must be accompanied by a certificate of origin to substantiate the fact that the item did not originate in any of these countries.

Origin

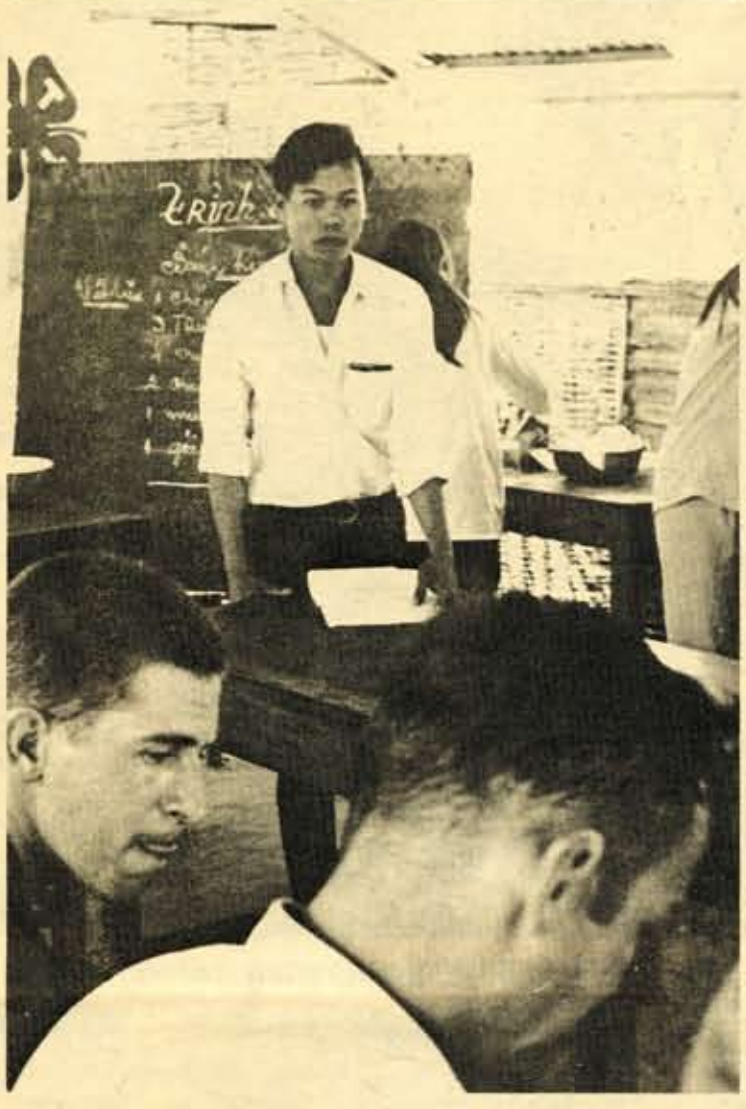
If the item is presented to customs without such a certificate it will be impounded. A Post Exchange bill of sale adequately describing the article is acceptable to U.S. Customs in lieu of a certificate of origin.

Remember that if you fail to comply with customs laws, you will be subject to penalties and the merchandise becomes subject to impounding. There is no need for you to get in trouble in this type of situation.

Vietnamese Economy Aided By Ag. Teams

By SP4 JAMES WM. BROWN

CHU LAI — It was a big switch from planning military tactics to shop-talk about farming, but a course in agricultural training hosted jointly by Vietnamese agricultural advisors from Quang Tin Province and the agricultural team of the Americal Division's 9th AA platoon, 29th Civic Affairs Company of Tam Ky was addressed by an Americal Division general.



Young president of the Tam Ky 4T club, a group of civic minded future leaders, discusses the club's mission. Projects include home economics and progressive farming techniques.
(Photo by PFC Timothy Vaughn, 523rd Sig. Bn.)

"We realize that our mission is usually of a different nature than what we are approaching today. But we cannot overlook or minimize the importance of this agricultural conference," said BG Wallace L. Clement, assistant division commander.

Quick Results

There are many advantages to agriculturally oriented projects: The speed at which results can be attained; the effect this field will have on the local economy; and the high probability that agricultural projects will continue after direct American support is terminated.

"I think this is an important program that will determine civic action's overall progress," said COL Hoang Dinh Tho the province chief of Quang Tin province.

"Our main efforts have been placed on animal husbandry and rice farming. We will be able to more effectively handle such things as building dams to supply enough water for the dry season, and the fishing industry will be improved by establishing facilities for covering a more lengthy sea territory," said COL Tho.

