You're in the Americal now Mr. Jones

What is the Americal?

The Americal, or 23d Infantry Division as it is officially known, was born in the South Pacific during World War II designating the "American Forces in New Caledonia."

You are now one of these men of the Americal who served gallantly during the drive to Japan during World War II and have, since 1967, helped secure for the South Vietnamese a part of their country which used to be a Viet Cong stronghold.

Much has been accomplished, but the job is by no means complete. The division is now engaged in the nuts and bolts activities of Vietnamiztion, pacification, and small unit operations. That which you have heard about back home you will now be a part of on the person to person level.

How has the Americal progressed to its current position?

In 1967, General William C. Westmoreland, the MACV commander, directed the organization of an Army task force to send to troubled I Corps in the northern part of the Republic of Vietnam.

First with the help of brigades from the 101st Airborne and 25th Infantry Divisions, Task Force Oregon, which later became the Americal, began seach and clear operations in the area.

With the introduction of the 198th and 11th Infantry Brigades to assist the 196th Brigade, the Americal was born again in Vietnam. The official change of colors was held October 26, 1967, as Major General Samuel W. Koster assumed command of the division.

Offensive combat operations continued and intensified in 1968 as the 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry joined the division organization.

Task Force Miracle, composed of 2d Bn, 1st Inf. and 1st Bn. 6th Inf., was sent to Da Nang to counter the 1968 Tet offensive. Druing this defense, the enemy lost 1,407 men, most of them during the four days of heaviest contact.

The year 1968 in the division area of operation was one of heavy contact with relatively large numbers of VC and NVA forces. These units were reduced in number by offensive operations and forced to deploy in small groups.

Lines of communication and supply were opened and secured for both U.S. troops, the ARVN, and the civilian populace.

Units of the division intercepted and destroyed large units in the process of launching major attacks on Tam Ky and Quang Ngai City, the province captial.

The coming of 1969 ushered in Operation Russell Beach on January 13. The operation was typical of the coming operations as civilians were relocated from unsecured areas and then enemy units flushed out from these areas.

Operation Russelll Beach relocated civilians from the Batangan Peninsula south of Chu Lai to secure areas along Highway One and then swept the peninsula to clear out the Viet Cong and its political infrastructure.

In March, 1969, the division area of operations was divided into the three parts which are the same today. The 196th Brigade and 5th ARVN Regiment joined forces in Operation Frederick Hill to the north.

The 198th Brigade and 6th ARVN Regiment shared the Operation Geneva Park sector in thymiddle, while the 11th Brigade and 4th ARVN Regiment combined forces for Operation Iron Mountain in the Southern Sector. These operations are continuing to date.

August, 1969, brought a major operation as the 196th Bde. combined with the 1st Marine Division to inflict almost 1,000 deaths on the 1st Regiment of the 2d NVA Division.

The enemy had been threatening the Hiep Duc resettlement village, FSB West and FSB Siberia. Two weeks of fighting in the rolling valley floor reduced the enemy unit to a name only.

When the battle ended, sweeps through the still-blistering heat on the Que Son Valley floor met only small pockets of enemy resistance, which were quickly mopped up.

Spearheading Allied operations in Quang Tin and Quang Ngai provinces, the Americal pursued a vigorous rice denial program to choke the enemy's supply system and return this vital staple to the populace.

In addition, giant land-clearing operations along the coast denied the enemy ground he once honeycombed with sanctuaries concealed by vegetation and rough terrain. Civilians evacuated from these areas were resettled at relocation centers, which began to spring up along Highway One and other pacified areas in some of the river valleys.

These pacified areas became enemy objectives again in 1970 as NVA elements tried to take Hiep Duc. Again, they were repulsed and driven back to the mountains, suffering heavy casualties in their flight.

Today, in 1971, the Americal continues to perform its varied missions in helping the people of the Republic of Vietnam protect their country against subversive forces.

Through such efforts as Project Buddy, conducted by the 723d Maintainence Battalion, teaching ARVN mechanics techniques of care of vehicles and machinery, the withdrawal of American forces has been smooth and has allowed continuing peace and security to be maintained in this area.

The situation which you will face is not a static one however, due to the changing tactical needs it is possible that division units will be shifted to other parts of the country for important operations.

What is the Americal?

The Americal is you. It is whatever youmake it.

SOUTHERN CROSS
AMERICAL DIVISION

SOUTHERN CROSS | Chu Lai, Vietnam | February 26, 1971

Vol.4 No.9

Military law is the same here in Vietnam

You didn't leave military law behind when you left the States. The same penalties apply here in Vietnam that did at your post in the States. Here are the maximum punishments authorized for some of the most common offenses.

Heroin, its possession, use, transport, sale, or introduction into a unit, is punishable by a dishonorable discharge, forfeiture of all pay and allowances, and imprisonment for 10 years.

Marijuana: dishonorable discharge, total forfeiture, and 5 years imprisonment.

Dangerous drugs, such as "Speed", LSD, barbituates, amphetamines, or any unauthorized drug is a violation of an Army Regulation and as such is punishable by a dishonorable discharge, total forfeiture of all pay and allowances, and 2 years imprisonment.

Disobedience of an officer: dishonorable discharge, total forfeiture of pay and allowances, and 5 years of imprisonment.

Disobedience of an NCO: a bad conduct discharge, total forfeiture of pay and allowances, and 6 months imprisonment.

"Fragging" – The wrongful and willful discharge of an explosive device under circumstances that might endanger human life: dishonorable discharge, 1 year improsonment, and total forfeiture of pay and allowances.

If offering or attempting unlawful force or violence to do bodily harm to someone with a dangerous weapon or by means likely to cause death or serious bodily injury: dishonorable discharge, total forfeiture of pay and allowances, and 3 years imprisonment.

If someone is injured in an attempt of aggrevated assault: dishonorable discharge, total forfeiture of pay and allowances, and 5 years imprisonment.

AWOL: under three days: 1 month confinement, 2/3 forfeiture of pay for 1 month.

If from 3 to 30 days: 6 months imprisonment, and 2/3 forfeiture of pay for 6 months.

TO: Incoming Officers and Men of the 23d Infantry Division

I take this opportunity to welcome each of you to the 23d Infantry Division. The unit of which you have just become an integral part has established a proud tradition of valor in the crucible of two wars., From the steaming jungles of Guadalcanal during World War II to the rice paddies and mountains of South Vietnam, the men serving "Under the Southern Cross" have met and defeated the enemy. This tradition and legacy of courage are now passed on to you.

Much has been accomplished here in Vietnam, but many tasks remain. The continuing battle against the forces attempting to subvert the rightful government, training of our South Vietnamese allies, medical programs, and pacification efforts await you when you join your unit. Past and present efforts have made this Division one of which we may all justifiably be proud. No matter what was asked of him, the 23d Infantry Division soldier has always given his best effort, and that indefinable extra drive that has made this Division the finest in the United States Army.

The Division's future is in your hands. I have every confidence that you are equal to the task of continuing and enhancing our fine record.

JAMES L. BALDWIN
Major General, USA
Commanding

Major General James L. Baldwin, Commanding General of the 23rd Infantry Division. (U.S. Army Photo by SP4 Hugh Myers)

What to expect from a year in Nam

By SP4 David P. Goodrich

Most GI's have an image of Vietnam and what it is like to serve here before they arrive. Just about all of them are wrong on both counts. This article is an introduction on what to expect from a year in Vietnam, both good and bad.

To begin with, Vietnam is a hardship tour. If you've never been on one, you're about to find out what it is like. If you wind up on a fire-support base or in the field you'll find out why so many people consider cleanliness just below godliness in their scale of values, because you'll be dirty more than you'll be clean. You'll also regret ever having complained about your mother's cooking. Gradually, you will reach the point where you appreciate things you presently take for granted, such as cigarettes and candy when you receive supplementary packs, mail from resupply, and sometimes a good rain so you can take a shower.

If you're stationed in the rear, you'll be able to take regular showers, but depending on your unit of assignment, they may not be heated.

The official work week in Vietnam is seven days a week. One reason is that there isn't that much to occupy your time when it's your own anyway. Boredom is a big enemy in Nam, but there are ways to combat it.

You have to watch out for barracks thieves, and you'll find out that some individuals aren't entirely innocent when it comes to getting your money from you.

There is a certain mood in Nam, and it isn't that unpleasant. Soldiers here have developed their own slang, and a unique sense of humor that you will fit into and appreciate some day.

Once you resign yourself to the hardship aspects of the tour, you can start concentrating on the advantages. There are more than you might think.

