Weekly re-cap

196th, 198th Bdes kill 16 enemy soldiers

198th kills 10

CHU LAI, (198th Inf. Bde. IO) – Action was light in the 198th Infantry Brigade area of operations (AO) as infantrymen and gunships killed ten enemy soldiers, captured nine enemy suspects and one weapon.

Most of the action occurred in the 4th Bn., 3d Inf.'s AO northwest of Chu Lai. The "Old Guard" accounted for six enemy soldiers killed and captured two enemy suspects.

While on operations northwest of Chu Lai, the 4th Bn., 3d Inf.'s recon element engaged a group of Viet Cong soldiers. The recon element killed five Viet Cong soldiers and detained two enemy suspects. The two detainees and two Chicom grenades were extracted to a nearby landing zone (LZ).

Company D, 4th Bn., 3d Inf., operating west of Chu Lai, engaged and killed one Viet Cong soldier.

While patroling northwest of Chu Lai, Company A, 4th Bn., 3d Inf. found one military structure. Further search of the structure revealed a small amount of enemy rucksack containing clothing, one NVA pistol belt and one ammo pouch. The equipment was extracted to a nearby LZ.

While working west of Chu Lai, gunships from Delta Troop, 1st Squadron, 1st Cav., killed five enemy soldiers and had the "Cavalrymen" inserted on one occasion to capture eight enemy suspects.

Flying southwest of Chu Lai, Delta Troop, 1st Squadron, 1st Cav., destroyed two military structures and killed four Viet Cong soldiers. They were killed by a secondary explosion in one of the structures.

Later the same afternoon, Delta Troop engaged and destroyed one military structure and one bunker.

Later in the week, while flying northwest of Chu Lai, gunships from Delta Troop observed a group of Viet Cong soldiers evading into a treeline. An Aero Rifle team was inserted into the area and immediately captured one enemy suspect.

The detainee led the "Cavalrymen" into an enemy base camp consisting of five military structures and numerous bunkers. The "Cavalrymen" engaged one of the bunkers with hand grenades, killing one Viet Cong soldier and capturing seven more enemy suspects.

The detainees, along with a large quantity of rucksacks, NVA helmets, and one AK-47 rifle, were extracted to Chu Lai.

While flying over an area southwest of Chu Lai, a "Night-hawk" from Delta Troop engaged and destroyed one enemy sanpan.

Company A, 1st Bn., 6th Inf. found one military structure with recent signs of use. Inside they found small amounts of rice, tea, potatoes, salt and coffee. The structure and food were destroyed.

Under the VIP Program, 198th Infantry Brigade infantrymen were given, by Vietnamese civilians, the following items: six artillery rounds; four mortar rounds; 32-20mm rounds; one hand grenade; one anti-personnel mine; six charges; two blasting caps; 72 anti-tank heads and 17 smoke grenades. Afterwards the munitions were destroyed.

196th kills 6

DA NANG, (196th Inf. Bde. IO) – In light action this week the 196th Infantry Brigade soldiers killed six enemy soldiers and destroyed several booby-traps.

Early this week Company A, 3rd Bn., 21st Inf., while on patrol southwest of Da Nang, found one anti-tank mine, and destroyed it in place.

While on an air cavalry mission this week, F Troop, 8th Cavalry, received a few rounds of small arms fire. Their LOH observed one NVA soldier evading northwest and called in gunships. Gunships then engaged the area, killing the lone enemy soldier.

Red Baron 40, while flying a visual reconnaissance (VR) mission this week, observed two VC soldiers evading into a woodline and another enemy soldier running towards a bunker. Artillery was called in, resulting in one VC soldier killed and the destroying of three structures and three bunkers.

Company B, 3rd Bn., 21st Inf., while on a search and clear mission this week, engaged and killed two VC soldiers with small arms fire. Captured in the action were four hand grenades, one rifle, two pistol belts, six fully loaded magazines and one poncho. The captured items were extracted to a nearby LZ.