Common Goals

Mainly the course was to bring about more positive coordination between military agricultural advisors and their Vietnamese counterparts in working toward common goals set forth by government of Vietnam Agricultural Service.

The training program was finalized with an impressive tour to villages of Tam Ky and An Tan where numerous projects in animal husbandry, rice farming, and fish hatchery were viewed.

Future Leaders

A 4-T club composed of Vietnamese youths was visited by the advisiors. The 4-T clubs are comparable to stateside 4H clubs, their mission is to train future leaders. The youths are extensively involved in projects of farming and home economics.

"This agricultural training program has been a success. But it is only a beginning of a much larger program," said Mr. Michael J. Korin, an agriculture advisor with the Civilian Operators of Revolutionary Development Services (CORDS).

opment Services (CORDS).

(Americal IO)

Tam Ky 4T club members prepare cookies western-style, just one of many projects viewed by American and Vietnamese advisors during the joint agricultural conference held in Chu Lai, July 7-9.
(Photo by PFC Timothy Vaughn, 523rd Sig. Bn.)

Officer Teaches Class

Subject Is English

LY TIN — There were a dozen American military officials at a recent high school graduation here but to one of them the graduation meant more than a ceremony.

For 1LT Bruce Garrity (Westfield, Mass.), a signal officer for the 26th Engr. Bn., it was the end of his first teaching semester at the Vietnamese school near the Americal Division basecamp at Chu Lai.

The past four months he has spent from 12 to 20 hours a week teaching the Vietnamese elementary school students conversational English.

"There is a Vietnamese teacher who gives them the grammer, but we try to add the correct English pronunciation and dialect — something the Vietnamese have difficulty with."

Garrity taught the last two hours of a typical Vietnamese school day which lasts from 8:00 in the morning to 6:00 in the evening.

"These kids know a lot more English than you would imagine. Of course they've been around the American soldiers a lot." The awareness of some of the students, however surprised the young Army officer.

"I remember one day a 14-year-old boy told me that he thought that (Ted) Kennedy was going to run against (President) Nixon in 1972 and he thought that they must be enemies. I explained to him that they are not enemies but only political opponents."

Garrity who has eight months left in Vietnam wants to return next fall.

"After all," he says, "I'm learning from these kids, too. They've taught me as much Vietnamese as I'm teaching English." (198th IO)

'Charlie' Loses Another Camp

CHU LAI—The 1st Bde., 101st Airborne Div., working in the Americal's Operation Lamar Plain area 18 miles south of Tam Ky, uncovered an NVA basecamp consisting of 19 bunkers.

The camp found by B Co., 1st Bn., 501st Inf., in thick triple canopy jungle covered an area approximately 150 meters by 250 meters. Several miles of commo wire connected the bunker complex.

Equipment uncovered included three rifles, two 90mm recoilless rifle tubes with one tripod, seven sites for 82mm mortars and 90mm recoilless rifles, six pairs of binoculars, three periscopes, and a box of blasting caps. (Americal IO).

Agriculture Production Increases

CHU LAI — The Republic of South Vietnam is predominantly agricultural. About 75 percent of the estimated total population of 17 million consists of farmers and their families, most of them engage in the cultivation of rice.

In normal years production is sufficient not only to feed the population but to make rice exports the major foreign exchange earner.

Agricultural production rose steadily after the close of the Indo-China war in 1954. By 1959 crop levels in excess of those registered before World War II were being reported, and in subsequent years official statistics indicated only minor fluctuations from these high levels.

A substantial portion of the increase in agricultural output which took place after 1954 was the direct result of restoring to cultivation land abandoned during the war years.

Other factors include better methods of cultivation, improved water resources, use of chemical fertilizers in some areas and pest controls.

Agricultural development has been fostered by substantial foreign aid given by the United States Agency for International Development (AID) to finance a land reform program, the establishment of agricultural credit and various technical projects designed to increase production and introduce new crops.

By the 1960's serious attention was being given to agricultural diversification in an effort to improve the living standards of the farmer.