You can expect to make more money than you ever used to. Not only will you receive overseas duty pay, but hostile fire pay which is $65 a month. There isn't any income tax taken out, and you can live very cheaply here. Movies are free, packets of paperback books are free, haircuts only cost 40 cents, cigarettes cost 17 cents a pack, and there are very few diversions to waste money on.

Two little things you will spend money on if you are stationed in Chu Lai will be the KP fund and the hootch maid fund. Vietnamese pull all the KP a service that will cost you about a buck a month. Hootch maids will run a little more, but they shine boots, make beds, sweep out your rooms, keep things neat and change linens. If you are stationed on a fire-support base or in the field, you won't waste time worrying about shined boots.

If this makes you think about all the money you're going to have in the bank when you leave, you might be in for a surprise. The exchange system over here has a catalohue called PACEX. In it are hundreds of items such as single lens reflex and movie cameras, watches, jewelry, stereo and audio equipment, china, television sets and others too numerous to mention in this brief space. The prices in this catalohue will boggle your mind. You can get top-notch cameras for less than half of list prices back home. You can get better than that on watches and even better still on china.

The offshoot of this is that you may leave Asia with less money than you came with, but with a substantially higher standard of living. You're not limited to PACEX or your local exchange either. There are a number of mail order houses, or direct order items around to keep you broke.

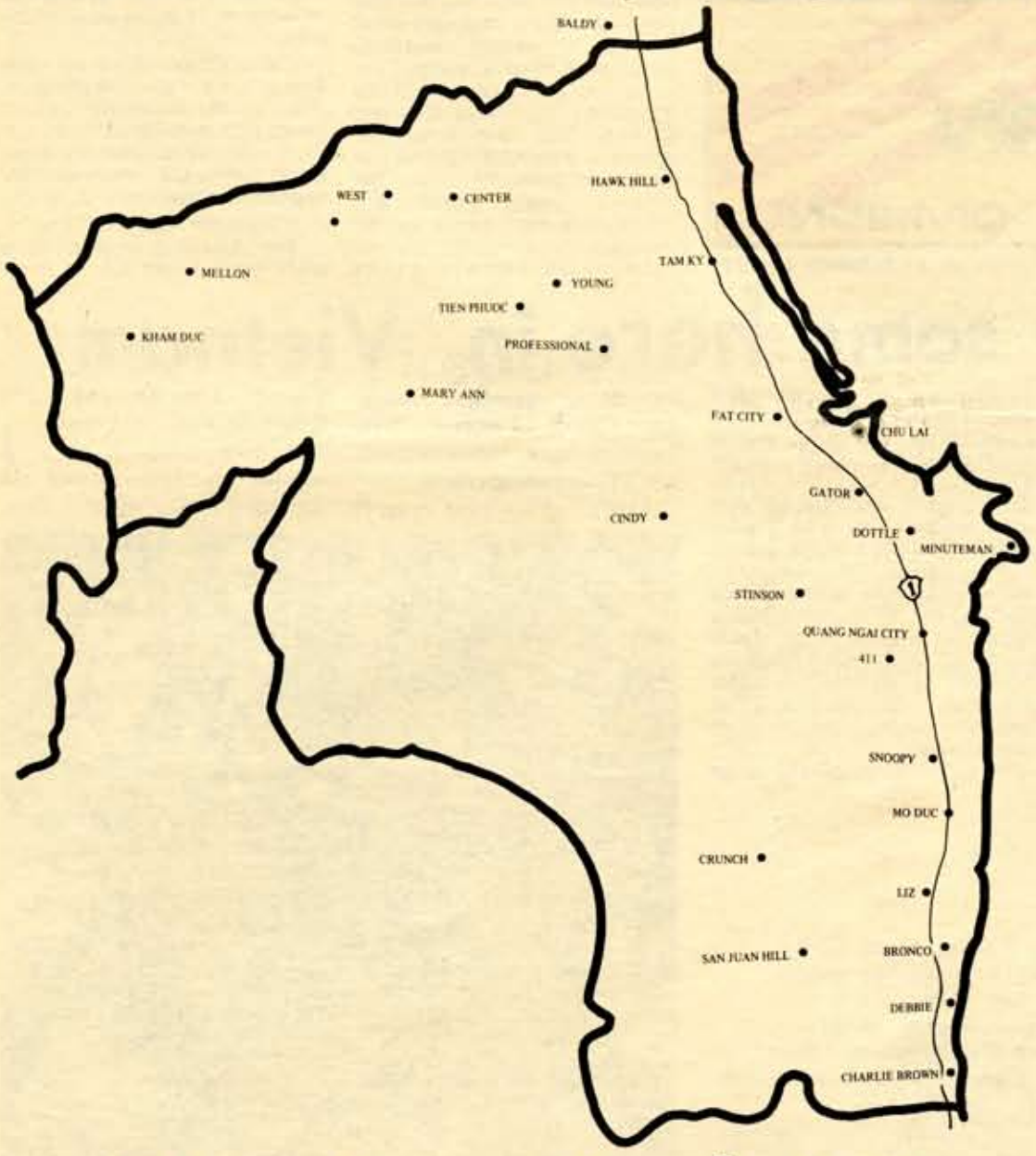
If you manage to resist the temptations of the flesh and decide to save, there is something available to you called Soldiers' Overseas Deposit which will give you 10% interest; which is about double the going rate back home. The catch is that once you put it in, you don't get it back until you go home or unless you have a bonafide emerquency. If you're not sure you want to save it that way you had better hold onto it and put it into an American Express checking account, either way you get paid interest.

You've probably heard about what an R&R is already. It's six days of rest and relaxation in your choice of Australia, Hong Kong, Thailand, Taiwan or Hawaii. It isn't recorded on your leave time, and there are special centers set up to help you in the country of your choice.

Until rather recently that would have been the extent of your exotic vacation time during your tour, but now, however, you are also entitled to take two seven day leaves to the same spots flying on R&R planes free on a space available basis. There isn't any hassle that way with visas or arranging commercial transportation.

If you prefer, you are authorized one two-week leave to the states, although there is still a charge for plane-fare.

Summing up, you could do worse in duty stations. The big Nam is largely what you make of it. You can catch up on serious reading, pick up college credits from the University of Maryland through the education center, see some places you never would have had a chance to see otherwise, save money and earn a promotion perhaps by doing a good job at what you're given to do.



The Americal AO

23rd Supply and Transport Battalion

The 23rd Supply and Transport Battalion was constituted April 13, 1944, in the Army of the United States, as the 683rd Quartermaster Base Depot Company. The unit served through World War II earning the Meritorious Unit Commendation decoration.

The 23rd Quartermaster Company was redesignated on December 8, 1967 as Headquarters Company 23rd Supply and Transport Battalion and was made up of personnel from the 94th Supply and Service Battalion, which was previously deployed at Vung Tau, Vietnam. The battalion was constituted in the Regular Army and concurrently activated in Chu Lai, Vietnam.

The 23rd Supply and Transport Battalion's mission is to provide direct support to the 23rd Infantry Division Americal.

During the period of December, 1967 through April, 1970, the battalion supported as many as five brigades of various makeup in the Southern I Corps Tactical Zone. In addition, the battalion assumed the continual area support mission for all U. S. Army troops in the Chu Lai area. As a result, the battalion performed many missions both in degree as well as in scope, which were never envisioned as a requirement for a divisional support unit.

723d Maint. Bn.

The 723rd Maintenance Battalion was constituted April 3, 1943, in the Army of the United States as the 721st Ordinance Light Maintenance Company and assigned to the Americal Division.

The unit was activated in May, 1943 in the Fiji Islands and served throughout World War II, earning the following decorations: the Presidential Unit Citation, the Meritorious Unit Commendation, and the Philippine Presidential Unit Citation.

On May 16, 1966 the unit was re-called into action as the 188th Maintenance Battalion.

During August, 1966 the Headquarters and Main Support Company was alerted for movement to Vietnam. The advance party arrived at Long Binh during November, 1966 and was quickly followed by the main body of the battalion. The battalion became fully operational at Chu Lai on May 9, 1967.

On February 15, 1969 the 23rd Infantry Division was reorganized and the three support battalions which had serviced the three light infantry brigades of the division were inactivated. The supply and maintenance companies of each of these support battalions were redesignated as Forward Support Companies and assigned to the 723rd Maintenance Battalion.

HELP!

Feel lost in the "Green Machine" at your post back in the States?

