Grunt of the Week is treated like king

By SP4 Don Newton

HAWK HILL (23rd Inf. Div. 10)–A new infantryman leaves the field each week and is escorted into his room here on Hawk Hill, headquarters for the 196th Infantry Brigade. Setting his rucksack aside, the new occupant looks over the room's furnishings which include a soft bed, refrigerator, telephone, desk and tile floor.

For the next seven days this 23rd Inf. Div. "grunt" will live and learn in a world far different from the one commonly expected of a soldier with a trained skill of "ll-Bush" (Combat Infantryman).

"Each week we ask for an outstanding representative from a different battalion in the Brigade," said Command Sergeant Major Frederick K. Tracey (Seattle), who serves as CSM of the 196th Inf. Bde., 23rd Inf. Div.

"The program gives a deserving grunt both an opportunity to rest, plus the chance to see what's happening on the brigade level," continued Tracey. "For instance, almost every day he travels with the Brigade's commander" (Colonel William S. Hathaway of Ft. Campbell, Ky.).

Individuals qualifying for this "Grunt of the Week" status must be an E-4 or below, with a minimum of three months in country and a maximum of nine months, and he must be part of a rifle or reconaissance platoon.

"Obviously, this is a good way to get a rest from the field," exclaimed Private First Class Randall L. Rotman (Ft. Lauderdale), a machine gunner for 1st Platoon of Company A, 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry, and the man chosen recently as the first "Grunt of the Week".

"At the same time, I'm learning what goes on where the decisions are made,"continued Rotman. "By going to the Colonel's briefings. visiting firebases with himm, and attending field briefings, I can tell what's happening from planning stages to exe CSM Tracey pointed out that one purpose of the program is to provide a means for closer communications between the field soldier and the "brass".

Col. Hathaway agreed. "This program is more of a benefit to me than for the individual selected," explained the commanding officer for the 196th, "because it gives me a chance to talk in some length with a member of eother a rifle or a recon platoon. I usually don't have time to converse with them and find out their problems as I would like."

Each week's winner will be chosen on a rotating basis from 2nd Bn., lst Inf., 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry. After complete rotation, the system begins again with 2nd Bn., 2st Inf.

Selection of the "Grunt of the Week" is determined by the individual battalion. The man chosen is also recommended to receive an Army Commendation Medal for Achievement.

Firefight nets 4

By SP4 John Szaynowski

LZ YOUNG, (196th Inf. Bde. I0)--A two-hour firefight with six NVA erupted recently in the middle of a routine search and clear mission west of Tam Ky by the men of Company D, lst Battalion, 46th Infantry.

Closing with the enemy in an "on-line assault" under heavy 12.7mm machinegun and small arms fire, the 196th Infantry Brigade soldiers accounted for the deaths of four of the enemy, wounding the remaining two.

Moving out in the late afternoon to join the 3rd Platoon of Company D, the men of the lst Platoon detected movement in a nearby rice paddy. "At first, we thought it was part of the 3rd Platoon, since they were reportedly in the area," related Specialist 5 Thomas Brovarney of Homewood, Ill., the platoon medic.

However, as the "Professionals" advanced down the slope of a small hill toward the rice paddy, it became clear that the figures were six NVA soldiers traveling in file across the rice paddy with weapons and rucksacks. "After giving our location and requesting gunships, I went up front to maneuver the element in an 'on line' formation, moving the point squad to the left and the rear squad to the right," stated lst Lieutenent Rafael C. Rivera of Fayetteville, N.C., leader of the lst Platoon.

The point-man, Specialist 4 Carl E. Morgan of Seymour, Tenn., and the back-up man, Specialist 4 Ronnie D. Haney of Sapulpa, Okle., opened fire on the enemy sodiers, killing the nearest two. The Platoon's initial volley of fire was met with heavy small arms fire and 12.7mm machinegun fire from a woodline several hundred meters .

"The NVA soldiers were trying to maneuver between us and the 3rd Platoon so that we would be in each other's line of fire," said Brovarney. In order to maintain communications between the two friendly elements and coordinate the attack, Private First Class Dale Krimer of Milwaukee, head RTO for the platoon, dashed across the open rice paddy, under heavy enemy fire, to the advancing squads.

Although gunships arrived in support of the "Professionals", the proximity of the friendly elements to the enemy soldiers prohibited their use.

After nearly two hours, enemy fire abated and lst Platoon made a sweep of the area. Two dead NVA soldiers were found immediately in front of the platoon's position, along with two AK-47 rifles and three rucksacks filled with rice and salt. "We also found two blood trails, but it was getting too dark to follow them," said Brovarney. Subsequent sweeps of the area the following day revealed the bodies of two more enemy soldiers.

SOUTHERN CROSS
AMERICAL DIVISION
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"Polar Bears" from Company A, 4th Battalion, 31lst Infantry move out for cover during a recent assault west of Tam Ky. (U.S. Army Photo by SP5 Robert A. Spangler)

HELLO... PROJECT HELP?

Project Help, Question of the Week:

Would the GI BILL for college be good in Sydney, Australia? I plan to keep my citizenship while in college. Would I have to pay taxes to both the United States

Answer: The GI benefits do apply to Australian college level or higher educational institutions. You would be required to pay Australian taxes on money earnings in Australia credit for tas payments to a foreign country, but only if you itemize Australia and pay U.S. income Tax. Your income tax may include a tax credit for tax payments to a foreign country, but only if you itemize youı deductions.

The camera catches this 155mm Howitzer in full-recoil after belching a round on an enemy position near Tien Phuoc. (.S. Army Photo by SP4 Guy Winkler)

Ready Rifles surprise VC; net 6

By SGT Louis Miller

Z STINSON, (198th Inf. Bde. I0)–Six enemy soldiers were killed and one automatic weapon and seven hand granades captured as an element of the lst Battalion, 52nd Infantry, 198th Infantry Brigade capitalized on the element of surprise in a recent engagement southwest of Chu Lai.

A patrol from Company C was moving through a heavily vegetated area when the pointman, Private First Class Roy Watson of Pocahontas, Ark., found a trail apparently blocked by a hedgerow. The infantrymen investigated and soon detected movement near a small building just on the other side of the hedgerow.

"I gave the area a closer look and spotted a Viet Cong sitting next to the structure," said Sergeant Michael Maier of Redwood, Calif., the platoon sergeant. "I yelled 'Dung Lai' but he was so surprised he jumped up and attempted to evade." Maier fired a quick burst from his weapon and brought down the enemy soldier.

Meanwhile, the rest of the unit had followed him through the hedgerow in time to find three more Viet Cong trying to evade from their surprise meeting with the "Ready Rifles". The patrol brought down those three also.