New agricultural techniques and high-yielding varieties of staple food crops have also been introduced through the agricultural extension services. (Americal IO)

PFC VICTORY W. HOWELL, 723rd Maint. Bn., son born June 11, Savannah, Ga. SP4 STEVEN SAVAGE, 4-21 Inf., daughter born June 16, Quincy, Mass. SP5 ROBERT WARNER, 723rd Main. Bn., daughter born June 18, Northhampton, Mass. 1LT TED M. KELLY, 2-1 Inf., daughter born June 18, SP4 STEVEN MOODY, 5-46 Inf., daughter born June 18, Everett, Washington. SP4 RONALD D. DUNNING, 5-46 Inf., daughter born June 18, Seattle, Wash. SP4 REGINALD ASPLT, HHC 11the Bde., son born June 18, Sawyer AFB, Michigan. PFC WILLIAM M. JONES, HHC, son born June 19, Flat River, Mo. 1LT KIRK SWENSON, HHC, son born June 19, Trenton, Neb. SP4 MICHAEL MANNING, Cbt. Center, son born June 19, Spencer, Iowa. FVT LEWIS WILSON, 26th Engr. Bn., daughter born June 19, Jacksonville, Fla. SGT THEODORE H. ROSOVICH, 3-1 Int., daughter born June 20, Tucson, Ariz. SP4 JUNILOR HELTON, 5-46 Inf., son born June 20, Wichita, Kan. SP4 IRA W. HARPER, 6-56 Arty., son born June 20, Savannah, Ga. PVT JOHN G. ONOFRYTON, F Trp., 17th Cav., daughter born June 20, Detroit, Mich. PFC ALVIN CORNELIUS, 39th Engr. Bn., daughter born June 20, New York, N.Y. SP4 TERRY E. GODFREY, 1-52 Inf., daughter born June 21, Tulsa, Okla. SGT CECIL G. SPENCER, 3-18 Arty., son born June 21, Jackson, Tenn. SGT DONALD M. MONTGOMERY, 523rd Sgn. Bn., daughter born June 21, Long Beach, Calif. SFC LARRY B. MARTIN, 723rd Maint. Bn., son born June 21, Ft. Polk, La. PFC FETER M. MORFOID, 1-52 Inf., son born June 22, Amsterdam, N.Y. SP4 ARTHUR S. PERKINS, 335th Trans. Co., daughter born June 22, Tuscon, Ariz. MAJ GEORGE A. INGLERIGHT, 4-3 Inf., daughter born June 23, Florance, Ala. SP4 EUGENE P. BECK, 295th Ord. Co., daughter born June 23, Columbus, Neb. SP4 RAYMOND L. NETTLES, 4-21 Inf., son born June 23, Palestine, Tex. SP4 JAMES W. THEFORD, 4-31 Inf., son born June 24, Hamilton, Tex. SP4 JAMES L. FINEFROCK, 174 Avn. Bn., son born June 24, Canton, Ohio. 1LT D. JOHNSON, 4-31 Inf., son born June 24, Dothan, Ala. SP4 BRUCE NOENNICH, 2-1 Inf., son born June 24, China Lake, Calif. PFC SCOTT A. BROMAN, 3-82 Arty., son born June 25, Rockford, Ill. SSG LARRY STIPE, 1-1 Cav., daughter born June 25, Temple, Tex. SP4 FREDDIE LEONARD, Cbt. Center, daughter born June 25, Altus, Okla. PVT LEE S. SCARBOROUGH, 59th IPSD, 11th Bde., daughter born June 27, Janesville, Wisc. SSG THURMAN VINCENT, 123rd Avn. Bn., son born June 27, Hopkinsville, Ky. SP4 RONALD F. LABRIE, 75th Inf., daughter born June 27, Beverly, Mass. PFC ELMER J. KELLY, 3-21 Inf., son born June 27, Kewanee, Ill. PFC LEONARD CLARK, 178th Aslt. Hel. Co., daughter born June 27, Chicago, Ill. SP4 STEPHEN K. HOENER, 126th S&S Co., daughter born June 29, Quincy, Ill. SGT DONALD R. RAHM, 55th Arty., daughter born June 30, Seattle, Wash. SP4 GLEN MCBEIGH, 14th Avn. Bn., son born June 30, Elyria, Ohio. PFC BARRY C. SMITH, 71st Avn. Bn., daughter born June 30, Beaumont, Tex. SP4 Richard Haskins, 1-4 Arty., daughter born July, Onawa, Iowa.

An advance element checks for booby-traps.

Azimuths are taken in preparation for arty. fire.

A Co. infantrymen begin the march to LZ 4-11 with cases of "Cs" slung over their shoulders.

New Firebase For 11th, ARVNs

A mid-morning combat assault by A Co., 3rd Bn., 1st Inf. swept across a scorching coastal plain to secure a new battalion firebase named LZ 4-11 atop a hill seven miles west of Quang Ngai City.

The hill, holding a commanding view of the surrounding area, sits on the edge of the battalion's new area of operation and will be the staging point for intensive pressure against local-force Viet Cong.