That's one problem you should never have here in Vietnam with the Americal. Your first line for help is always the people closest to you – your unit NCO's and officer's. But sometimes your problem is beyond their reach.

That's where HELP comes in. Established by the division commander iin December, HELP is your direct line to action.

If you have a problem, a gripe, or a question about anything in the army, pick up the phone and dial H - E - L - P. or 2323. The staff of Help, most of whom have been out in the field and know your problems, are on duty 24 hours a day. They work for the division Command Sergeant Major and have a direct line to all the sources of action and information within the division.

Many times they can give you an answer to your question immediately or call you back the same day. But they guarantee and answer within at least 5 days.

Some of the topics often dealt with by HELP are: drops, veteran's benefits, 14-day leaves, rumors, personnel personal problems, the MARS station, and current events.

SOUTHERN CROSS
AMERICAL DIVISION

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Amnesty is a good way to save a life

By SP4 David P. Goodrich

"Mainlining "heroin often leads to "...infection from unsterile needles, resulting in serum hepatitis, abscesses, or tetanus. Gradually the addict's veins become scarred (collapsed veins) and he uses those on his wrist, feet, and neck; older addicts who have run out of veins revert to skin popping, and their bodies become covered with sores." The quote is from Richard R. Lingeman in his book "Drugs from A to Z". The message is the agony of the drug addict anywhere.

It's a story that needs telling; especially in the big Nam. There are a number of reasons for this. One is that it is more easily attainable over here than anywhere else. As one ex-addict puts it: "Heroin is easy to get in Nam...You can get it from the mama-sans, the hootch maids who come in to work, or you can go to the street and buy it from the school kids." Another ex-addict puts it more metaphorically: "It's as easy to buy as a pack of cigarettes."

Another reason the message needs to be told in Nam is the strength of drugs in the country. Chemical analysis of "smack" (heroin) sold here shows it is 93 to 98 per cent pure. It's very possible to become addicted to heroin that strong by only smoking or sniffing it. By comparison, "smack available back in the world is only three to 10 per cent pure.

There is also the hidden danger to drug users which stems from the use of hypodermic needles. A user doesn't usually sterilize the needle before injecting himself and this could cause him to contract hepatitis.

One ex-addict noted that there is a tremendous risk involved in purchasing heroin here, especially from civilians: "It could be cut with anything from laundry detergent to poison."

It's somewhat ironic perhaps that GIs take heroin initially for what one ex-addict termed the "fantastic high" the narcotic induces; ironic because, as tolerance develops, the "high" is generally lost. The addict then requires heroin to avoid the withdrawal sickness. In other words, at this point he is using heroin to feel normal.

When withdrawal sickness hits–usually from 12 to 16 hours after the last injection–the addict yawns, shakes, sweats, his nose and eyes run, and he vomits. Muscle aches and jerks occur along with abdominal pain and diarrhea. Chills and backache are frequent. Hallucinations and delusions sometimes develop, and these are usually terrifying. If the addict doesn't get his fix, it is shortly after this that he starts "climbing the wall".

It is the phase of withdrawal and the fear the addict has for it that constitutes the most powerful motive to continue taking the drug. In the states, an addict will do almost anything to obtain his supply of heroin. He may steal from his loved ones, double-cross his best friend or pander his wife. Everything and everybody takes a back seat to sustaining addiction.

The life of the narcotic addict is pathetic. His waking existence is centered around obtaining money to buy heroin, making a connection with a pusher and trying to avoid withdrawal.

Where it leads isn't hard to figure out. Statistics illustrate that an addict's life-span is generally cut short by 15 to 20 years, but as the poster says: "You don't have to get hooked on the stuff for it to kill you, you could be lucky the first time."

Overdoses are common, and they result in death. They occur when someone has lost or never developed tolerance because he was using very diluted heroin. If, by chance, he obtains pure heroin, and "smack" over here is generally pretty pure, he may die moments after injection. Overdose is often the result as an addict keeps frantically attempting to achieve a "fantastic high" after tolerance has already been accumulated.

Heroin isn't the only part of the drug problem facing the GI in Vietnam of course. It is a never-ending nether world of variety, offering everything from hallucinations to delusions to sweet dreams.

If you're looking for a way to get away from it all, LSD is an effective way of getting there. Take this trip and it might very well be forever. LSD defies the laws of Newtonian physics. People that use it to get high don't always come down.

Lysergic Acid Diethylamide, unlike heroin, doesn't cause physical dependence, although many people acquire a strong psychological dependence to it.

The drug causes changes in sensation. Vision is markedly altered. Illusions and hallucinations can occur. Thinking may become pictorial. Delusions are expressed. The sense of time and of self are strangely altered. Emotions of bliss and horror are experienced, often within a single experience. Sensations may "crossover," that is, music may be seen or color heard. The user is suggestible and, especially under high doses, loses his ability to discriminate and evaluate his experience. The loss of personal control during a "trip" can cause panic reactions or feelings of grandeur. Both have led to injury or death when the panic or the paranoia was acted upon. After the "trip" ends, prolonged reactions might cause a mood of anxiety or depression along with psychotic breaks with reality which may last from a few days to years.

LSD also features "flashbacks", which are recurrences of some of the aspects of the LSD state days or months after the last dose. These can be invoked by physical or psychological stress, or by medications such as antihistamines, or by marijuana. This aspect of LSD is advantageous if you've always wanted to have epilepsy.

A number of reputable scientists have reported chromosomal fragmentation in connection with LSD exposure in the test tube, in animals andin man. Additionally, heavy users of LSD sometimes develop impaired memory and attention span, mental confusion and difficulty with abstract thinking. These signs of organic brain changes may be subtle or pronounced. It is not known whether these alterations persist or whether they are reversible if the use of LSD is discontinued.

The "quality" of LSD varies. Some is fairly pure, while other samples contain impurities and adulterants. More importantly, the amount contained in each capsule or tablet usually differs greatly from the amount claimed by the "pusher". The user has no way of knowing the quality or the quantity of his LSD.

Many potential drug-users who are rightly too terrified of Heroin and LSD to try them, ironically wind up using barbiturates and amphetamines as "safe" substitutes. The only problem with this line of reasoning is that they're hardly safe.

In ordinary amounts the amphetamines provide a transient sense of alertness and well being. Hunger is diminished and short-term performance may be enhanced in the fatigued person. However, if they are taken in ordinary amounts, they are hardly a substitute for stronger drugs.

People who inject massive doses of amphetamines intravenously ("speeding") experience an ecstatic high which decreases after a few hours. Re-injection is then necessary to reproduce the stimulation. This cycle can go on for days until the user is physically exhausted. Shakiness, itching, juscle pains and tension states are common. Collapse and death have occurred.

Like heroin, as tolerance develops, larger quantities of stimulants are needed to produce highs. Large amounts of amphetamines are addicting. In this and in other ways, "speed freaks" are very similar to heroin addicts in their plight.

In addition to those diseases which accompany the unsterile injection of material into the body, the excessive amounts of amphetamines can cause a variety of medical problems. Liver damage may result from the enormous quantities being taken. Brain damage from such quantities has been demonstrated in animals. Abnormal rhythms of the heart have occurred, and a marked increase in blood pressure is well known.

Neglect of personal hygiene can lead to skin infections or dental decay. Drastic weight loss, and malnutrition and vitamin deficiencies are part of the list of adverse physical complications.

Scientists have found that in the body these drugs stimulate the release of norepinephrine, a substance stored in nerve endings, and concentrate it in the higher centers of the brain.

The result of this is that abrupt withdrawal of the drug from the heavy abuser can result in a deep and suicidal depression. Sometimes the user develops a temporary toxic psychosis (mental drangement) resembling paranoid schizophrenia, which can last long beyond the period of drug activity.

Long term heavy users of amphetamines are usually irritable, unstable, and like other heavy drug users, show social, intellectual, and emotional breakdown.

Unlike amphetamines (Benzedrine, Dexedrine and Methedrine) which are stimulants, Barbiturates are sedatives which are opposite in their function. This occasionally leads to a person paradoxically taking barbiturates so he can sleep and stimulants to stay awake.

Barbiturates are especially dangerous when combined with alcohol–a combination that has led to a significant number of traffic fatalities in the last few years.

Barbiturates are physically addicting and when withdrawn abruptly, the user suffers withdrawal sickness with cramps, nausea and convulsions. A severe withdrawal state resembles delirium tremens. The user becomes sweaty, fearful, sleepless and tremulous. It takes several months for the body to return to normal.

Drugs are becoming a very serious problem in the United States, with the younger generation the most vulnerable. In Vietnam where they are far easier to get a hold of and far cheaper, the problem is even more serious.