"We reacted very quickly," said Specialist 4 Thomas Johnson of Atlanta. "As soon as we heard Maier's shot we moved into position and saw the other three."

Two members of the element then moved into the structure the enemy had been occupying and saw a foot hanging from a rafter. The two infantrymen hacked up, yelled "Chieu Hoi", and then saw that the foot belonged to yet another Viet Cong, this one carrying an automatic weapon. But the "Ready Rifles" were quicker than the enemy soldier and brought him down.

The element then swept the area and policed up the automatic weapon, six hand grenades, one Chicom grenade, three full magazines, and items of field equipment.

Later another element of the company completed the successful day for Charlie Company. Aplatoon laager position received sniper fire from a lone VC and the infantrymen surpressed the previous five enemy, became the sixth kill of the day for the "Ready Rifles".

AMERICA NEEDS YOUR HELP -
Buy U.S. Savings Bonds

Division Reenlistment Conference held

By MSG William Turner

CHU LAI (23rd Inf. Div. IO) – "Counseling personnel for Reenlistment" was the theme of the Division Reenlistment Conference recently held in the Chu Lai NCO Club.

A first for the division, the one-day conference drew together 75 full-time Career Counselors, part-time Unit Reenlistment NCO's and guest First Sergeants.

Conducted by Sergeant Major Paul Haddox, Division Career Counseling Supervisor, and his staff the session covered reenlistment options and eligibility, waivers, files, bars to reenlistment, interview techniques and procedures and administration.

Haddox welcomed the group and outlined the conference program. He emphasised the importance of the reenlistment porgram within the unit, counseling the young soldier on selecting the Army as a career and encouraging rapport with the commanders for better receptiveness and cooperation.

"Before we leave today, it is our hope that we are able to iron out some of the problems inherent in our individual programs, discuss new policies and charges in the program and leave with a better understanding of our mission," Haddox said.

During the morning session Sergeants First Class Vernon Garrett, Jomes Owen, James Gates, and Harvey A. Hart and Master Sergeant Charles Ward discussed in detail reenlistment options, eligibility, DA Form 1315 and bars to reenlistment.

Haddox led the afternoon session with interviewing and counseling procedures followed by SFC Owen who covered qualifying prospects and preparation of reenlistment forms. SFC John E. Cooksey ended the discussion by explaining the Battalion Reenlistment Program.

Assessing the results of the conference, Haddox said the number of reenlistments prior to the conference stood at 13 for the division for the year, but seven days after the conference an additional 30 Americal soldiers had selected the Army as a career.

Expressing enthusiasm in the prospects of a much improved reenlistment program he cited the new pay proposal for infantrymen as a shot in the arm for the combat arms and the lifting of reenlistment restrictions for series 11, 12 and 14 MOS's as key factors.

Haddox spoke of a two-or-three man training team to conduct similar workshops at the unit level for part-time reenlistment NCO's, officers and others interested in career counseling.

Asked his thoughts on some specific problems areas, Haddox said commanders should become counselors at the brigade and battalion levels. All career people should begin taking an interest in the reenlistment program, he said.

Bernie the pig couldn't care less about having his picture taken, but he does enjoy being the mascot for the men of B Troop, 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry. Here, PFC Ronald Edson of El Paso, and SP5 John Jerabeck of Houston lavish affection on Bernie. (U.S. Army Photo by SP4 Ronald Cryderman)

Medic does job

By SGT Terry Williamson

KY TRA, (198th Inf. Bde. IO) – A medic of the 198th Infantry Brigade was "just doing his job," but may have saved the lives of two fellow soldiers during a recent contact northwest of Chu Lai.

A platoon from Company C, 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry was moving up a hill when the first two men in the patrol began to cross an open area. When the two infantrymen reached the middle of the open space, an enemy soldier concealed in nearby undergrowth opened fire with a burst from his AK-47 rifle. The first two men in the patrol were wounded immediately.

"The rest of our platoon got down and returned fire," said 1st Lieutenant John J. Robinson of New Orleans, the platoon leader. "Then someone called for a medic."

The platoon medic, Private First Class Michael Brooks of Seattle, weighted down with his full field pack, made a 150 meter dash from his position in the middle of the patrol to the two wounded men who were pinned down, still in the middle of the field. Meanwhile, the firing continued.

"When I reached the men they had shed their gear and were returning fire," PFC Brooks said. "Then our machinegunner began to lay down a base of fire and we were able to remove the wounded men to a more secure position. After the men were bandaged, I sat down and thought about what had just happened. But I guess that's my job."

"I don't think PFC Brooks even had time to take off his field equipment before he went after the two men," said Lt. Robinson. "Everything just happened too fast. But I've never seen anyone run that fast even without all his equipment on."

After the action, a dust-off helicopter was called in and the two wounded men were taken to a hospital for treatment.

If that weren't enough for the young medic to think about, three days later PFC Brooks had something else to sit down and contemplate. He was notified by the Red Cross that he had just become the father of a baby girl.

Bored? Why not try the library?

By SP4 Steven Elschlager

CHU LAI (23rd Inf. Div. IO) – A tour in Vietnam might go a little quicker if the man in uniform could just relax every now and then and do a little reading. And for those in the 23rd Infantry Division, all it takes is a little trip to the Chu Lai Special Services Library, located near the 23rd Admin Pad, which is across the street from the enterance to the Division Headquarters. A man can read in the quiet atmosphere of the library or check out the book of his choice.

Don't be worried about not finding a book you like, because the library has over 12,000 volumes of the most popular books to satisfy every taste. Also there are 204 selections of magazines and 19 newspapers to choose from.

"Love Story seems to be one of the most popular books we have", commented Mr. Jay D. Farris, a professional librarian formerly in charge of the library. "The most popular books are usually on the subjects of photography and sports."

At this time, nearly 100 people visit the library daily, but Mr. Farris stated that their is room for many more.

When asked why more people don't come to the library, Mr Farris said, "I think the reason is, many don't know where it is and either think they don't have the time or the transportation".

"Until better transportation facilities come to Chu Lai, the library will just be used by the local people like the 523rd Signal personnel".

Steam bath boosts morale

By PFC Fred Abatemarco

CHU LAI, (23rd Inf. Div. IO) – The 23rd Infantry Division recently opened an establishment that has as its sole function the betterment of every soldier's "health, welfare, and morale."

Those are the words of Mr. Lee Chang Yung, owner of the brand new Steam Bath and Massage Parlor here.

A refreshing shower follows the steam bath and then with the aid and direction of white, uniformed girls, you are led to one of the 28 private massage rooms for the ultimate in relaxation.