As the 11th Bde. soldiers struggled up the rocky, brush covered slope, they encountered numerous mines and booby traps along the crest of the hill. Employing a minesweeping device commonly used by combat engineers to clear roads, the soldiers found booby trapped grenades, 2.75 inch rockets, and a cannister full of napalm with a firing device planted in the ground.

"My men had to watch every step they made," said 2LT John F. Baxter (Gainesville, Fla.), first platoon leader. "It seemed as if there was a booby trap under every other bush."

Assigned to the preliminary work of securing and clearing the new LZ, A Co. began digging in and prepared a temporary helicopter pad for the first loads of suplies and equipment. The sound of bulldozers and road graders from C Co., 26th Engr. Bn. could be heard in the distance as they cleared a supply road from Quang Ngai City to the new firebase.

The landing zone's name was chosen to represent the cooperation between the 4th ARVN Regt. and the 11th Bde. The 3rd Bn., 4th ARVN Regt., and the 4th ARVN Tank Bn. have been working closely with the Americal units in that area to provide security for the engineers, and also secure the terrain around the site of the new LZ.

Story by
SP4 TONY SWINDELL
Photos by
SP4 STEVE TIPTON
11th Bde. IO

Coordination with 4th ARVNs begins immediately at LZ 4-11

'All aboard,' 3-1 soldiers load Chinooks to begin combat assault to the hill—and the new home.

Dog's Bark Helps 4-31 Find VC Camp

LZ BALDY — The barking of a stray dog provided the key for 196th Bde. infantrymen which unlocked a VC base camp and feeding station. Two VC were killed and an SKS rifle was captured in action involving the soldiers at the base of Nui Chom Mountain.

A platoon-sized patrol from C Co., 4th Bn., 31st Inf., under the command of 2LT James B. Simms (Clarendon Hills, Ill.) had moved to a fork in a winding mountain trail. As the infantrymen paused to decide which branch of the trail to follow, they heard a dog barking some distance down the left fork of the trail.

Moving foward to investigate, the patrol encountered a VC armed with an SKS rifle walking down the trail. He raised the rifle to fire, but before he could get off a shot, he came under a hail of fire from the 196th Bde., riflemen. The wounded VC dropped his weapon and evaded through some heavy brush.

A detailed search of the surrounding area revealed a VC base camp some distance off the trail. There were several hootches which provided sleeping positions for about 20 people.

A continued search of the area yielded a four-acre corn field. A quantity of corn and rice was also discovered in the base camp itself. The camp is believed to have been a feeding and resting station for VC/NVA troops operating in the area.

Late the following afternoon, the same platoon moved quietly back to the base camp in hopes of finding some of the enemy lingering in the area.

"As we moved in, we spotted two VC gathering up the wooden frames from the hootches," said 2LT Simms. "They tried to evade, but we got them before they got far." (196th IO)

Blast Off

To the VC with love. A mortar crew with the 196th Inf. Bde. serves up another explosive present for enemy soldiers hidden in the dense jungles northwest of Tam Ky.
(Photo by SP5 Donald W. Evanger, Americal IO)

Combat In Review

Powerful Duo

Ready to bring smoke on the enemy, two M-48 tanks from A Trp., 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav. plow through the sand dune country near LZ Fiddler's Green northwest of Tam Ky searching for signs of Viet Cong activity. (Photo by SP4 Michael Sullivan, 523rd Sig. Bn.)

Hoi Chanh Helps Soldiers

Large Rice Cache Uncovered

LZ BRONCO — The success of the Americal Division's Chieu Hoi Program was evident when an NVA turned himself in to 11th Bde. soldiers on LZ Liz, approximately three miles northwest of Duc Pho.

During the early morning as men of B Co., 1st Bn., 20th Inf. were manning the bunkers an NVA wearing a rucksack and carrying a Chieu Hoi pamphlet turned himself over to the "Jungle Warriors."

The two men in the bunker, SP4 Gerald Darling (Kennard, Ind.) and SP4 Thomas Dotegowski (Newark, N.J.), watched the man as he approached and saw that he was wearing some type of uniform under a poncho.

The Hoi Chanh said that he had been carrying rice the night before and had seen the lights on LZ Liz. He broke away from his group and moved toward the LZ but waited until dawn before approaching the bunker line.

Inside his pack was an eyepiece for a 75mm recoilless rifle. The Hoi Chanh said that he had brought the sight as a token of his sincerity.

The following morning the Hoi Chanh, eight personnnel from Military Intelligence and CPT George A. Durgin (Los Angeles), the assistant S-2, accompanied D Co., 1-20 on a combat assault into the area.