The Army has responded to the problem with the Drug Amnesty Program. According to the dictionary Amnesty is a general pardon by which a government absolves offenders.

It works like this. If a person abusing drugs turns himself in to the proper authorities before he gets "busted" and has no drugs on his person at the time, he will receive treatment for his problem without punishment and no record will be kept to follow him through in his civilian or military life. One important factor is that it is strictly a one shot affair. If a person is cured of addiction under the program and then resumes drug use, he's going to be in a world of hurt for help with his problem.

One former heroin addict in the Americal who went under the program remarked that "I can say that this program is working. I've seen people come off the wards unhooked, and I know I can do the same. I don't feel any desire for the drug now and I don't have to worry about them telling my wife if I don't want her to know."

Why gamble the dream of a healthy life and a successful career against a temporary change of mood? Remember: few, if any, drug-dependent persons ever planned it that way.

This is a Chinook. Despite its size, it is still a fast helicopter. If you wind up in the field, it'll also keep you resupplied. (U.S. Army Photo)

26th Engineers

The 26th Engineer Battalion (Combat) was constituted as a unit of the Regular Army on December 1, 1954 and on December 2, 1954 was activated as an element of the 23rd Infantry Division at Fort Clayton, Canal Zone. At that time, the battalion was composed of Company A which was organized February 1, 1945 as the 2920th Dump Truck Company, Company B and Headquarters Company, the initial organization for each, and Company C which was organized on April 7, 1944 as the 406th Engineer Combat Company. The 26th Engineer Battalion (Combat) was inactivated on April 10, 1956.

On December 8, 1967, in the Republic of Vietnam, the 26th Engineer Battalion (Combat) was again activated as the organic combat engineer battalion of the 23rd Infantry Division (Americal).

The 26th Engineer Battalion is composed of four Combat Engineer line companies, a Float Bridge Company, and a Headquarters and Headquarters Company. Company A was formerly the 175th Engineer Company, organic to the 196th Light Infantry Brigade. Its headquarters is now at Fire Support Base Hawk Hill in direct support of the 196th Infantry Brigade. Company B was the 555th Engineer Company, organic to the 198th Light Infantry Brigade, and Company C was formerly the 6th Engineer Company, 11th Light Infantry Brigade. Company B now continues its direct engineer support to the 198th Infantry Brigade with headquarters at Landing Zone Bayonet. Company C remains with the 11th Infantry Brigade at Fire Support Base Bronco in Duc Pho, Republic of Vietnam. Company D was formed primarily from elements of Company B, 39th Engineer Battalion (Combat) which was attached to the Americal Division at the time of activation.

Jungle Warriors WorkSouthernAO

The 11th Infantry Brigade was originally organized in the Regular Army on December 4, 1917 at Camp Forrest, Georgia as an element of the 6th Division and served with the division during World War I. The brigade participated in the Alsace and Meuse-Argonne campaigns. After being inactivated in 1921, the 11th Brigade was reconstituted on April 15, 1966 and reactivated two and a half months later at Scholield Barracks, Hawaii.

Beginning in early 1967, the brigade trained extensively in jungle operations in preparation for commitment to Vietnam. To stress realism in the Vietnam-oriented tactical training, the brigade conducted "live-fire" operations in the rugged, thickly-vegetated terrain of Koolau Mountains on the island of Oahu.

The advance party, consisting of 350 personnel with representation from all brigade units, departed Hawaii by aircraft on November 28, 1967 for Duc Pho, Quang Ngai Province, Vietnam.

Prior to joining the Americal Division, intensive in-country training was conducted for a month. Upon completion of this training, the 11th Infantry Brigade moved from Landing Zone Carentan to their permanent base camp at Landdng Zone Bronco, near Duc Pho, in late January, 1968.

The "Jungle Warriors" have participated in Operation Norfolk Victory, Operation Champagne Grove and Operation Vernon Lake II during its time spent in Vietnam. All three were successful.

During these operations the brigade succeeded in destroying the enemy's major bases of operation, weapons and munition caches, rice and salt caches, and interdicting his major infiltration and logistical routes.

The brigade is presently situated in the southernmost sector of the 23rd Infantry Division's area of operations, with its headquarters located at LZ Bronco.

The 11th Infantry Brigade presently consists of the 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry; the 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry; the 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry; the 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry and E Troop, 1st Cavalry.

,A 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry, 11th Brigade soldier heads back to Company C's command post from his night defensive position. (U. S. Army Photo by SP4 Peter Sorensen)

A 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry, 11th Infantry Brigade unit working with local Popular and Regional Forces carefully move along a rice paddy dike five miles northwest of Duc Pho. (U. S. Army Photo by CPT Terry N. Thrasher)

The 'Regulars' Are Brave

The 20th Infantry was organized by direction of President Abraham Lincoln on May 14, 1861 as the 2nd Battalion, 11th Infantry. During the Civil War, the unit fought under General Sykes' Division of Regulars in some of the bloodist battles of the conflict. The 2nd Battalion, 11th Infantry was redesignated as the 20th Infantry Regiment on September 21, 1866.

"Sykes' Regulars" continued their traditions of bravery in battles of the South American War. the Phillipine Insurrection, World War I, World War II and the Korean Conflict. The men of the unit carved their names in history fighting in the Battle of the Little Big Horn, Caney and San Juan Hill, Manilla, New Guinea. Lone Tree Hill, Luzen, Blue Beach in Lingayen Gulf, Munez and Purple Heat Valley, the bloodiest 6,000 yards of battle zone in the world.

The 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry, "Sykes' Regulars", was reactivated at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, July 1, 1966, and assigned to the 11th Infantry Brigade. Personnel and equipment were airlifted to Da Nang and Chu Lai and subsequently airlifted to Duc Pho, Vietnam.

4-21 Gimlets in Action

By a proclamation of President Abraham Lincoln, the 21st Infantry was constituted on the rolls of the 12th Infantry Regiment and served throughout the Civil War.

The regiment next saw action in Cuba and touched foreign soil fo the first time on June 20, 1898, at Santiago Harbor.

On November 1, 1967, at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, the 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry was reactivated and on April 10, 1968, the battalion deployed to the Republic of Vietnam. After 10 days of in-country training at the 23rd Infantry Division Combat Center, the "Gimlets" joined the 11th Infantry Brigade at Fire Support Base Bronco, in Duc Pho.

In numerous combat actions in and around southern Quang Ngai Province, the "Gimlets" wreaked havoc among the enemy and added substaintially to their reputation as an efficent combat battalion.

4/3 Inf: The Old Guard

The 3rd Infantry's flag carries 39 battle streamers earned by a magnificent record of bravery in action.

Its colors have flown valiantly in virtually every war the United States has been involved.

Today, the "Old Guard" is the only unit authorized to pass in review with fixed bayonets, an honor accorded it for gallantry during the Mexican War.

The unit also served with distinction in the Civil War, the War with Spain, the Philippine Insurrection and World War II.

In August, 1966, the 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry was activated at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, as part of the newly formed 11th Infantry Brigade.

Since that time, the unit has participated in exercises with the 198th Infantry Brigade and the 196th Infantry Brigade.

The battalion arrived in Vietnam on December 15, 1967.

Always First With 3/1 Inf.

The 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry was constituted March 3, 1971 in the Regular Army as a company of the 2nd Infantry. The unit has participated in the Indian Wars, the War of 1812, the Mexican War, the Civil War, the War with Spain, the Philippine Insurrection, World War II, and was activated July, 1966 in Hawaii to be assigned to the 11th Infantry Brigade in the Vietnam Campaign.

The battalion arrived in-country on December 22, 1967 landing at the Port of Qui Nhon after a 16 day trip by troop ship from Hawaii. The battalion's base camp is located at Fire Support Base Bronco in the southern portion of South Vietnam's I Corps.

The unit is organized as a lightly equipped quick reaction unit which can move by any means of transportation to meet and defeat the enemy in any environment.

The battalion motto "Semper Primus, Always First" describes the spirit and determination that have always been associated with the unit.

Soldiers of the 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry were awarded over 2,000 medals during 1969. Nearly 500 awards were given for valorous actions.

The 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry has recieved the Distinguished Unit Citation, the Philippine Presidential Unit Citation and the Combat Infantry Streamer.