The Steam Bath also provides convenience in smaller ways. It is open from 0900 hours to 2000 hours daily and the standard admission is $2.50. There are lockers available for clothing and valuables as well as facilities for checking weapons. Towels, powders and linements are provided by the management.

SOUTHERN CROSS
AMERICAL DIVISION

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Specialist 4 Orrin Osowski of Oslo, Minn., an assistant gunner, drives in stakes to secure the baseplate of a 105mm Howitzer during a recent operation at Tra Bong. (Photo by 1st Lt. Dana P. Maynard)

1Lt William Kitley, S-5 for the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry, looks over part of a cache captured by Company B. The cache consisted of over 6,000 pounds of rice and corn, which were given to the residents of the village of Son Hoa. (U.S. Army Photo by SP5 Robert A. Spangler)

Rock star in Vietnam

By SP4 Rick Holloway

CHU LAI, (23rd Inf. Div. IO) – "If I can't get the troops to relax, then I haven't done my job."

This feeling is expressed by Specialist 4 Sean Flemming, a Special Services entertainer, who along with a rock group, "The Joint Chiefs of Staff," tours firebases and stand-down areas throughout the 23rd Infantry Division AO.

Flemming has been playing music professionally for the last five years and has appeared in nightclubs throughout the United States, Canada and Ireland. He has appeared on the "Merv Griffin" show numerous times, and has recorded for MGM for about a year.

Sean, a citizen of Ireland, was drafted into the Army in May of 1969, and spent some time as an infantryman here before auditioning for the job he now holds.

"I didn't come to the states with the intention of becoming a singer," says Sean; "the breaks just went my way." He plans on staying in the entertainment field, but he isn't sure whether it will be in the United States or Ireland.

Specialists 4 Greg Murat, Karl Marshall, and John Rayburn make up the "Joint Chiefs of Staff." They play largely rock music.

"The most gratifying thing about my work is when a man comes up to me and says that we have just brought a little 'home' to him," relates Sean. "When we have made the war leave the thoughts of the men for just a time, it makes it all worthwhile."

His songs range from Tony Bennett to Paul McCartney; quite a scale for any singer. He will also add a few sidelights to some of your favorite songs. "I change some of the words to localize the songs, and give the men something to relate to," said Sean.

Flemming and the "Joint Chiefs of Staff" play music the soldiers will know, the songs they were singing before they left the states. "When the start to sing along, we know they are having a good time," commented Sean.

The entertainers put in a long day, getting up at six in the morning to go to firebases and coming back to Chu Lai late in the afternoon to play at stand-down areas.

They will also play at any party in the Chu Lai area. All you have to do is call Special Services at phone: 3149.

Craft shop like back home

By PFC Ron Howard

CHU LAI, (23rd Inf. Div. IO) – What are you doing tonight? If you're tired of rapping with the guys at the EM Club or in your hootch, have you considered the Special Services Craft Shop?

Special Services in Chu Lai has the largest craft shop in the 1st Military Region. The craft Shop is located behind the 723rd Motor Pool area and next to the Divarty Mess Hall. The large building is air-conditioned and has a central music system, which makes it ideal for recreational purposes.

Sergeant First Class Michael Bizub of Stratford, Conn., states that the building is available for all military and civilian personnel daily except Tuesday, from 1300 to 2200 hours. Specialist 4 Jimmy Hill of Salem, Ind., who is in charge of sales explained that most support materials are free and only a few things are sold such as leather, stone, or models.

Specialist 4 Dave Mac Allister of Chicago teaches photography in a large and very well equipped lab complete with a portrait studio well-furnished with lighting and back-drops. The lab itself has ten enlargers and is capable of developing any black and white or ektachrome negative. Color photography will be taught by Mac Allister in about four weeks.

Two of the most popular classes are leather craft taught by Sergeant George Jones of Longview, Tex., and lapidary (stone working) taught by Specialist 4 Tim Bellemy of Oklahoma City. The lapidary shop has several millstones and many types of stone in the rough to work with. Specialist Bellemy also teaches art and crafts and jewelry work. Other crafts taught are woodworking, graphics, art, copper enameling, and model building with balsa and plastic kits.

The shop has a library offering instruction in the different crafts.

Specialist 4 Jimmy Kidd of Kansas City, Mo., stated that, this is the best place to "get away from it all" while in Vietnam. "It reminds me of the world," he said. "There isn't anyone to harass you. I forget that I am in the Army, in Vietnam and even who I am. I guess I just become involved." Kidd is a member of Bravo Company, 23rd S&T Battalion.

Specialist 5 Boyd Cook of division finance said that this place is better than going out and drinking every night. He also stated, "The only thing wrong is that there needs to be some sort of transportation every night to keep guys off the road and to make the shop more accessible."

All in all, the craft shop has a very relaxed atmosphere where everyone works together and enjoys themselves; the overall agreement being that once you have visited the shop and have seen the facilities, you will visit again.

Drug seminar

By 2Lt. Henry Grambergu

CHU LAI, (23rd Inf. Div. IO) – The 23rd Infantry Division Surgeon, Colonel Edmund A. Krekorian of Silver Spring, Md., recently conducted a Unit Surgeon's seminar on Drugs at the 27th Surgical hospital here.

The all-day seminar, attended by physicians from throughout the division, was primarily directed at surgeons at the battalion level and how they could implement unit drug amnesty councils within their battalions.

The first speaker at the seminar was Captain Gary D. Lulenski, of Cleveland. He described a comprehensive drug questionaire that was issued to over 3,000 men in the division to find out their attitudes on drugs and drug use.

Lulenski is commanding officer of Company A, 23rd Medical Battalion.

He pointed out many of the important statistics of the questionaire and how they would affect the battalion surgeons in regard to their drug programs.

Captain Larry E. Alessi of Timonium, Md., a psychiatrist, then discussed the various drugs used by soldiers in Vietnam, the effects they have on soldiers and the treatments for drug withdrawal.

He broke down the types of drugs used in Vietnam into three major categories: Marijuana and Hashish, Opium and Opioid Alkaloids and Hallucinogens.

Alessi cited various studies by different medical research teams and their findings on drugs, as well as his own studies and described the various treatments for different kinds of drug withdrawals.

This speech and the discussion that followed enabled the battalion surgeons to get some new insights on the types of drugs they have to cope with here in Vietnam and how to treat the withdrawal effects properly.

After lunch, Major Ernest A. Jeppsen of Porvo, Utah, the division psychiatrist, discussed how the unit amnesty councils should be set up at the battalion level.

He stated that in order for the unit to fulfill its obligation to help the drug user it must set up a unit amnesty council or group.

The groups are to be composed of drug users, ex-drug users and at least one officer and non-commissioned officer.