CPT Durgin said, "The hamlet was split into two sections, one of these being larger than the other. D Co. set up blocking forces around the large section, covering three sides, while the command and control helicopter watched the fourth side, an open area near a river.

The helicopter spotted one VC trying to evade and kept him pinned down until a squad from D Co. led by CPT James L. Shippy (Boise, Idaho), the commanding officer, and his radio telephone operator (RTO), PFC Rodger Dale Bice (Sacramento, Calif.), arrived at the site.

The evading VC had been wounded in the fire from the chopper, but he tried to evade when he saw CPT Shippy and PFC Bice coming towards him. In a brief exchange of fire, the VC was killed.

He was found to be carrying a batch of documents, and a 9mm pistol. Among the documents were certificates of awards, travel orders and political papers. Based on this information, CPT Durgin surmised, "He was either a political officer or a messenger."

Sweeping operations were conducted and the lead element of the company spotted another VC running into a large bunker. CPT Shippy and his RTO were again among the first on the scene and after a couple of frag grenades were thrown inside, PFC Bice took off his radio and got out a flashlight to enter the bunker.

Bice said, "I looked into the bunker and saw someone roll over. I had my .45 in front of me so I fired six times at the movement and then dragged the dead VC out of the bunker."

CPT Shippy threw a smoke grenade into the bunker hoping to flush the enemy out but to no avail. Frag grenades were thrown in next and Bice again crawled inside.

Not ready to face another armed VC, he took a piece of string and looped it over the end of the barrel of the still visible weapon and the men outside pulled a now useless .30 cal. carbine out. There were two more dead VC inside the bunker bringing the total to four.

By this time, the area had been cleared of the enemy and the "Sykes Regulars" detained five VC suspects who tried to evade the blocking forces.

Also captured were 700 ducks and ducklings that were turned over to the S-5 of the brigade. The section did not have the facilities for holding the fowl, so arrangements were made with the district office in Duc Pho for the distribution and care of the ducks.

In a short three-days time, two caches were uncovered and five VC were killed in what ended as one of the most successful operations involving a Hoi Chanh cooperating with the 11th Brigade soldiers. (11th IO)

VC Serenade Wasted On Infantry

By SP4 TONY SWINDELL

LZ 4-11 — It was a clear, peaceful night for the 11th Bde.'s A Co., 3rd Bn., 1st Inf. on their new firebase until the Viet Cong decided to hold an impromptu concert and propaganda broadcast for the Americal Division soldiers.

"It was about 9 or 10 p.m. when I began hearing the song 'Where Have All the Flowers Gone?,' " explained 1LT Lewis D. Adams Jr. (West Point, Ga.), artillery forward observer for A Co. "Then this voice came on, asking us why we were fighting in Vietnam. It was really strange because the voice was very clear and spoke in excellent English."

SP4 James Shelton (Raytown, Mo.), radio telephone operator for the company commander, continued the story. "The first song was 'Where Have All the Flowers Gone,' followed by 'Oh Suzanna' and 'North to Alaska.' As far as I could tell, the songs were original American versions.

"Then this guy started telling us to come over to his side and help get rid of the 'troublemakers' in Vietnam. He added that this was a special broadcast for all soldiers, officers, and ARVNs. They must have thought we had interpreters up on the hill because part of the time they spoke in Vietnamese."

While the company listened in wonderment to the music and broadcast, 1LT Adams called for artillery to silence the talkative Communist PSYOP team which he estimated 800 to 900 meters northwest of the firebase.

"I must have directed over 100 rounds into the area," commented 1LT Adams, "and I was sure that we must have either gotten them or at least scared them away. But as soon as the noise subsided and the smoke cleared away they were broadcasting again, chiding us for our poor marksmanship. They said if we didn't leave Vietnam we would be wiped out like we were in Korea. It was really something."

SP4 Shelton, who was listening closely to the broadcast and relaying what he heard to the battalion tactical operations center at LZ Bronco, added: "Whatever broadcasting system they were using was big to cover that distance so clearly. We think it was a portable PA outfit with a remote microphone so the VC could broadcast in a bunker or under cover safe from the artillery."