While working an area west of Da Nang this week, C Troop, 1st Squadron, 1st Cav., found one enemy structure and one bunker. C Troop engaged the structure with an M-79, causing a secondary explosion, which destroyed the bunker and structure.

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SOUTHERN CROSS
AMERICAL DIVISION
Vol. 4, No. 33 Chu Lai, Vietnam August 20, 1971

Battery G stands down

By PFC Robert D. Hale

CHU LAI, (23d Inf. Div. Arty. IO)–Standdown is a massive, difficult, and finally relieving task. Battery G, 55th Artillery moved off positions on 18 fire bases, more locations than most infantry brigades occupy at one time, to assume standdown posture.

The unit, organized in Hawaii in 1922, participated with honor in the Central Pacific, New Guinea and Luzon Campaigns of World War II. G-55 received the (Philippine) Presidential Unit Citation and the Distringuished Unit Citation for service in the Ardennes Campaign.

Battery G came to Vietnam on February 1968, as a Quad .50 caliber (machine gun) unit, and was assigned to the 23d Infantry Division (Americal) Artillery the following January.

The battery has provided convoy security, combat assualt support and perimeter defense to organic artillery and infantry units in the Americal. Five-million rounds were expended as the unit participated in every division operation from 1968 to 1971.

By the time G-55 reached standdown, it had occupied over 30 fire bases and OPs (observation posts) in the division AO (area of operations).

The inactivation and awards ceremonies took place at the Chu Lai Combat Center July 26. Following the reading of the deactivation orders, Brigadier General Bertram K. Gorwitz, assistant commanding general for support of the Americal, noted the many fine accomplishments of the unit during its tour in the Republic of Vietnam.

General Gorwits honored the battery and its commanding officer, Captain Russell H. Lohman, with, "I say to the officers and men of G-55, well done."

Major Robert F. Snyder, commanding officer of the 1st BN., 52nd Inf., returns the colors to Command Sergeant Major Jack E. Wilson. The commanding general, 23d Infantry Division Major General Frederick J. Kroesen, presided over the change of command ceremony, which concluded the command of Major Charles E. Getz (foreground). (U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY SP4 MICHAEL J. CASSIDY)

Medic walked point, he carried no weapon

By SP4 Larry Rich

CAMP CRESCENZ, (196th Inf. Bde. IO) – "He's an outstanding soldier," Captain James S. Kenady, Headquarters Company, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry, said. "He just doesn't carry a weapon."

The man Kenady is talking about is Specialist Four Terry Douglas (Seligman, Ohio). A conscientious objector (CO), who served his time in that part of Hell known as "the bush of Vietnam."

"There is really no one reason that made me a CO," Douglas said. "All my life is a foundation for my feelings. I based my life on 'love for my neighbor' and the teachings of my religion."

Douglas applied for and received the status of conscientious objector. After completing Basic Training, he was sent to Ft. Sam Houston, Texas for Advanced Individual Training as a medic, a non-combatant duty.

"The first couple of weeks at basic were the worst," Douglas remembered. "Everything there that was a detail, I was on it. After a while they figured out that I was simply doing what I felt was right and wasn't shamming."

Following AIT, Douglas was given orders for United States Army, Republic of Vietnam. "I half-way expected to end up over here," the amiable medic said. "I just told myself, 'If I've got it to do, I've got it to do.' Maybe I could help someone over here instead of hurt them."

Douglas became a field medic with the command post of Company A, 4th Bn., 31st Inf. He served in the field for eight months, sharing the life of the infantryman.

"I met Douglas while I was a platoon leader with Company A," Kenady said. "He was just another soldier, always willing to do his share. The only difference was that he didn't carry a weapon."

"He'd walk point sometimes," the ex-platoon leader recalled. "If he knew the area better than the platoon he was working with, he'd take over and lead them to their destination."

"I never liked moving slow," the medic said, "and by starting and stopping you seem to get tired faster. We had a large portion of 'newbies' (soldiers who have been in the field for only a short time) for a while. Since I knew the area as well as anyone, I decided to walk point occasionally."

"Maybe I was trying to prove something to myself," he said. "I kept thinking that if anything happened, someone else might not be hurt."