It is councils like this which can best help the drug user with his problem, he said.

The meeting was concluded with a review of military psychiatric problems and how to treat them.

Safety standards fall; injuries are on rise

By SP4 Steven Elschlager

CHU LAI (23rd Inf. Div. IO) – A recent survey on accidents in the 23rd Infantry Division shows that safety is not being put first on the list of requirements for the everyday tasks we perform.

The accident rate, compared to that of the previous month, shows a slight decrease. But there is a steady increase for injuries resulting from carelessness.

Damages cost the division $3,500 for motor vehicle accidents in which two people were injured in four accidents.

Some of the causes of motor vehicle accidents in this division usually result from "the other driver" or the pedestrian.

Another cause of motor vehicle accidents is the "failure to maintain control of the vehicle". A solution for this would be to keep your eyes on the road and maintain a safe speed.

A defective vehicle was the cause of one accident in this division last month. If a proper inspection is made daily on every vehicle, an accident of this type would not happen.

One of the major causes of vehicle accidents anywhere is "driving under the influence of alchol". To be driving while "smashed" is a one-way ticket to trouble. In this case, a drunk has a good chance of loosing control of his vehicle and causing an accident that could have been prevented.

Injuries disabling individuals rose the past month.

The cost of those injuries which prevented the injured from returning to duty for the division was $82,500.

Their were 39 injuries last month. Twelve of those injured were the results of unsafe use of weapons. In most cases the individual could have prevented the accident if he would have taken care of the weapon.

Illegal use of explosives injured ten others last month. Four people were injured because of severe burns and eight others were injured because of unsafe use of knives and machettes.

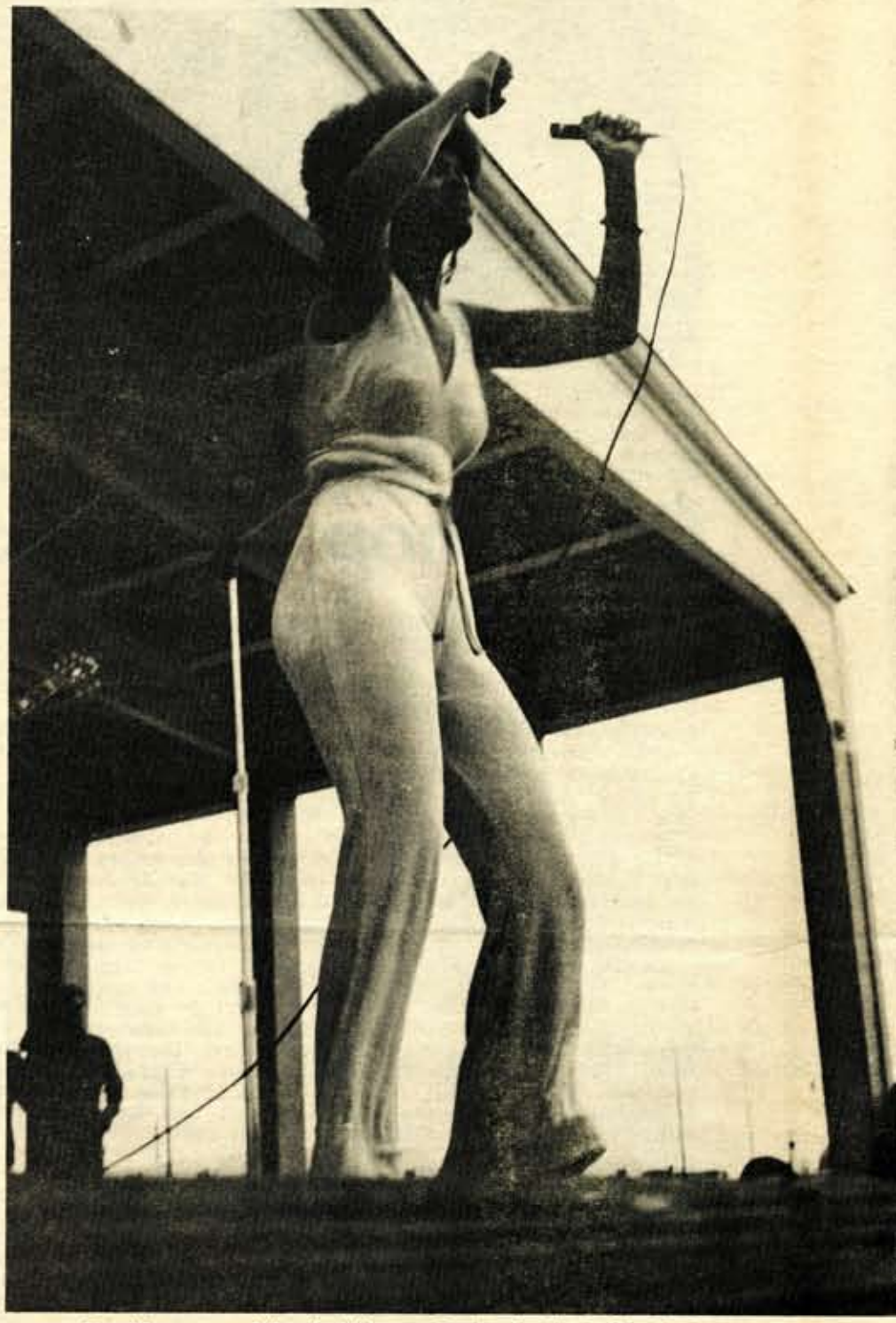
All of these accidents could have been prevented, but in each case, a mistake was made due to the lack of proper safety precautions.

Be careful, don't spend your DEROS in a hospital or worse; go home knowing you prevented accidents because you observed all the safety rules.