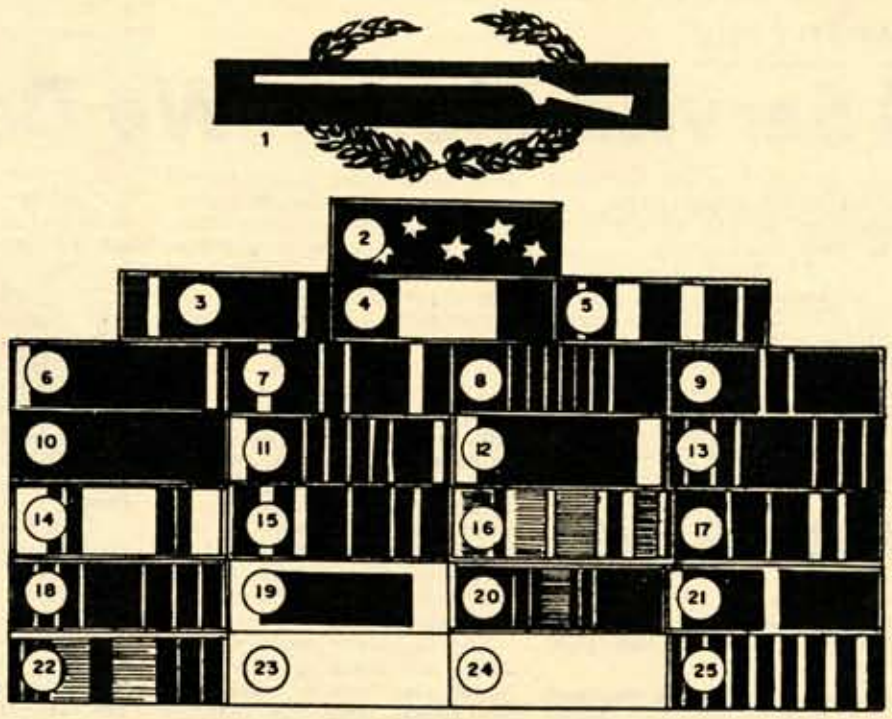
After about 15 minutes, the Vietnam-style disc jockey and propagandist ended his message apparently unharmed, but he would have been disappointed at the reaction from the amused soldiers. Several commented that the broadcast was "better than a show." (11th IO)

The pretty girl camped out in the boonies is pert Leanne Hayward, a lass from 'down under', but she's on top of one thing and would like to pass the word on about the beaucoup awards and decorations you've earned. "Wear them correctly, it's your work and sweat that earned them."

How To Wear Your Ribbons And Badges

1. Combat Infantry Badge
2. Medal of Honor
3. Distinguished Service Cross
4. Distinguished Service Medal
5. Silver Star
6. Legion of Merit
7. Distinguished Flying Cross
8. Soldiers Medal
9. Bronze Star Medal
10. Air Medal
11. Army Commendation Medal
12. Purple Heart
13. Good Conduct Medal
14. American Defense Service Medal
15. American Campaign Medal
16. *Asiatic-Pacific Campaign
17. *Europe-African-Mid East Campaign
18. World War II Victory Medal
19. Army of Occupation (Black is worn to the wearers right)
20. National Defense Service Medal
21. Korean Service Medal
22. Armed Forces Reserve Medal
23. Philippine Ribbons
24. Foreign Decorations
25. United Nations Service Medal
26. Parachutist Badge

* If European etc, came first, these two ribbons change places.



NOTES: 1. When National colors appear in the center of ribbons, the blue is worn to wearers right.

2. If Vietnam Service Medal is authorized, it is worn between 21 and 22 above.

3. If Vietnam Campaign Medal is authorized, it is worn as the last ribbon on the bottom to the wearers left.

4. Parachutist Badge will be worn ABOVE ribbons and medals when number 1, (CIB) is not authorized.

"FOR REENLISTMENT INFORMATION - SEE YOUR CAREER COUNSELOR TODAY!"

The order of precedence for wearing of decorations and service ribbons is illustrated to the left of this column. The order in which foreign awards are worn will be the order in which they are awarded (date) by different nations to the recipient. An example if foreign awards earned during World War II or the Korean War would place before those of any Free World Force for the Vietnam War, with one exception. When attending a formal ceremony in a foreign nation or a ceremony for a public official or distinguished citizen of a foreign nation, the decorations or service ribbons of that nation should preceded those of all other foreign nations as a matter of courtesy.

If more than one award from a specific foreign nation is worn, the order of precedence will be as established by that nation, highest ranking decoration first.

The order of precedence for decorations is from the WEARER's right to left. Most discrepancies occur because an individual is not wearing the uniform coat or shirt when he is attaching the ribbons and a reversal is then the case. A good rule to remember is that the highest ranking award is toward the right sleeve of the garment.

Also remember, foreign awards follow United States and United Nation ribbons in that order.