Even without walking point, the field medics come as close to being an "11 bush" (combat infantryman) as possible. They face the weather tensions and deprivations that are found far from the perimeter wire and lighted bunkers of the rear areas.

"If anything," Douglas stated, "my tour has strengthened my views on war and killing. But, it is hard to 'love your neighbor' over here. The GI's have so many tensions. They constantly have to hold back their emotions."

"The hardest thing in the world to do is to tell a man that

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Binh Son District formulates drive to fight back at drugs

By SP5 Gregory Wright

CHU LAI (11th Inf. Bde. IO) -- "Dear Fellows.... the international Communist clique has infiltrated into South Vietnam various kinds of narcotics, such as marijuana, heroin and opium to put down our troops' and our allies' fighting morale."

"To withstand that furtive VC conspiracy and, simultaneously, to stop delinquency, robbery, vagrancy, prostitution and other drug related offenses, a Committee Against Delinquency and Drugs has been formed by Binh Son District for the purpose of getting rid of those who sell narcotics and those who cause disorder to our villagers' normal and free life."

These words, beeming from loud speakers on a 3/4 ton truck, were the beginning of an anti-drug broadcast made by members of the Binh Son District Information Service during a recent joint operation with a ground broadcast team of the 7th Psyops Battalion, attached to the 11th Infantry Brigade.

According to Captain Lee M. Gleaves, (Kokomo, Ind.) 11th Bde. S-5, officials of Binh Son have shown a keen interest in the anti-drug campaign.

"The Binh Son District Chief has really concerned himself with this effort," said Gleaves. "He realized that there is a drug problem in the district, and knows that this problem constitutes a constant source of friction between Americans and Vietnamese. When he contacted us and asked for help in fighting the drug traffic, we agreed to supply transportation and broadcasting equipment. Binh Son District, in turn provides personnel to make the broadcasts, as well as the texts of the messages."

Captain Gleaves went on to explain that the strategy of the drive is actually simple, eliminate drug dealers and the problem disappears. Eliminating sources of illegal drugs will not be an easy task, by any means, but the program now in effect is a big step in that direction.

The men of the psyops team which handles the broadcast missions, Specialist Four Larry Lengel (Pine Grove, Pa.) and Specialist Four Ray Ruchdeschel (Newburgh, N.Y.) were also impressed with the Vietnamese effort and its prupose.