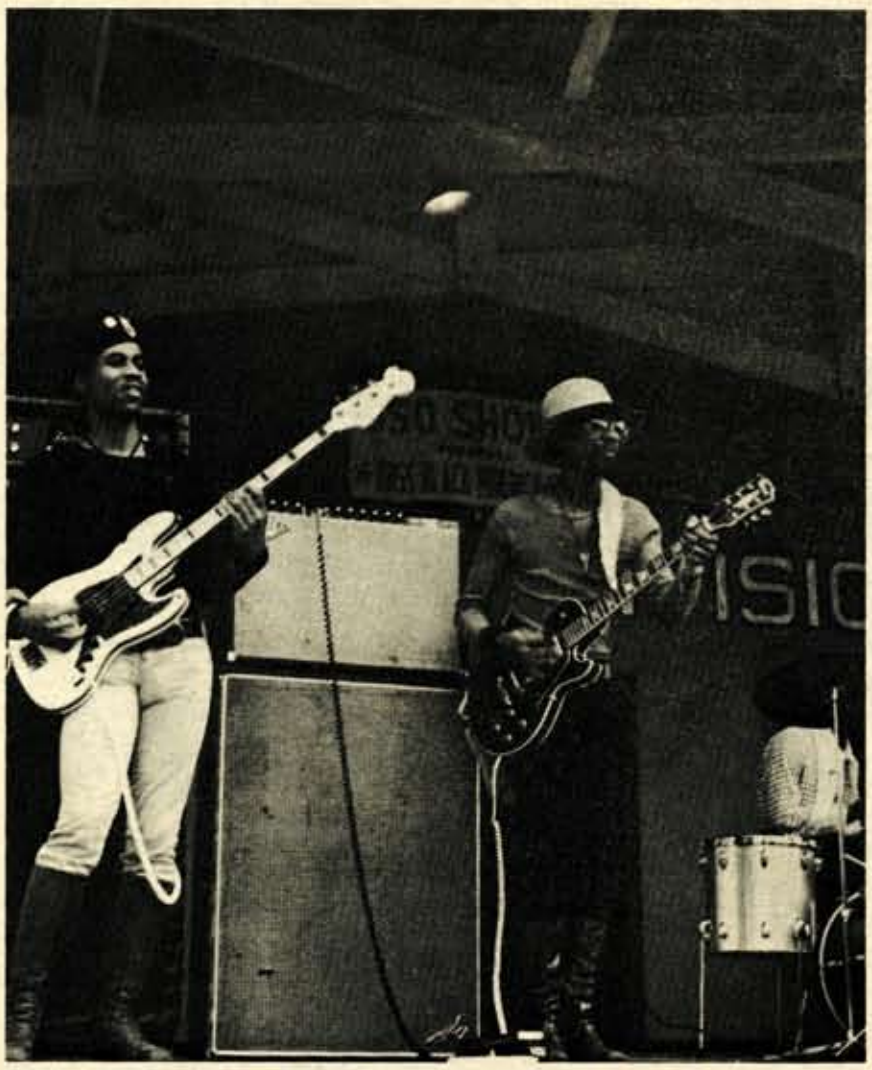
Three soldiers from Bravo Company, 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry, share their noon meal with local Vietnamese children from Quang Tin Province. (U.S. Army Photo by SP5 H. Wells)

God Bless Miss Black America

,Miss Black America performers "get their things together" backstage prior to their recent performance in the Chu Lai Amphitheater.



Reaching out to bring it all home, Stephanie Clark, Miss Black America, lets loose with some soul for the men of the 23rd Infantry Division.



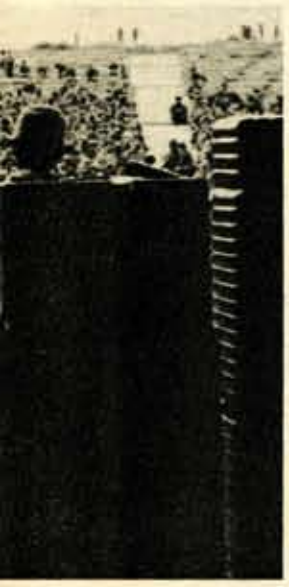
Psychodelic Frankie, right, and associate "make" with the good "vibes" at the recent Miss Black America Show.

Attentively eyeing the shapely Miss Black America Show, troopers of the 23rd Infantry Divisio from a momentary "forward fixation" on the Chu Lai Amphitheater.

Shapely Sylvia Smith, Miss Black North Carolina, uses a little body motion to get a point across. In the background 23rd Infantry Division troopers record the moment for posterity with their ever present cameras.

Lou Ashley puts it all together with three shapely beauties. Left to right are Brenda Duff, Miss Black Alabama, Sylvia Smith, Miss Black North Carolina, and Inas Slade, Miss Black Utah.

Photos by SP4 Joel Andrewjeski



ision seem to be "suffering"

Voluptuous Inas Slade, Miss Black Utah, sensuously eyes 23rd Infantry Division troopers during her performance.

Reaching deep down inside to get the heart of the song Stephanie Clark, Miss Black America, does "her thing" on the Chu Lai Amphitheater stage.

Child is found

By SP4 John P. Szaynowski

LZ YOUNG, (196th Inf. Bde. IO) – Meandering through rice paddies, moving from hamlet to hamlet, making inquiries wherever they stopped, the search seemed like looking for the proverbial "needle-in-a-haystack".

The object of the search was the six-year-old daughter of Quang, a Luc Luong Scout with Company A, 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry, 196th Infantry Brigade.

"We were working the area east of Tien Phuoc," explained 1st Lieutenant Robert S. Bell of Searcy, Ark., platoon leader of the third platoon. "It wasn't until we captured a very high-ranking Viet Cong official that Quang became justifiably concerned about the welfare of his daughter."

Almost a year ago Quang, a former VC, rallied to the South Vietnamese government and became a Luc Luong Scout. In retribution for his actions, the Viet Cong killed his wife. Fear for his young daughter's life forced Quang to move her out of the area and leave her with some friends in the Tien Phuoc District. It was the last time he had seen her or knew of her precise whereabouts.

It was not until Company A began conducting search and clear operations in the area around Tien Phuoc that Quang saw an opportunity to search for his daughter.

"Quang told Captain Spilberg about his daughter and asked whether he could look for her," continued Bell. "We enjoy a very close rapport with all of our Luc Luong Scouts. He's done an outstanding job for us and we felt obliged to help him find his little girl."

As company commander, Spilberg acquiesced to Quang's request and dispatched a patrol to accompany him.

Not knowing the exact whereabouts of his daughter or even if she was still in the area, Quang went from hamlet to hamlet making inquiries about her. Fortunately, the people with whom he had left her still resided in the same locale and he was once again reunited with his little girl.

"When he found her, he was just beaming with happiness," continued Bell.

The little girl was taken to live with relatives in Tam Ky, where Quang is able to visit her frequently.

"Many of the men in the company wrote to family, relatives and friends, asking them to send clothes, toys, and similar things for the little girl," Bell concluded.

If Americal troopers aren't wading knee-deep through rice fields, chances are fairly good that they will be over their heads in grass. Here, engineers with Company E, 26th Engineers thread their way through the tall grass during a recent operation in the 196th Infantry Brigade. (Photo by PFC Stephen Belfeld)

Jungle expert

By SGT Louis Miller

KY TRA, (198th Inf. Bde. IO) – Because of his background, an infantryman in the 198th Infantry Brigade makes himself right at home when his unit is operating in a thick jungle area. In fact, his only wish is that the jungle might be just a little thicker.