A "Jungle Warrior" of the 11th Brigade's 4th Battalion, 21st Infan finds some shade and a place to settle down to letter writing af returning from an all night ambush. (U.S. Army Photo by SP4 Pe Sorensen)

The Brave & True

The 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry was formed and activated on May, 15, 1971, at Chickamauga Park, Georgia as an Infantry Regiment. The orginal personnel came from the 11th Infantry Regiment.

Shortly thereafter, the 52nd Infantry went overseas to France with the 6th Division as a part of the Allied Expeditionary Force of World War I. Upon the return of the 6th Infantry Division to the United States, the 52nd Infantry was inactivated for a short time.

On May 5, 1942, the 52nd Infantry was redesignated as an Armored Infantry Regiment, and on July 15, 1942 was assigned to the 9th Armored Division at Fort Riley, Kansas. The battalion went overseas with the 9th Armored Division and fought valiantly in three campaigns in World War II.

In October, 1945, the battalion was again reorganized as the 1st Armored Infantry Battalion, 52nd Infantry. Upon redesignation, it was assigned to 71st Infantry Division and then later reassigned to the 9th Armored Division.

In May, 1969 the battalion was assigned to the newly activated 198th Infantry Brigade as a regular infantry battalion

During the period from September 30 to October 26, 1967, the Battalion conducted a permanent change of station movement from Fort Hood, Texas to the Republic of Vietnam with the 198th Infantry Brigade.

During the Vietnam campaign, the unit has distinguished itself in combat operations, destroying enemy bases of operation, capturing weapons and ammunition caches, and ddnying the enemy use of infiltration and logistical routes in the 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry area of operations. The unit has maintained the high status of its moto: "Fortis et Certus, The Brave and the True".

Sometimes the safest route is the wettest. This seems to be the logic of this grenadier, C Co., 1st Bn. 52nd Inf., operating southeast of LZ Stinson.

(U. S. Army Photo by PFC James Dunn)

5th/46th

The 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry was orginally constituted in May 1917 and formally activated in June of the same year at Fort Benjamin Harrision, Indiana, from elements of the 10th Infantry Regiment.

During World War II, the 46th Infantry Regiment became an Armored Infantry Battalion. The 46th Infantry served with the 5th Armored Division throughout the war, and before its deactivation in 1945, it had won five battle streamers. The unit was decerated with the Distinguished Unit Citation and the Luxembourg Croix the Guerre.

In January, 1968, the 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry received its redeployment orders and was assigned to the 198th Infantry Brigade, Republic of Vietnam, in March, 1968.

Since that time the unit has been engaged in Combat operations. The men of the 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry are known as "The Professionals".

Sgt. William D. Baldwin, Bravo Co., 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry, investigates tunnel found in an abandoned village in Quang Tin Province.

(U. S. Army Photo by SP5 H. Wells)

'Brave and Bold' Describes the 198th

The 198th Infantry Brigade was formed in the Organized Reverves in Erie County, Pennsylvania, on June 24, 1921. The unit became an organic element of the 99th Infantry Division.

The unit was reorganized and redesignated as the 3rd Platoon of the 99th Cavalry Recon Troop, and on November 15, 1942 was ordered to active military service at Camp Van Dorn, Mississippi.

During World War II, the troop fought with the 99th Infantry Division and received campaign credit for operations in the Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace and Central Europe. The troop was also cited by the Belgian Army for action at Elsenborn and in the Ardennes, and was awarded the Belgian Fourragere. The Troop was inactivated on September 29, 1945, and was assigned as a reserve component of the 99th Infantry Division.

On August 1, 1962, the Troop was relieved from its assignment to the 99th Infantry Division and withdrawn from the Army Reserve. At the same time, the 3rd Platoon of the Troop was converted and redesignated as Headquarters and Headduarters Company, 198th Brigade, and allotted to the Regular Army. This, then, was the unit which began training at Fort Hood in May 1967. During this training, jungle fighting techniques and air mobility were emphasized.

In October of 1967, the brigade shipped from Oakland, California to Da Nang, Vietnam. After arriving in Da Nang, the "Brave and Bold" soldiers boarded troop ships for transportation to Chu Lai.

On March 18, 1969, the "Brave and the Bold" of the 198th Brigade and the 6th ARVN Regiment embarked upon Operation Geneva Park. The mission was to eliminate the enemy forces within the area of operation while stressing pacification and combined US/ARVN operations. This operation is still in progress.

The 198th Infantry Brigade presently consists of the 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry; the 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry; the 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry; and H Troop, 17th Cavalry.

The brigade is presently situated in the central sector of the 23rd Infantry Division's area of operations and has its headquarters in Chu Lai.

1/6 Inf.: 198th Bde. 'Regulars'

In the spring of 1812, three months before war was declared, Congress constituted the Infantry regiments. The first of the new regiments was designated the 11th. After the war, the Eleventh Regiment became the Sixth Infantry.

The Sixth Infantry participated in eleven Indian campaigns, as well as the Mexican War.

In July, 1848 the Regiment's mission was in the West, protecting supply trains, scouting, and engaging the Indians. In March, 1862 the Regiment was committed to battle again, fighting as part of the Army of the Potomac, and earning seven additional battle streamers.

After the outbreak of the Spanish-American War, the 6th Infantry was sent to Cuba where it participated in the battle for Santiage.

In France during World War I, the regiment joined the 5th Division for battle in the Arnould Sector.

On May 17, 1967 the battalion was reorganized as a standard Infantry Battalion and was assigned to the 198th Infantry Brigade. The 6th Infantry was the first element ashore, arriving at Chu Lai in October to particapte in its thirty-fifth campaign and ninth war.

After bried initial operation south of Duc Pho, the Battalion was assigned the mission of securing the installation at Chu Lai.

The "Regulars" have participated in Task Force Oregon, Task Force Miracle, Operation Wheeler/Wallowa, Operation Burlington Trail, and has had the mission of protecting the 23rd Infantry Division Headquarters and Chu Lai Defense Command from enemy ground, mortar and rocket attacks. The 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry has been awarded one Valorous Unit Citation for its victory at the battle of Lo Giang in 1968.

The Americal Communicators

The origins of the 523rd Signal Battalion reach back to World War II where it was first constituted February 29, 1944 in the Army of the United States as the 3132nd Signal Service Company. It participated in a number of significant operations in the European Theatre to include the Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace and Central Europe campaigns.

In 1954 it was redesignated as the 123rd Signal Company, assigned to the 23rd Infantry Division, and activated at Fort Clayton, Canal Zone. It was activated again on April 25, 1960 in Korea.

The unit was reorganized and reddsignated as the 509th Signal Battalion (Support) at Fort Huachuca, Arizona in the summer of 1966. Consisting only of a headquarters element, the 509th joined USARV at An Khe in early 1967.

Once in Chu Lai the battalion began establishing VHF communications to the 196th Light Infantry Brigade in Quang Tin and Quang Ngai, the 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry in southern Quang Ngai, and the 101st Airborne in Duc Pho.

In February, 1969 the 523rd Signal Battalion was reorganized.

The 523rd Signal Battalion has provided extensive communications capabilities during the several operations conducted by various units of the Americal. The unit supports the operations with a communitions center, switchboard, VHF and HF communications.

H/17th: 'Hell On Wheels'

On May 10, 1967, the Department of Defense announced: "A new infantry brigade will be sent to Vietnam". The new unit, the 198th Infantry Brigade, was formed from units of the 1st and 2nd Armored Divisions, Fort Hood, Texas. Of these units from "Hell on Wheels" and "Old Ironsides", Troop H, 17th Cavalry was one.

On October 22, 1967, Military Sea Transports brought the 198th and Troop H to Da Nang. Upon arrival, the troops and equipment boarded troop ships and headed for Chu Lai.

Troop H, 17th Cavalry is presently assigned to the 198th Infantry Brigade and operates in the Brigade's area of operation. The troop performs goal of finding the enemy and defeating him wherever he is found.

Its success has been proven in its outstanding record of accomplishments while serving with the 23rd Infantry (Americal).

4th/31st

The colorful "Foreign Legion" of the U. S. Army began 44 years ago in the Philippine Islands when the new 31st Infantry was organized at Regan Barracks, Camp McGrath and Fort William McKinely.

For a time, the 31st Regiment remained in barracks in Manila. Then it was ordered out to join the American Expeditionary Force to Siberia. Their mission was to help the Czarist White Army put down the Bolshevik Rovolt.

In January, 1920, the American Expeditionary Force was withdrawn and the 31st Infantry went back to Manila, and relative peace for two decades.