Scout Canines Keep Enemy In Doghouse

By SP5 DENNIS IRVINE

LZ BALDY—If the enemy thinks the 48th Scout Dog Platoon can't put the bite on them, they're barking up the wrong tree. The Army gave the unit's canines $6,000 worth of training to be doggone sure.

Sugar Pops Pete, Royal Pudding, Crazy Duke, Kaiser, Bullet, Lady, Max, Astor, Rodger, Thunder and the rest of the platoon's 21 German Shepherds provide "Dog Power" for the 196th Inf. Bde.

The scout dogs and their handlers walk point for "Charger" elements during combat operations in the field. The animals detect the air-borne enemy scent and act as a distant early warning system, alerting the unit to the enemy's position from 50 to 300 meters before contact.

Trained Sniffer

The dog's acute sense of smell is a gift of nature, but the rest of his performance as a sniffer and enemy detector comes from six months of intensive training at Ft. Benning, Ga., and weeks of drill in Vietnam.

The shepherds are housed in a kennel complex at the platoon's LZ Baldy base camp. A few of the canines, however, are kept in bunkers, a sandbagged dog house resembling a firing position scattered about the camp's perimeter.

During a recent enemy sapper attack here, while squads of NVA tried penetrating elsewhere, not one entered the canine sector. "They are deathly afraid of our dogs, and as long as we let the animals sleep on our perimeter, I guarantee not one enemy will attempt to penetrate our canine defenses," said SGT Paul D. Koss (Indianapolis), the platoon training NCO.

Old Bullet

Bullet is the strongest dog, oldest and longest veteran of combat, having been in Vietnam for three and a half of his seven years. One of the handlers used to demonstrate Bullet's strength by climbing atop an APC and dropping a full sandbag over the side. Bullet would catch the bag in his teeth and never move his neck.

It is not unusual for one unit to request the services of a particular team they enjoy working with. "I find," said Koss, a veteran of eight months in the field as a handler, "that units usually want a particular dog and really don't care about the handler.

"For example, arriving in the field, the men will always remember the dog's name, but not yours. Nothing like playing second fiddle to a dog."

Like Field

"The dogs are a big morale factor in the field," another handler added. "At first opportunity, the infantrymen always come over to pet and play with the animals. Our normally aggressive, all-business police dogs turn into big friendly pooches."

The dogs are always anxious to get to the field. For them, 'pop smoke' is a magic term. The shepherds associate the words with the field action and get excited. When a chopper touches down to take the team to the field, the handler has no problem getting the dog aboard. The mutts drag the soldiers to the chopper.

"In a firefight, rarely can the handler get off more than one shot with his weapon," related Koss. "He is too busy holding the dog back, who, if not restrained, would attack, the enemy's position. They know where the enemy is and want to get to them. For that reason, we work them on a leash. But the team has completed their mission when the firing starts, having alerted the unit to the enemy's position."

The animals have proven very useful in interrogation. Just standing there and growling will usually make the hardest enemy talk.

One of the big problems affecting the 20 dog units in Vietnam is the close relationship between handler and dog. The men grow attached to the animals. If the dog has saved his handler's life, the problem is compounded.

"Working and living together for months, one taking care of the other, man and his best friend become as one. More than one handler upon rotation, has bid his dog farewell with tears in his eyes," said Koss. (196th IO)

Award to Chaplain

LZ BRONCO — A combat chaplain, CPT Max D. Sullivan (Murphysboro, Ill.), 11th Inf. Bde., was awarded the Silver Star by MG Lloyd B. Ramsey.

Serving as battalion chaplain of the 1st Bn., 20th Inf., Chaplain Sullivan distinguished himself on June 10 while on combat operations with A Co. near Duc Pho.

Just after noon, the company was ambushed by a well-concealed unknown size NVA force.

During the bitter firefight that continued for most of the hot afternoon, Chaplain Sullivan, ignoring heavy enemy fire, left his covered position and moved from man to man offering words of comfort and encouragement. He administered first aid to one bleeding soldier and was credited with saving the man's life.

Again ignoring his personal safety, the chaplain assisted in evacuation of the wounded and heat casualties to an evacuation helicopter 400 meters away. (11th IO)

Keepin' Them Rolling

It's only a tent in an open field, but SP4 Edward L. Jernigan (Benson, N.C.) thinks the service he provides matches the local shops back home. Here he repairs an engine from the Armored Personnel Carrier in the background. Jernigan is with D Co., 723rd Maint. Bn., providing direct support maintenance to combat units of the Americal Division. (US Army Photo)

Bowling Is Down His Alley

By SP4 RICK SOENHGEN

LZ BRONCO — For SP4 Brian Clarke (Colorado Springs, Colo.) bowling has been a delightful and rewarding pastime since he was nine years old.