Specialist 4 Rudyard Deuning, now of Huntington Beach, Calif., a pointman with Company A, 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry, was born and raised in Dutch New Guinea. Most of his 15 years there were spent in the triple canopy jungle that engulfs the South Pacific island.

The specialist moved to the United States several years ago and was later drafted into the Army.

"When I first saw Vietnam, it reminded me a lot of New Guinea," Deuning recalled. "In our battalion's area of operation., the jungle area is thick, but not as thick as it is in New Guinea. Over here there are open areas; in New Guinea it is all thick."

Because of his experience with jungle terrain, Deuning was a natural for the job of pointman. The rest of his unit agree that he is perfect for the position.

"When I walk point, I try to choose the easiest and safest route. This isn't too difficult if you are used to traveling in the jungle," he said. "I can tell if an area has water by the growth of the trees and by the different types of vegetation."

Once when he was leading his squad through thick vegetation he noticed an area which he felt could easily be an enemy position. So, instead of taking the obvious trail up the hill, he led his unit around the hill and came up from behind. At the top, the "Professionals" found six military structures, several bunkers, and a tunnel.

The jungles of Vietnam and New Guinea can both contain some frightening things. In Vietnam, Deuning often runs into enemy soldiers. "But in New Guinea," he said, "There are still some headhunters running around. I don't know which is worse."

Regulars find base camp

By SGT Louis Miller

LZ DOTIE, (198th Inf. Bde. IO) – A large open area caused infantrymen from the 198th Infantry Brigade to move through a heavily vegetated area southeast of Chu Lai recently. The detour netted the infantrymen a Viet Cong base camp and one enemy soldier killed.

A platoon from Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry was maneuvering through a thick area when the "Regulars" came to an open space. Although it would have been shorter to move across the large open area, Staff Sergeant William Mennefee of Cleveland, decided to have his men cut through the thick brush.

Specialist 4 David Compton of Louisville, Ill., pointman led the platoon through part of the area without too much trouble, but he became suspicious when he spotted two passage ways through a thick hedgerow. Mennefee ordered that the patrol set up a day laager position a short distance away. The "Regulars" then sent a patrol back to check the area.

"When our patrol moved through the small tunnel-like passage ways, we found a Viet Cong base camp," he said. "When the whole patrol was through the hedgerow, we began checking out the area for booby traps."

The camp was 500 feet long and 200 feet wide, and had a trench line around the position. Also, the Viet Cong had tied the tops of the hedges and trees together, and pulled them over the area so that the camp couldn't be observed from the air.

While investigating the enemy camp, the "Regulars" uncovered sleeping positions, fortified fighting positions, clothes, and freshly cut hair. The camp appeared to have been used recently.

The "Regulars" set up a night defensive position near the enemy camp site in hopes that the Viet Cong would try to use the camp again. It turned out to be a good decision because the "Regulars" engaged and killed a Viet Cong when he entered the camp that night.

At first light the next morning, the "Regulars" swept the area of contact and found a homemade pack, ten pounds of rice, and a canteen cup. Mennifee plotted artillery on the enemy camp, and accurate artillery fire completely destroyed the Viet Cong base.

Due to a massive land clearing project in the area, the Viet Cong will be hard pressed to find another suitable site. Hundreds of Viet Cong tunnels and hiding places have been uncovered and destroyed in the past few months.

"I am glad we destroyed this camp," he said. "I imagine it is one of the last sanctuaries that the enemy had in this area."

Ducks rout Viet Cong

By PFC Gene Colling

FSB BRONCO, (11th Inf. Bde. IO) – The day was warm as the midafternoon sun beat down. What had been a quiet, routine day for the 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry, "ducks" on road security abruptly changed into a fire-fight with a suddenly bold enemy.

One "duck" and a command jeep were set up just south of Sa Huynh on QL 1 when a civilian bus driver stopped and told the men that a truck had overturned two kilometers to the south.

"We immediately took off for the location," said Staff Sergeant James Neal of Kingsport, Tenn., "and as soon as we saw the truck we could see that an ambush had just occurred."

The two and a half ton truck carrying 20 flame throwers overturned after running out of control up the side of a berm.

"We found a wounded GI near the berm, and he told us that the truck had been ambushed by 10 to 12 VC," said Specialist 4 John Lewis, of Boynton Beach, Fla.

Specialist 4 Marvin Jackson of Pleasure Ridge, Ky., quickly administered first aid to the wounded man and stayed with him until he was evacuated.

Small arms fire from the high ground bordering the road made it evident that the VC were still close by. As Private First Class Render Johnson, of Thomaston, Fa., returned fire with the duck's twin machinegun; Neal called in an accurate artillery barrage on the high ground. After a half hour of sporadic firing, the enemy broke contact.

The quick reaction by the men on the 'ducks' undoubtedly prevented the VC from capturing the flame throwers," said Battalion Commander LTC Vernon B. Sones.

Ambushers get ambushed

By SP4 Les Bechdel

FSB SAN JUAN HILL, (11th Inf. Bde. IO) – The point element of the 1st Platoon, Company D, 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry proved its worth recently by preventing a would-be NVA ambush.

The Mountainmen were making their way down an over-grown trail north of Iron Mountain when pointman PFC Gary Hamlin of Nevada City, Calif., spotted two NVA in ambush positions.

"We had just rounded a switchback in the trail and they couldn't see us because of a clump of bushes," the Californian remarked. Slackman, SP4 Norman Fox of West Palm Beach, Fla., added, "The enemy were behind rocks for cover and were ready to ambush the rest of our guys. I guess they thought that our fourth man in the file was our pointman."

Opening up with weapons on automatic, the alert trio killed one and wounded the other before he escaped into the brush.

Artillerymen from Battery B, 3rd Battalion, 16th Artillery at Tien Phuoc receive a mission. Seconds later, the round is on its way to rendezvous with "Charlie."

It's all in a day's work for the Gimlets

By SGT Matt Gryta

LZ CENTER, (23rd Inf. Div. IO) – The noonday sun beat down as the small patrol edged quietly out of a patch of thick foliage into a hootch area. A Viet Cong was preparing a meal as the pointman, Specialist 4 Sam Hartman of Senecaville, Ohio, inched his way closer. The VC turned around, spotted the young soldier and let out a cry.

Mere seconds passed before another Viet Cong came running out of a hootch. He halted, looking down the barrels of two American M-16 rifles. His AK-47 rifle was recovered from a nearby tree. Both detainees were extracted to the rear.

Late that night the 196th Infantry Brigade soldiers slipped unnoticed into another hootch area and began a painstaking search of each structure. The search paid off as the hamlet chief was found sleeping under one of the hootches.