The Regiment was to suffer its worse days when the Japanese attacked the Philippines in December, 1941. The unit was sent to the beaches alongside the Philippine Army to repel a Japanese landing force. The were forced to withdraw to Bataan, fighting all the way. For its heroism the 31st Infantry was awarded three Distinguished Unit Citations and a Philippine Presidential Unit Citation.

In the fall of 1950, the unit helped recapture Seoul, capital of South Korea. The 31st Infantry suffered heavy casualities in the withdrawal back to the Pusan Line.

Then came the long way back north. With United Nation troops, the 31st Infantry carried their colors right back to the 38th parallel.

2nd/1st: Legionnaires

Since arriving in Vietnam, the 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry, known as the "Legionnaires", has continued the fine tradition of the 1st Infantry Regiment.

The 1st Infantry Regiment dates back to 1791 when it was organized in New England. It is the second oldest unit in the Army.

The unit fought in many of the early Indian Wars as well as the War of 1812. There followed the Mexican War, Civil War, Spanish-American War and the Philippine Insurrection.

When World War II broke out, the 1st Infantry Regiment was part of the 6th Infantry Division. After extensive training in the United States, it was sent to New Guinea via Hawaii.

During the 1968 Tet Offensive, the "Legionnaires" moved into a defensive position south of Da Nang and within three days found and defeated the North Vietnamese Army elements trying to infiltrate and destroy that city.

Operation Golden Valley brought the unit into the beleagured Special Forces camp of Kham Duc. The battalion was to assist in the evacuation of the small force to allow for heavy tactical air strikes.

The battalion, now headquartered on Landing Zone Hawk Hill, has been a charter member of the 196th Infantry Brigade since the brigade was activated.

F Troop -17th Cav

The 17th Cavalry was constituted in the Regular Army and organized July 1, 1916 at Fort Bliss, Texas.

On July 1, 1940, the unit was redesignated the 17th Cavalry Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 17th Cavalry consolidated in March, 1951 with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 17th Armored Cavalry Group.

In May, 1959 the unit was redesignated as Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 17th Cavalry.

On August 14, th Troop arrived at the Port of Vung Tau to find the Brigade would take up residence at the city of Tay Ninh approximately 60 miles northwest of Saigon. Combat operations commenced almost immediately with troop operation consisting mainly of route recons, night and fire support base security. In 1967 the unit became a part of the Americal Division.

Since its arrival in Vietnam, F Troop, 17th Cavalry and the 196th Infantry Brigade have continued to uphold the high traditions of the U. S. Army and have participated in numerous combat operations which netted thousands of enemy dead.

3rd/21st

The history of the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry, began during the early part of the Civil War, by proclamation of President Abraham Lincoln. The unit was reorganized and redesignated as Company C, 21st Infantry, in December 1866, following the end of the war.

The 21st Infantry earned 11 streamers of battle during the Civil War. A cedar tree, commemorating the battle at Cedar Mountain, August, 1862, has become a part of the Regimental Coat of Arms.

Operating from a new headquarters at Camp Verde, Arizona, after the war the unit helped defend and stabilize the southwest frontier. The Crest and the Coat of Arms shows four arrows for the Indian compaign.

The 21st Infantry added eight campaign streamers to its colors in Korea, and two Korean Presidential Citations.

The Official motto of the 21st Infantry is "DUTY", spelled out on the Coat of Arms. It represents everything that the 3rd Battalion of the 21st Infantry stands for.

The going becomes more difficult as men with Charlie Company, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry, move uphill in search of enemy locations during a recent combat assault in the 196th Infantry Brigade.

U.S. Army Photo by PFC Stephen Belfeld

This unidentified soldier from Alpha Company, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry of the 23rd Infantry Division studies the remains of a Communist light machinegun which was found among the many articles uncovered by Alpha Company about 30 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

U.S. Army Photo by Sp4 Guy Winkler

196th Infantry Brigade

The 196th Infantry Brigade was originally constituted on June 24, 1921. It was in the Organized Reserves until it was ordered to active service on June 9, 1942. During World War II, the unit saw service in the Pacific Theatre and occupation duty in Japan. It was inactivated at Osaka, Japan on February 16, 1946.

The unit was activated again on September 15, 1956 at Fort Devens, Massachusetts. The basic mission of the brigade at the time of its activation was to train the 2,000 recruits who would make up the unit, and to reach a combat-ready posture by May, 1966.

In April, 1967, the "Chargers" became part of the first U.S. Army troops in I Corps when they arrived in Chu Lai to join the newly formed Task Force Oregon. While carrying out their primary mission of securing the Chu Lai airfield complex, the brigade also conducted Operation Benton during August and September of 1967. In September, 1967, Task Force Oregon was reconstituted and redesignated the Americal Division, and the 196th Light Infantry Brigade became an organic part of the Americal Division.

On November 25, 1967, the brigade departed the Chu Lai area and relieved the 3rd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. At the same time, the brigade continued Operation Wheeler/Wallowa which had begun earlier. This major operation did not end until November, 1968, one year after its initiation. During that time, elements of the 3rd Brigade, 1st Air Cavalry Division; 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry; and the 198th Light Infantry Brigade joined the 196th "Chargers" in southern Quang Nam and northern Quang Tin Provinces.

The heaviest engagement of 1969 in the Americal Division took place near Hiep Duc during August and September.

The 196th Light Infantry Brigade presently consists of the 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry; the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry; the 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry; the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry; and F Troop, 17th CAvalry.

The brigade is presently stationed in the northernmost sector of the 23rd Infantry Division area of operations and has its headquarters at LZ Hawk Hill.

1st/46th Professionals

The parent regiment of the contemporary 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry was constituted May 15, 1917 and organized June 4 of that year at Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indiana.

In February, 1962 the 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry was reorganized and assigned to the 2nd Brigade of the 1st Armored Division at Fort Hood, Texas. In May, 1967, the unit was alerted for movement to Vietnam. During this period, it was nicknamed the "Professionals".

On November 5, 1968 the "Professionals" moved to Landing Zone Baldy, then headquarters for the 196th Infantry Brigade. The battalion was instrumental in destroying enemy forces and assisted in all-out pacification programs.

On July 1, 1969 after seven months of being under the operational control of the 196th Infantry Brigade, the 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry became a member of that brigade.

63d Infantry Platoon

In May, 1967 the 10th Combat Tracker Team was attached to the 196th Light Infantry Brigade, after having trained at the British Jungle Warfare School in Malaysia. The 10th Combat Tracker Team was redesignated on March 15, 1968 as the 63rd Infantry Platoon Combat Trackers.

The unit is composed of five Combat Tracker Teams and a platoon of mine and tunnel dogs. The dog handler trains with his black labrador retriever at Fort Gordon, Georgia, and is then shipped overseas with his dog.

The Combat Tracker Team has three field missions in the 23rd Infantry Division. The first mission is to re-establish contact with the enemy when contact is made and broken. The second is local area reconnaissance. The third is that of training selected personnel in the art of visual tracking.

1st/82nd Artillery

The unit was first organized on June 5, 1917, at Fort D. A. Russell in Wyoming.

Within a short time after that, the 1st of the 82nd became a separate unit attached to the 1st Cavalry. The battalion saw extensive action during World War II, when it again served with the 1st Cavalry Division in the Pacific campaign.

The 1st Battalion, 82nd Artillery also played a key role in Korea, during that conflict, when it again served as a subordinate unit of the 1st Cavalry Division.

Arriving in Vietnam on July 24, 1968 the unit was assigned the mission of providing general support for the 11th and 198th Infantry Brigades of the 23rd Infantry Division Americal.

During the 1st Battalion, 82nd Artillery's first year, it compiled one of the finest combat records ever amassed by a field artillery battalion in the Republic of Vietnam.

It's Division Artillery

The largest Division Artillery in the United States Army, comprised of more than 4,000 men, is located in the southern I Corps of South Vietnam.

In December, 1968, artillery in the 23rd Infantry Division was combined to work under the command of Division Artillery Headquarters. Prior to this time, direct support battalions had been assigned to each of the three infantry brigades in the division. General supporting artillery fires were controlled through Division. Unique in its organization, Division Artillery now is comprised of three direct support (105T) battalions and three general support battalions with 155 mm howitzers, 8-inch howitzers, and 175 mm guns.

The artillery pieces under the direction of Division Artillery are spread throughout the Division Tactical Area of Operation. They have provided timely and accurate fires in support of the 11th, 196th, and 198th Brigades of the 23rd Infantry Division, the 2nd Republic of Korea (ROK) Brigade, the 2nd ARVN Division, Provincial and District forces, Marine Civil Action Patrol teams, the 1st Marine Division, and the 173rd Airborne Brigade.