The 21-year-old soldier, manager of the officer's club for the 11th Inf. Bde. has many strikes to his credit as both an amateur and then a pro.

Clarke turned pro after his freshmen year in college and studied bowling under the guidance of Sam Baca, a national figure in professional bowling who has made many TV appearances.

Joining the Professional Central California Bowlers Association he won close to $1000 in six matches and was beginning to get warmed-up when he was inducted into the Army in February 1968.

Clarke's most memorable moment in the span of his short career came when he won $240 in a five game sweep averaging 225 points per game with a best of 279 in competition. "I've bowled as high as 299 in practice when the pressure is off," he said.

But bowling can be somewhat frustrating too. "My biggest problem is getting away from that number seven pin tap," said Clarke. "I bowl left-handed and frequently I'll put the ball right in the pocket but the seven pin won't go down because of my curve."

Apparently, however, Army life has scored a big "300" with Clarke since he has recently reenlisted for another three "frames." (11th IO)

198th Carts Hot Chow To Field

Bde. Food Service Motto: 'We Deliver'

LZ GATOR — A mess hall that doesn't serve food?

The 198th Inf. Bde. has one. And because of it, division soldiers of the 5th Bn., 46th Inf. eat two hot meals a day while in the field.

Whirring helicopters lift off from the resupply helipad here twice daily to rush hot chow to the battalion's units in the field. A few minutes later, the choppers swoosh into the scattered elements' locations, bringing the men food as well prepared as that back at basecamp.

Flexible System.

The brigade food service advisor, CW2 William H. B. Miller, attributes the service to a "flexible battalion mess system" and a resupply mess, the sole duty of which is to serve the men away from battalion headquarters.

In a kitchen at LZ Gator, the food, comparable to that served at the regular mess 100 meters away, is prepared, put in insulated containers to keep it hot, and then placed on a helicopter which carries it wherever elements of the 5-46th Inf. are operating.

Spice Up 'Cs'

The "C-rations" have, of course, not been eliminated, explained SFC John Long (Elizabethtown, Ky.), the resupply mess steward. "But even when we use them we try to send along little extras such as fruit juices, milk, fresh fruit, and potato chips. Whenever we can we try to give them sandwiches for a change of pace."

The operation requires flexibility and planning. Each day supply men from the companies' rear areas notify the resupply mess cooks as to what kind of meals the company commanders think would be best for the men in the field.

As the orders come in — usually a day in advance but at times with only a few hours notice — the kitchen begins to hum with activity. Regardless of the time of day, everyone from the mess steward to the KPs quickens the pace to prepare the food on time.

Feed CAP Teams

In addition to battalion troops in the field, the resupply mess also provides 250 meals to Marine Combined Action Platoon team members in the area.

The project requires close coordination with the battalion's regular mess hall, explained Long.

If a unit suddenly departs, the resupply mess hall picks up the rations that had been waiting for the men at the regular mess hall and rushes it to the helicopter pad. If an element returns unexpectedly, their rations which had been at the resupply mess are taken to the regular mess and served to the men there.

The battalion's mess setup is the only one of its kind in the 198th Bde., and according to the division's Support Command food service section is very likely the only one in the division. (198th IO)

Grunt 2-Gun Terror

LZ STINSON—A division soldier of the 1st Bn., 52nd Inf. reminded his fellow infantrymen of the legendary Jesse James recently by rivaling the gunslinger's "two-gun draw" with good results.

SP4 Carlton Webb (New Richmond, Ohio) was a bit surprised when three VC popped up only 20 meters from his position. "I was carrying my M-16 rifle and an M-79 grenade launcher for a wounded buddy and I didn't have time to choose between them," he said. So he fired both, killing one of the enemy soldiers and wounding another.

"We were scanning the terrain around our position when I saw the three of them with AK-47s suddenly come out of the elephant grass," Webb said. "I alerted Bolden, grabbed both of the weapons and opened up." (198th IO)

132nd Erects Noise Barrier

CHU LAI — The 132nd AHC has undertaken a campaign to educate all crew members to the acoustical hazards caused by the Chinook helicopter.

The program includes a flight surgeon's team visiting the 132nd flight line to fit crews with earplugs, enabling crew members and maintainance personnel to obtain ear protection without leaving work areas. (16th CAB)