The chief was extracted to the rear and found to be a VC sympathizer. Interrogators subsequently gained some valuable information about enemy activity in the area.

For the Reconnaissance Platoon, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry, it was all in a day's work.

The infantrymen achieved their success by borrowing some of "Charlie's" own tricks. On one typical day's operations the Americans were moving through thick, tangled terrain southeast of this firebase.

"No line companies had been through in about four months," said Sergeant William Milburn of Harriman, Tenn., squad leader. "We were able to slip through an NVA day laager, undetected."

The "Gimlets" set up an ambush 35 meters from the enemy position.

"Late in the evening one of them walked into our ambush," said Milburn. "The next morning we found the body of an NVA officer." The NVA was later found to be a regional political officer.

Not every basecamp checked out by the Americans proved so hospitable. "We were patrolling a ridgeline," said Staff Sergeant Gary Delton of Minneapolis, "when we ran into an NVA night laager."

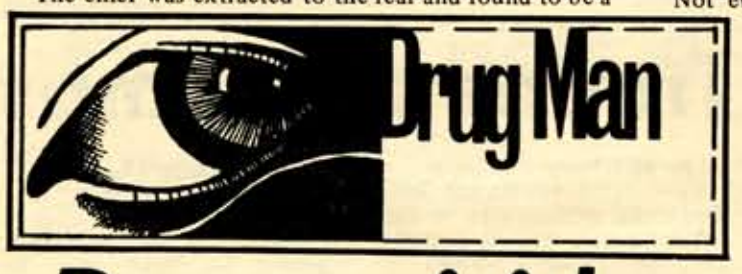
The Americans began to receive fire; they responded with a barrage from their M-16's.

"When the smoke cleared, we found four enemy dead and two AK-47's," said Delton. "On one of the bodies were found paymaster's kits with records dating back to 1965."

"Not long ago we were moving down a trail when we noticed another freshly-cut trail running parallel to ours just a few meters away," said 1st Lieutenant Joseph D. Barrett, platoon leader from Burlington Mills, N.C.

"On assessing the situation," said Barrett, "we decided that the enemy had either moved into attack our position, or had totally disregarded our force as a threat, or had completely missed our night position."

Another day had started.



Drug suicide: died at age 18

Editor's note: The letter you are about to read is a suicide note left by an 18-year-old boy who had been using drugs. It was originally printed in 'Motor Service' magazine, published by Hunter Publications. Since 'Pat' had already given up drugs before ending his life, there is no clear-cut correlation between his having used drugs and his reasons for committing suicide. However, the fact that his problem with drugs dominates the contents of the letter would indicate that this might have been the crucial motivation:

I have used all types of drugs from hash, pot, acid to hard stuff. It's all a bad scene. The people who push it don't use it because they know it's bad stuff. They can see what it does to you. All you are doing is ruining your life and letting people make money through you. They are only using you.

Drugs suppress, depress, dull your ability to function right. But most of all, they kill and destroy. Not all tabs of acid are alike. Each tab has different amounts of acid in them. No two are alike. Also, no two vials or packages of heroin are the same. If you shoot up with a friend, chances are you're not both on the same kind of trip. You may both come down but in different worlds. Then again you may come down OK, while your friend is coming down, crashing bad.

If you are crashing now or on a trip, remember, what are you going to get out of it? You're only destroying. Where are you going to go from pot, hash, acid, heroin?

Man, if you are on the stuff, please–for your sake–get off of it. If you can't fight it by yourself, then get help from someone. It may be rough, trying to straighten yourself out, but it's never too late. Man, at least try. That's not too much to ask. You don't know me, but I want to help because I needed help and someone to help me. There is a lot of real things to do, so many useful things we could do, and life offers only a short time in which to do it.

I remember the words from a song, 'So much of life ahead, we have only just begun to live'. If you can kick drugs, then you will find out what the song is really about. Don't give up the problems and escape by using drugs. It only makes more.

I have ruined a part of my life that can never be repaired and have taken the chance of ruining myself for good. I finally found out the truth about drugs and have quit. If you quit, a whole new world of life can open up to you.

If someone offers you drugs, be more of a man than I was and say no. Learn from my mistakes. I don't want anyone to go through the hell I went through and an still going through. Those friends of yours will offer stuff free, then start making pay for it.

They sell you harder stuff at discount prices, then boost the prices up when they get you hooked. Remember, the same person or friend who has grass will also be able to push heroin to you and for what? To make money for himself while he destroys you. People who push are the ones who want to destroy you and if you give them the chance they will.

Please, if you need help, get it.

I have decided to take a trip better than drugs could ever offer. 'Life', it's a great trip; try it before it's too late. Remember you can make life what it can be or something it should have been.

Dear Mom and Dad–I have lived a lot in 18 years, more than some people 60 or over have all their lives. Well, my 18 years are over. It's best this way now. I can not do more shame to our name. Just picture me asleep and I will awake in another world where perhaps I will find peace.

Drugs have their small moments of happiness, but for each moment lies a century of sadness never to be removed.

I wish I could have learned a lesson from someone else's mistakes, but life didn't let me learn by others. I had to find out myself.

Mom, I love you. I never wanted to hurt you. Believe me, it's best this way. Mom, thanks for understanding me and my problems. Dad, you sure went through hell with me. Sorry, but now it's over. OK.

I hate to leave, but the more of this world I see the more confused I become...Goodby, be good, love to all.

January Playmate Liv Lindeland has won a part in the film "The Love Machine" to be released in 1971. She is thinking of returning to her native Norway, which could trigger a massive emmigration to the land of fjords. (Photo courtesy of Playboy)

Happiness is to be an Olympic diver

By PFC Ronald Howard

CHU LAI (23rd Inf. Div. IO) – Up one rung, then the next, as the slow, precise climb to the top is finished. The climax begins. Three measured steps, pause, toes along the edge of the board, kness slightly bent. The mind thinks, "relax, relax."

Then comes the burst into flight, over once, spread arms, pointed toes, back straight. Nothing mechanical, all as natural and precise as a single breath. Then the cool glove of water enveloping your body. Was it right? Did you quiver? Somehow, your heart, your soul says the dive was right.

So who says a career in the Army can't be exciting, creative, and one of fulfillment? Specialist Michael Murphy of San Diego is one who can prove that it can be.

Murphy was formerly assigned to Company G (Rangers), 75th Infantry. "I was with the Rangers because I wanted to be; I wanted to be with the best and I was. But diving is my real life," he said. "I found out about the opportunity for my present job as a life-guard with Special Services and I re-enlisted for it with the clause that I would compete in springboard and tower diving competition."

His past record proves he is well qualified to do so. He began tumbling at the age of 12 and then started diving when he was 15. While in high school he held the Metro-League Championship and the California Inter-scholastic Federation Championship for three years.