The most complicated and critical section of Division Artillery is found at the Division Tactical Operations Center and is called the Fire Support Element (FSE). The FSE is responsible for coordinating all naval gunfire, Army, Air Force and Marine air strikes, along with artillery pieces throughout the division. Plotting targets, clearing grids, and massing fires, day and night the FSE provides the most effective use of the myriad of firepower available.

This soldier of the 3rd Battalion, 82nd Artillery runs a maintenance check on a 105mm gun to ensure that it continues to function properly. (U.S. Army Photo)

6th Battalion, 11th Artillery

The 6th Battalion, 11th Artillery was originally organized on June 1, 1917 in the Regular Army at Douglas, Arizona as Battery F, 11th Field Artillery. In November of that year it was assigned to the 6th Division. In March 1921 the unit was reassigned to the Hawaiian Division. It stayed with the Hawaiian Division until October, 1941, when it moved from beautiful Hawaii to Korea and was assigned to the 24th Infantry Division.

During World War II, this artillery unit participated in five major battle campaigns and during the Korean Conflict, the 6th Battalion of the 11th Artillery participated in eight major campaigns.

The hard-fighting 6th Battalion, 11th Artillery made itself known all over the world, earning the Presidential Unit Citation (Army), Philippine Presidential Unit Citation, Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation (PYONGTAEK), and Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation (KOREA).

Turmoil in Southeast Asia sent the battalion to Schofield Barracks, Hawaii in March, 1967. After the completion of training, the main body of the 6th Battalion, 11th Artillery arrived in Vietnam on December 19, 1967 as an organic unit of the 11th Infantry Brigade.

From time of arrival in the Republic of Vietnam the men of the "On Time" 6th Battalion, 11th Artillery have taken part in six major campaigns.

Wars are won by teamwork--Artillery and Infantry are a winning combination; so is the 6th Battalion, 11th Artillery and the men of the 11th Infantry Brigade.

Battery G's are powerful!

During World War II the 55th and 29th Artillery Regiments saw extensive action on both fronts. The 55th Artillery, while serving in Europe, earned the Distinguished Unit Citation in the Ardennes as well as other honors in the Pacific. The crest, depicting the highly effective fire-arrow of pregun powder days, is an allusion to the highly effective fire of the unit's Quad .50 machine guns today.

The crest of the 29th Artillery alludes to the units landing on the beaches of Normandy, for which it was awarded the Distinguished Unit Citation. In this seaborne assault, the 29th Artillery was part of Combat Team 8, the first to land in the bloody VII Corps sector on the Allied right flank.

Since its arrival in Vietnam, Battery G (Machine Gun) 55th Artillery has been providing convoy security, combat assault support and perimeter defense to all organic artillery and infantry units within the 23rd Infantry Division area of operations.

Battery G (Searchlight) 29th Artillery was assigned to the 108th Field Artillery Group, under operational control of 23rd Infantry Division Artillery and has been providing target acquisition and battlefield illumination with 125,000,000 candlepower, 23 inch Xenon searchlights. Both units have had elements on 25 fire support bases throughout the 23rd Infantry Division area of operations.

During June, 1969 3rd Platoon/Battery G 29th Artillery (Searchlight) was attached to Battery G 55th Artillery (Machine Gun). The platoon continued to enhance the security of isolated fire bases, provide target acquisition, and navigation aids. When co-located with the Quad .50's, immediate engagement was possible during attack.

Currently, in addition to normal duties, both units have begun new programs to further enhance their effectiveness. Battery G, 29th Artillery has been extremely successful marking targets and gun runs at night when teamed up with Cobra gunships. Battery G, 55th Artillery, under the auspices of the 198th Infantry Brigade, has initiated an extensive program of indirect fire into suspected enemy locations. To date, the "Quads" have expended over 4,500,000 rounds since arriving in Vietnam and have combat assaulted on numerous occassions in direct support of Americal infantry and artillerymen.

1st Battalion 14th Arty

The 1st Battalion, 14th Artillery was organized in the Regular Army in December, 1934 at Fort Riley, Kansas as Battery A, 14th Field Artillery. The battalion was deactivated in July, 1936 and remained so until July, 1940. It was reactivated on July 15, 1940 at Fort Benning, Georgia and was assigned to the 2nd Armored Division.

The battalion has six campaign streamers on its colors from World War II. The unit was awarded the Distinguished Unit Citation for heroic action in Normandy, when for 22 days the unit fired an average of one round per minute.

In mid-1950 the 14th Artillery sent one complete firing battery to the Korean effort. This battery, formed mostly from Battery B, was designated the 14th Provisional Battery.

On July 3, 1967 the 14th Artillery left the 2nd Armored Division left the 2nd Armored Division and became part of the newly formed 198th Light Infantry deployment to Southeast Asia. The unit as a part of the 198th Light Infantry Brigade, deployed to the Republic of South Vietnam on October 6, 1967. Its record in Vietnam has been outstanding.

"Ex Hoc Signo Victoria, In This Sign Victory", the motto of the 1st Battalion, 14th Artillery, truly describes the battalion.

3rd Battalion, 18th Arty

The 3rd Battalion 18th Artillery was organized in the Regular Army on June 1, 1917 at Fort Bliss, Texas, as Battery C, 18th Field Artillery. The battalion was assigned to the 3rd Division during World War I. For its outstanding record the battalion was awarded the "French Croix de Guerre". From the citation accompanying this award came the battalion motto "Through Difficlties to the Stars".

In April, 1967 the battalion arrived at Chu Lai from An Khe with the mission of general support of Task Force Oregon. In February, 1968 the 3rd Battalion, 18th Artillery was assigned to the 23rd Infantry Division where it is currently located. For service during 1965 and 1967 A and B Battery were awarded the Presidential Unit Citation (Navy).

The 3rd Battalion 18th Artillery still has General Support mission for the 23rd Infantry Division. The battalion has supported by artillery fire every operation conducted by the 23rd Infantry Division since its arrival at Chu Lai.

3rd Battalion, 16th Artillery

The 16th Field Artillery Regiment was constituted by an act of Congress on June 3, 1916 and activated at Camp Robinson, Wisconsin on May 21, 1917.

After training the unit boarded a transport ship at Hoboken, New Jersey, on May 10, 1918 enroute to Europe and World War I. Upon arrival in France, the unit was equipped with horse drawn French 75 mm guns and attached to the 80th Infantry Division.

The first shot was fired by A Battery on August 5, 1918 from the woods near Chateau des Bryners, France. After the Armistice was signed in November 1918 the unit became part of the occupation force.

In December 1944 the 16th Artillery was attached to Combat Arm Bravo at St. Vith, France and assisted in the repulse of the German Army in the "Battle of the Bulge". The 16th Artillery was inactivated in Europe following the war in 1946.

In the early spring of 1967, the 16th Artillery received orders for Vietnam. On May 24, 1967 the advanced party arrived at Chu Lai and was attached to Task Force Oregon as the first unit from the United States to arrive to join other units already in Vietnam.

The 16th Artillery fired its 500,000th round on September 21, 1969 and as of February, 1970 fired 558,550 rounds.

This gun crew from D Battery, 1st Battalion of the 82nd Artillery plugs their ears as the round is off. (U.S. Army Photo)

The 'Eyes and Ears' of the Fighting Army

More than 130 years of service is the proud heritage of the First Cavalry Regiment, the oldest regiment of cavalry in the United States Army and the first regiment of cavalry to be completely mechanized.

The cavalry traces its history to 1833, when, as a result of the need for a mounted force to protect the pioneers who were pushing westward across the Mississippi River into the Indian country. Congress authorized the organization of "The United States Regiment of Dragoons," which became the "First Regiment of Dragoons" in 1836 and the "First Regiment of Cavalry" in 1861.

Troops A, B, C, D, and E with Regimental Headquarters, were organized at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri in the summer and fall of 1833, and marched from there to Fort Gibson, Oklahoma. They were joined at Fort Gibson in the spring of 1834 by Troops F, G, H, I, and K, which had also been organized at Jefferson Barracks.

The Regiment soon found itself scattered along the Indian frontier through Oklahoma, Kansas, Iowa, and Minnesota, living the hard life of the pioneer. The Regiment participated in the Mexican War.

Located in Arizona and on the Pacific Coast at the Civil War, the Regiment joined the Army of the Potomac and fought with the army in all of its principal battles. With the close of the Civil War, the regiment resumed its Indian campaigns, fighting Apaches in Arizona and various other tribes throughout the west.