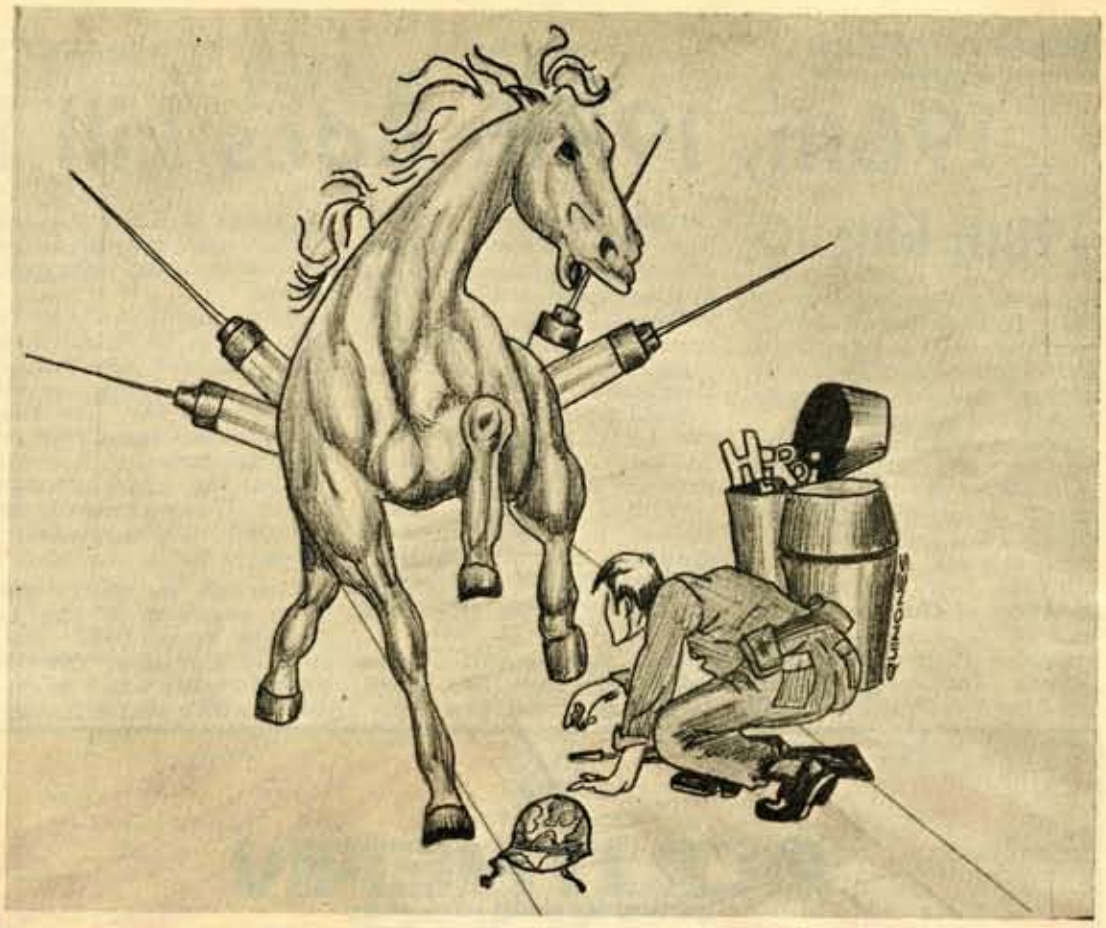
"I think this is a great thing the Vietnamese are doing," said Lengel, "and we are proud to be a part of it. I hope they achieve their goal here, which is to stamp out drugs, completely and with as little trouble as possible."

Ruckdeschel, thinking in terms of human suffering caused by drugs, was also happy to see the campaign initiated.

"Prior to this we were broadcasting Volunteer Information Program messages and collecting ordance along QL-1," he explained. "In doing that, we always thought we might be saving American lives by keeping explosives out of the wrong hands. With this anti-drug broadcasting, I think we are saving lives just as surely by helping to stop some of the heroin traffic in the district."

On the average mission, the team may cover as many as forty miles along QL-1, stopping to broadcast in any population centers along the way.

It is hoped that such intensive broadcasting will begin to pay off in the near future, with a decrease in the drug traffic and greater harmony between Americans and Vietnamese.



196, 198th Brigades kill 16 enemy

continued from page 1

The reconnaissance element of 1st Bn., 46th Inf., while in their night defensive position west of Da Nang, had a mechanical ambush detonate. As a result one NVA soldier was killed and one AK-50 with two magazines, a rucksack and two Chicom grenades were captured in the action.

C Troop, 1st Squadron, 1st Cav., while working an area west of Da Nang, found five anti-personnel mines among a group of structures. The mines were destroyed in place.

While working an area west of Da Nang this week, Company C, 4th Bn., 31st Inf., found a booby-trap consisting of a Chicom grenade with a trip wire. The booby-trap was blown in place.

An artillery round with a trip wire was found by Company C, 4th Bn., 31st Inf., while they were on a search and clear mission west of Da Nang. The "Polar Bears" destroyed the booby-trap in place.

Keeper 24, a resupply bird for 1st Squadron, 1st Cav., spotted one enemy soldier evading west and engaged with machine gun fire. As a result, the soldier as killed and one 9mm pistol, seven rounds of 9mm ammunition, one pistol belt and one hand grenade were captured in the action and extracted to a nearby LZ.

MP Co. rids area of rabid dogs

By SGT Tom Mano

DA NANG (196th Inf. Bde. IO) – What can make you take 12 shots in the stomach just by licking your hand?