In the Pacific Southewst Association he was undefeated champion in all springboard diving events between 1965 and 1969. He was the undefeated Junior National Champion. Between the years 1965 to 1968 he was the undefeated Southern California Age Group and Senior Champion.

Even with only half an hour of practice after climbing a tower for his first time he went on to take fourth place in the Junior National Tower event.

"I like to keep in shape by working out at the Special Services gym, running and surfing. I also attend a class in Tae Kwon Do. Tae Kwon Do is a little rougher than the regular Karate."

Murphy holds the red belt in Tae Kwon Do.

His future in the Army looks bright. He is hoping to continue by competing and diving for the Army in the upcoming 1972 Olympics. "I have hopes for organizing and planning a diving team that will compete right along with the Army's swimming team. I'm not interested in money, OCS or becoming an officer. I would like to see competitive diving become a major sport. Diving just isn't known well enough."

His present Coach is Thomas Crosby of the Chula Vista Aquatic Association who is a cost analyst for Convair Airplanes. Specialist Murphy hopes to be stationed on civilian status in Southern California upon reentering the United States.

CH-47 helicopters bring resupplies into the newly reopened Khe Sanh airfield as part of the task force involved in Operation Dewey Canyon II taking place west of Quang Tri. (U.S. Army Photo by PFC Darrell McGillen)

Troops get lumps

By SGT Terry Williamson

LZ DOTTIE (198th Inf. Bde. IO) – An infantryman in the 198th Infantry Brigade recently faced an enemy mine–eye to eye. But the unexpected meeting between the two natural enemies really fizzled.

Sergeant James Glenn of Columbus, Ga., squad leader, Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry, got the surprise of his life while on a patrol southeast of Chu Lai. A "Bouncing Betty" mine popped menacingly from the ground, and stared angrily at Glenn.

The mine failed to go off, and really didn't do any damage, unless you talk to Glenn, who has a different opinion. He didn't like the meeting at all.

"The whole thing happened so fast that I didn't have time to be afraid at first," he said.

Specialist 4 John Daring of Dayton, pointman, apparently triggered the mine when he stepped on a delay pressure release device. Just as Glenn got one step from the buried mine, it popped up to eye level, clicked instead of explode and fizzed into the bushes to the left.

The sergeant yelled, "Booby-trap!" The infantrymen fell to the ground without thinking twice, and instinctively covered their ears with their hands. The "Regulars" waited nervously for an explosion, but it never came.

"I laid there only a couple of minutes, but it seemed like hours," said Glenn.

Red flag leads to large medical cache

By SP4 Zin Balaban

A ragged Red Chinese flag lying on the bank of a stream led 196th Brigade soldiers to an enemy medical cache of considerable proportions.

One morning recently Company D, 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry received instructions to check an area for possible enemy activity. "We were following a stream," said Staff Sergeant Robert R. Horne Jr. of Marietta, Ga., 2nd platoon sergeant. "When I spotted this flag on the bank. Large strips of the flag were torn off: it looked like someone may have used it to make bandages."

The men cautiously proceeded up-steam until they came upon a well-used trail. There were many smaller, less used trails branching off to each side.

On one of these trails, Sergeant Peter E. Gould of Worcester, Mass., the 3rd squad leader, sighted a camouflaged lean-to hidden in the brush. It contained cooking untensils and water cans.

About 30 meters up the same trail, Horne spotted a bamboo shelter along the side of the trail.

"At first I thought that it was a rice cache," he remarked. "However, a closer examination proved it to be a cache of medical supplies."

The supplies were stored in four large air-tight metal containers and several smaller ones. The containers were on a metal plate on an elevated bamboo platform. They were further protected from the weather by an NVA poncho which was secured to the ground with stakes.

The cache consisted of morphine, penicillin, plasma, vitamins, glucose, surgical scissors and a large amount of bandages.

"I would say that we captured about 100 to 125 pounds of medical equipment," estimated Gould. "Believe me, it was a hard job carrying all that stuff back to our defensive perimeter."

All the supplies were eventually extracted to LZ Hawk Hill and turned over to Vietnamese government authorities.

"We captured enough equipment to supply an entire NVA regiment," speculated Horne, while holding the flag he had captured. "I'm also glad I found this flag. It'll make a nice souvenir to take back to the world."

Project Handclasp

By SGT Matt Gryta

CHU LAI (23rd Inf. Div. IO) – Project Handclasp was organized by the men of the Navy and Marine Corps, but a little orphan girl known as "Alfalfa" got a division of dog-faced soldiers involved with the program of aid to the war-torn children of Vietnam.

The 23rd Infantry Division is headquartered here and until recently the Army unit shared this military installation with, among other commands, Marine Air Group 12 (MAG-12).

"Marine Corpsman Sean Barry was on a medical civic action mission in Quang Tin Province in May of 1968, when he found an abandoned three-year-old girl suffering from malnutrition," explained Captain Charles M. Mochow, assistant civil affairs officer for the 23rd Infantry Division.

"Bringing the girl back to Chu Lai and nick-naming her "Alfalfa" the Marines placed her in the Van Coi Catholic Orphanage in the twon of An Ton near here."

"Because of their interest in Alfalfa the men of MAG-12 contributed their time and money to the orphanage," continued Mochow of Byrdstown, Tenn.

"Corpsman Barry's mother, Mrs. Mary L. Barry, initiated a fund-raising drive known as 'Project Alfalfa' in Pascack Valley, New Jersey which has netted over $3,000 for food, toys and medical supplies for the children of the Van Coi orphanage.

"But Mrs. Barry's packages had been sent to MAG-12 via the Navy's Project Handclasp and when the Marine unit pulled out of Chu Lai in October of last year her latest shipment got stored in a warehouse in Da Nang."

When the New Jersey housewife heard no word on the shipment she became concerned and wrote the commanding general of the 3rd Marine Amphibious Force in Da Nang.

"That's where we entered the picture," explained Mochow.

Through arrangements with the 29th Civil Affairs Company, XXIV Corps Command, the G-5 section of the Americal Division had the packages delivered to Chu Lai.

Mochow and Master Sergeant Loren B. Massey, Johnson City, Tenn., G-5 operations sergeant, delivered the shipment to the orphanage.

"Project Alfalfa is in gear again," Mochow said, "and the little girl who got it all started is healthy and happy and the proud owner of a brand new doll."

It's like other afternoons at home for this infantryman of the 198th Infantry Brigade. Sergeant Paul Furtado takes a short nap after a big meal at his unit's field position northwest of Chu Lai. (U.S. Army Photo by SGT Terry Williamson)