From its far western posts, the Regiment was assembled at Chickamauga for the Spanish-American War; took part in that war and the Philippine Insurrection that followed, and returned to the United States in 1903.

It served on the Mexican border during World War I and in 1933 was the first cavalry regiment to be completely mechanized, being designated the First Armored Regiment (L) in 1940, and became part of the First Armored Division stationed at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

In 1942 the regiment was deployed to Ireland with the 1st Armored Division and subsequently fought throughout North Africa and Italy. After World War II, the regiment was reorganized as the 1st Tank Battalion and later converted to the 1st Constabulary Squadron, serving on occupation duty in Germany until December, 1948, when it was inactivated.

Reactivated as the 1st Medium Tank Battalion in March, 1951 at Fort Hood, Texas, the regiment served with Combat Command A, 1st Armored Division, until February, 1962 when the remainder of the 1st Armored Division was reactivated. At this time the regiment was redesignated as the 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry, and resumed its historic role as the "eyes and ears" of its parent organization.

During October, 1962, as a result of the Cuban Crisis, the Squadron moved to Fort Stewart, Georgia with other elements of the Division. As the world situation eased, the squadron participated in mobility exercises and amphibious training at Port Everglades, Florida. During the spring of 1963 the squadron took part in exercise "Swift Strike", and then returned to Fort Hood.

In March, 1967, the squadron was alerted for movement to Vietnam. From March to August of that year, the squadron trained daily in all phases of squad, platoon, troop and squadron operations.

Upon their arrival in Vietnam in August, 1967, the 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry was deployed in I Corps Tactical Zone around Chu Lai. The squadron was committed to battle two days after its arrival and has been in the field operating against the North Vietnamese Army and Viet Cong continuously since that time.

'Pony Soldiers'

Troop E, 1st Cavalry was first constituted March 2, 1833 as Company E, United States Regiment of Dragoons.

The unit has participated in the Mexican War, the Indian Wars, the Civil War, the War with Spain, World War II and Vietnam.

On December 6, 1967, Troop E, 1st Cavalry, departed Hawaii aboard the USS General William Weigen for the Republic of Vietnam. The main body arrived at Quin Nhon on December 21, 1967. Immediately thereafter, Troop E joined the 11th Infantry Brigade.

The unit's mission is to provide security and perform reconnaissance for the 11th Infantry Brigade and to engage in offensive, defensive, or delaying action as an economy of force unit.

In that same month, Troop E received nine M551 Armored Reconnaissance/Airborne Assault Vehicles, and since then Troop E has been employed as an armor unit and has been engaged primarily in security missions. Though somewhat limited in mobility by the terrain in the 11th Brigade's area of operation, Troop E has proved the value of armor-protected firepower on repeated occasions.

123d Means Firepower

The 123rd Aviation Battalion was activated on December 8, 1967 from a nucleus formed by the old 161st Aviation Company. The 406th Transportation Corps Detachment and the 449th Signal Detachment, which had supported the 161st Aviation Company, were reassigned and attached to the 123rd Aviation Battalion in January 1968. During 1968, the 123rd Aviation Battalion compiled an impressive record. Company A supported the Americal's ground units by hauling 1,482 tons of cargo in over 3,736 sorties and in the process killed over twenty VC/NVA and medevaced over ninety-four persons. Company B learned their tactical lessons well, killing over seven hundred VC/NVA in 27,510 sorties.

On December 15, 1968, the 123rd Aviation Battalion was attached to the 16th Combat Aviation Group. January, 1969, two CH-47 units, the 132nd Assault Support Helicopter Company and the 178th Assault Helicopter Company, were attached to the battalion. A short period after this reorganization the 406th Transportation Corps Detachment and the 449th Signal Detachment were deactivated.

The 123rd Aviation Battalion has three air cavalry units. The three units, Company B, F Troop 8th Cavalry and D Troop 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry, are used to support each of the three infantry brigades in the 23rd Infantry Division. Assets from the 123rd Aviation Battalion have been involved in very major operation that the 23rd Infantry Division has undertaken since January, 1968.

MPs of the 2d Platoon, 23d MP Company, armed with an M-60 machine gun on their jeep, escort a food convoy from LZ Baldy to Chu Lai.

U.S. Army Photo

16th Combat Aviation

The 16th Combat Aviation Group was first activated and organized on December 20, 1967 and became operational on January 23, 1968, at the Marine Marble Mountain Air Facility, Da Nang. This was just one week before the 1968 Tet Offensive exploded throughout Vietnam. The 16th Group, as their motto implies, was truely "Born in Battle".

Originally part of the 1st Aviation Brigade, the 16th CAG was attached to the 23rd Infantry Division on December 1, 1968.

Operations during 1969 and up to the present have centered around the support of the 23rd's 196th, 198th, and 11th Infantry Brigades and the 2nd ARVN Division with the main obligations being: resupply, combat assaults and gunship support. Curently the 335th Transportation Company is providing direct support and back up direct support to seven types of divisional and non-divisional army aircraft.

With courage and determination and the professional competence of its subordinate units, the 16th Combat Aviation Group supports the Americal in I Corps.

14th Aviation sets the pace for div.

The 14th Combat Aviation Battalion, only a little over five years old, has a short but diverse history, having served all but two months of its existence in Vietnam.

The unit was constituted September 2, 1964 and activated the following day at Fort Benning, Georgia for ultimate assignment to Vietnam.

The 14th Combat Aviation Battalion moved to its present location in Chu Lai in mid April 1967 to support Task Force Oregon. At that time the 282nd and 196th Aviation Companies were replaced by the 71st Assault Helicopter Company and 178th Assault Support Helicopter Company respectively.

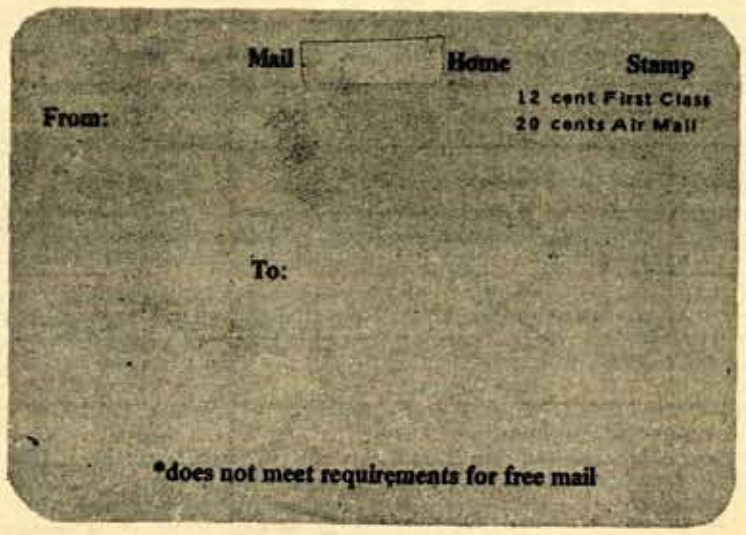
1967 found the 14th Combat Aviation Battalion supporting operations for armies of three nations: the US forces, the Korean 9th (White Horse) Division and the 22nd ARVN Division.

With the addition of the 132nd Assault Support Helicopter Company in 1969 the 14th Combat Aviation Battalion now holds the distinction of being the largest aviation battalion operating in Vietnam with close to 1,600 personnel and 129 aricraft.

'That Others May Live'

"That Others May Live" is an appropriate motto for the 23rd Medical Battalion. The present 23rd Medical Battalion was constituted in January, 1941 in the Regular Army as the 53rd Medical Battalion. It was activated in February, 1941 at Camp Claibourne, Louisiana. The battalion was reorganized on February 25, 1944, with elements reorganized and redesignated: Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 53rd Medical Battalion, Companies A through C as 382nd through 384th Medical Collecting Companies respectively and Company D as 634th Clearing Company.

Headquarters and Headquarters Company 23rd Medical Battalion was redesignated on December 8, 1967 as Headquarters and Company A, 23rd Medical Battalion, and activated in Vietnam, (former organic elements remained inactive). Headquarters and Company A, 23rd Medical Battalion was reorganized, thus added three additional companies to the 23rd Medical Battalion.

Headquarters and Company A remained in Chu Lai, Company B was located at Landing Zone Bronco, Company C was located at Landing Zone Mudd.

It is noted with interest that except for its original activation on February 10, 1941 at Camp Claibourne, Louisiana, the 23rd Medical Battalion has never been assigned nor served within the limits of the Continental United States.