Ask any member of the 2d Platoon, 23d MP Company here and he'll whip off the unpleasant answer. Ridding the 196th Infantry Brigade of rabid dogs is one of his specialties.

Using 12-gauge shotguns, the men recently started waging war against what many doctors say is an incurable disease. The battle against rabies was catalyzed by a dog which kept 21 "chargers" out of the field for three weeks to get shots.

"When the Marines left our AO (area of operations), many didn't take their pets with them," said First Lieutenant Karl V. Witkowski (Melbourne, Fla.), platoon leader of the MP unit. "Consequently, we had many stray dogs running around digging into garbage."

The crusade to combat the fatal sickness has not been met with admiration by some dog-lovers in the 196th Inf. Bde. Some say a more humane method should be used.

Replying to the charges of cruelty, the platoon leader said, "It's the only way that we have at the present time. Some units have a dartgun using C02, but the guns are in such short supply that we haven't been able to get one."

People may ask, "Why not get a pole with a loop on the end and catch the dog?" To this Witowski replied, "There was a guy in Chu Lai who did that, but in order to do it, you first have to get 21 rabies shots. I won't force any of my men to go through that ordeal, but if someone outside our unit submits to the shots, I'll be glad to give him a jeep and a pole."

Before the campaign started pet owners were informed in three consecutive daily bulletins about the forthcoming "open season." After the first day of elimination, calls came into the MP unit charging the men with killing their pets.

"I think we gave the people adequate warning," said Witowski. "The dogs we killed were hanging around the mess halls and digging in trash cans; people might have claimed them, but I don't think they are taking care of them."

Summing up his men's attitude towards the killing, Witowski regretfully said, "I know we're not making any friends; we might even be losing the ones we had. Maybe we don't discriminate between the cuddly and the shaggy ones, but then again, neither does rabies."

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IO takes Americal title drops MR1 to 101st

By SP4 Mark A. Schulz

CHU LAI (23d Inf. Div. IO) – 23d Infantry Division Information Office (IO) spiked their way to an easy victory recently as they capped the second win over Target Mission Force (TMF) for the Americal volleyball title.

TMF had been unbeaten in the 32-team field until their first match with IO, when they went down to defeat, 15-4; 15-7.

The IO drew from an office staff of 13 enlisted men and three officers to defeat the much larger staff of TMF, 15-11; 15-1.

IO had lost their first match of the double elimination tournament to the Combat Center Sniper School team and came all the way back through the loser's bracket with a 10-1 record to take the final honors.

On August 2, Major General Frederick J. Kroesen, 23d Infantry Division commanding general, recognized the Information Office with first place plaques and Target Mission Force with second place plaques during ceremonies at division headquarters.

IO went on to the Military Region 1 volleyball championship and took second place. They beat Da Nang Support Command, 15-3; 15-3, and were defeated by the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile), 15-13; 6-15; 2-15.

TOP LEFT: Specialist Four William Hutchison (8) attempts a block while team members look on.
TOP RIGHT: First Lieutenant Henry Grambergu (7) sets the ball for Specialist Four Darrell McGillen (30).
CENTER RIGHT: Team members of the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) pose for the Military Region 1 championship.
BOTTOM LEFT: An unidentified 101st Airborne player (21) spikes the ball into the net while Specialist Four McGillen places his arms in a defensive block.
BOTTOM RIGHT: An unidentified 101st Airborne player (24) falls back after attempting a ball return while other team members watch anxiously. (U.S. ARMY PHOTOS BY SP4 RON CRYDERMAN)

TOP LEFT: A dog's eye view of a Combat Tracker mission.

TOP CENTER: A Combat Tracker team haults as a booby trap is discovered on a practice mission in Chu Lai. The sign means "move up" indicating that the booby trap has been marked.

TOP RIGHT: Luke, in the center of the picture, leads the tracker team in persuit of the enemy during a practice mission.

BOTTOM LEFT: The tracker in the foreground is Sergeant Ben Miller (Tom Bean, Tex.) In the background is his coverman, Specialist Four Greg Heckert (Milwaukee).

BOTTOM RIGHT: Luke is harnessed by his handler, Specialist Four Rich Walter (Cleveland) as two cover men, Specialist four Noel Whitman (San Dimas, Calif.), left, and Specialist Four Greg Heckert (Milwaukee), right, watch for the enemy.

Combat tracke

CHU LAI, (23d Inf. Div. IO) -- It was only a training mission inside the perimeter of the Chu Lai Combat Base, but everything was as if the team was on an actual mission.

There was no talking. The men were carrying full rucksacks. Magazine were in weapons. They wore neither helmets nor flak jackets--speed, mobility and hearing are of paramount importance.

The trail followed by the five men and a dog--a Labrador retriever named Luke--was about seven hours old. "None of us knew the path," according to Sergeant Lee Simpson (Lancaster, Pa.), the team leader. "A couple of guys came out here this morning and set up the trail. None of us took part."

This is one of the four tracker dog teams in the 63d Infantry Platoon (Combat Tracker), part of the 23d Infantry Division (Americal). The platoon, actually company-sized, has mine detection teams and tunnel teams as well.

Three members of the platoon--Simpson, Sergeant Ben Miller (Tom Bean, Tex.) and Platoon Sergeant Ray Adams (Compton, Ky.) went to school at the British Army's Jungle Warfare School at Johoa Beru, Malaysia in 1967.

Visual trackers were first used in Vietnam in December 1966, by the 4th and 25th Infantry Divisions. The first trackers were all British-trained. Presently, visual trackers are trained at Ft. Gordon, Ga.

According to Adams, the capabilities of a combat tracker team is manyfold. "We are able to find what trail the

Story and Photos by SP4 Sam Rousso

r team simulates mission in Chu Lai

enemy has taken, follow him to his tunnel, hamlet or base camp, where he hides his weapons and supplies and even where he buries his dead."

A combat tracker team is composed of five highly-trained men--a team leader, a visual trainer, two visual tracker covermen and a dog handler--and specially trained tracker dog. They attend a school comparable to Ranger School, physically, but different in the subjects stressed.

"The Labrador retriever we use," according to Adams, "is an extremely capable animal. They are trained for one year before being released for combat duty. The tracker dog is trained to do a specific job--to aid the visual tracker in following the track through populated areas or where the track becomes difficult or impossible to confirm visually...The dog is an asset to the team, not the crucial member. A tracker team can and does operate without the tracking dog success-fully."

The first half of the training exercise proved just that. Miller, the visual tracker, led the team through the rice paddies, over dry land and through some terrain reminiscent of the American desert.

Luke, the dog, led the way during the second part of the exercise. Again, the route was through rice paddies, over dry land and through desert-like terrain. In addition, a river was crossed and the track wasn't lost. All in all, the exercise reflected the readiness and ability of yet another unit of the Americal Division.

Choppers, dust mess hall

By SGT Tom Mano

LZ Yonkers, (196th Inf. Bde. IO) – As the gigantic helicopter gently lays its ammunition load on the landing zone, men scramble with plastic sheets to cover rice, chili gravy, corn and salad from the torrents of dust.

One hundred mile per hour winds from Chinooks (CH-47) helicopters are among the problems confronting Sergeant First Class Henry C. Boykins (Louisville, Ky.), mess sergeant for this 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry forward firebase.

Boykins and his seven helpers feed three "hots" (Class A rations) to 190 soldiers, sometimes more, sometimes less, depending on how many infantrymen are stopping here on their way to the rear. With all their work, time to sleep doesn't come easy for these "spoons"

"I'd say with their job and guard, my cooks get about four hours rest a day," mused Boykins. "With the job they do, I have a lot of respect for these men."

The mess sergeant prides himself on the fact that many people say his food is better than that served in the rear. Having no refrigeration, the food is unloaded almost directly from the choppers into the troops' stomachs.

"We have an ice chest for meats, milk and ice to cool a drink," said the 196th Infantry Brigade "Charger". "But because of the heat we can't keep it very long."

Rain seems to be one of the heaviest nemesises of a firebase mess sergeant. For Boykins planning is the secret to keeping the men fed during the rainy season.

"I try to keep my B rations aside until we have absolutely nothing else," stressed Boykins. "I know when it rains, the choppers won't fly and I'm not the kind of guy who can look a man in the face and say, sorry, you can't eat today."

Coffee around the clock and fruit and other goodies when the men are on guard is routine at this firebase. The "customers" at Boykins mess hall rarely go without.

"I realize the strain these men are under, living out here and all," explained the mess sergeant. "I try to keep their minds off the loneliness by filling their stomachs."

But eating here isn't always a bowl of cherries. Necessity dictates that occasionally the same food be served for successive meals.

"We may have fish for four or five days; you just have to accept it," said the head cook regretfully. "But I'm proud to say that I've never served C-rations since I've been on this firebase."

This is not Boykins first firebase mess hall. In 1964 and 1965 he was in Duc Pho doing much the same as he does now. Here, he finds less complaining than any previous duty station including his rear mess halls.

"I guess the men sympathize with the cooks' problems here, being in the same boat as we are," concluded the mess sergeant. "But I think it's mostly because we serve damn good chow."

Play cops, robbers to catch enemy

By SGT Randall C. Gilstrap

DA NANG (196th Inf. Bde. IO) – Ever play cops and robbers? Recently some infantrymen of the 196th Infantry Brigade had to pursue this plan of action to record one enemy killed, two wounded and the capture of over 200 pounds of rice.

"We were working Charlie Ridge," commented First Lieutenant James M. Redmond (Oak Ridge, Tenn.), platoon leader for the 3d Platoon, Company A, 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry, "when we sighted three enemy soldiers about 800 meters away."

Reacting instantly, Redmond had his machine gunner lay down a base of fire. Simultaneously, he called in artillery to prep the area. After half an hour of prepping, the chase began.

Moving quickly but cautiously, 3d Platoon beat their way through the chest-high elephant grass and small trees searching for the three evaders. Lack of reference points such as trees, and visible artillery holes kept the "Professionals" from finding anything.

Moving back to an area they planned on using as a night defensive position (NDP), they heard moaning on the side of a hill. Approaching the sound, the men discovered a seriously wounded VC soldier and about 40 pounds of rice. The enemy was immediately medically evacuated.

Sensing that there might be other wounded in the area, the platoon stayed nearby. The next day the men were resupplied, but encountered no incidents.

On the following morning the "Professionals" were rudely awakened at 5 a.m. by the sound of a claymore going off 50 to 100 meters from their position. While illunination was called in, the men reenforced the perimeter in preparation for an attack.

A squad was sent to investigate the action and found one VC soldier dead and recovered an AK-47 rifle. Signs in the area showed that he wasn't the only enemy nearby.

At the break of dawn, the platoon again began the chase. Rounding a trail, they came upon a VC soldier on a stretcher, who had been wounded several days before.

"We figure when the enemy soldiers walked into the claymore, they dropped him and ran," said Redmond. "I guess fear overcame concern."

"The wound was about ten days old and gangrene had set in really bad," continued the platoon leader. "We managed to get him dusted off."

Alongside the enemy was 170 pounds of rice. It was extracted for further distribution to South Vietnamese civilians.

A chase can be as dangerous to the hunter as to the hunted. In this persuit, persistance and quick thinking gave the hunter the edge and henceforth the kill.

2/1st Inf has found several booby traps

By SP4 David Rea

CAMP PERDUE, DA NANG (196th Inf. Bde IO) – "Take your time and stay alert," is the phrase resounding through the valleys around LZ Chloe, the AO (area of operations) for the 2d Battalion, 1st Infantry.

The unit has been very active in the area and has found and destroyed numerous booby traps. In Fact, the first platoon of Company B found what was believed to be a booby trap factory. They found a bunker complex with a supply of composition B, trip wire, tin cans and other items essential for "Sir Charles" to make himself an anti-personnel mine.

During the past few weeks, different elements of the battalion have been successful in finding and destroying these lethal devices the Viet Cong soldiers are so intent in planting on trails and in old day and night defensive positions.

The enemy is starting to realize the effectiveness of these operations in the area. Echo Recon recently killed one and wounded one enemy and found explosive devices on both men. The captures totaled four booby traps; four which won't be used to detain our own forces.

It is evident that the unit is doing an excellent job in finding and destroying explosive devices. But, it never hurts to be safety conscious. It is the man who is in a hurry or lackadaisical in his thinking that has the problems in Vietnam.

Such a circumstance existed recently when a soldier encountered and picked up a booby trap. He is lucky though, as last reports on his injuries listed him in good condition.

He will be okay; and he might even get an early trip home because of the recuperation period necessary to make him fit for returning to the field.

The fact still remains that if he would have realized the seriousness with which the instructors taught the repeated classes on booby traps and how to cope with them, there would not have been a casualty report to make out.

You could call this a plea for everyone in the field. Don't be a little kid. You are fighting a war; so you have to start thinking and acting with this fact foremost in your mind.

Everyone here wants to get back to the states and the life they left there. To do this, each one of us has to think about what he is doing and keep in mind that it never hurts to be too safety conscious....DON'T BE A CURIOUS LITTLE KID!

Looking down the barrel of one of Firebase Rawhide's numerous M-60 machine guns, all looks quiet and serene. That is the way the men who must man this gun like it. But you can bet they will be ready if it isn't. (U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY SP4 WILLIAM HUTCHISON)

Spanish guitar satisfies craving for rock music

By SGT Tom Mano

LZ YONKERS (196th Inf. Bde. IO) – If while walking on this firebase, you heard the sound of an electric guitar coming from a bunker, you might not think much of it, unless, you knew there was no electricity in the hootch.

Creating electrical sound out of a Spanish guitar satisfies the craving of a mortarman here for the "acid" rock music that he left when he entered the Army.

Specialist Four Eddie P. Deeb (Cleveland) of Company D, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry is known by his comrades as much for his ability to play the guitar as for his beautiful sense of humour. In order to keep up on the present tunes and "jam", Deeb has developed a method to produce electrical sound without current.

"We place a cassette microphone inside the Spanish guitar and record what we play," explained the 196th Infantry Brigade soldier. "When we listen to the recording with batteries, the Spanish guitar sounds just like an eletric one and we know how good we're playing."

"Getting into" a guitar is nothing new for Deeb. Since he was nine, he has been taking lessons and at 17 started his first rock group.

Directly before coming into the service he played with the "Charades" and "cut" a record in the same studio that the Grand Funk Railroad recorded in. The disc, "And You Do", reached number seven in Cleveland and number one in Erie, Pa.

But Deeb's greatest thrill came when he played for his company on standdown in the early part of June. Having been in the field for 5½ months, he knew how much the relaxation meant to these men.

"The men really dug it," said Deeb. "Many came up to me afterwards and thanked me and the other musicians."

"Most of the guys had never seen a GI band," continued the mortarman.

"It was a tremendous morale boost, because the men could identify with the musicians, not like the Korean or Phillipine bands."

"It's a shame somebody higher up doesn't get more GI bands for guys on stand-down," stressed the guitar player. "There are a lot of GIs in the bush who can play. Your have all this talent in your backyard and don't use it."

"I really appreciate my company commander letting me play; he'll do anything to boost morale," asserted Deeb. "He wanted to do the best he could for his men; I wish there were more people like that."

The highlight of Deeb's self-satisfaction came when a "grunt" approached him with some pictures of the show to send home. At first the musician couldn't understand the excitment on the man's face.

"I thought we had just gotten up there and played some music," concluded Deeb. "But this guy was really happy and wanted his folks back home to see a real GI band. I guess that's where it all is."

We're taking bets on what Joy Bang has beneath this sweater. There is only one way to find out, so start practicing with those buttons. Joy made her motion picture debut "Pretty Maids All In A Row" with Rock Hudson by MGM.

Major General Frederick J. Kroesen, commanding general of the 23rd Infantry Division, meets his staff after officially taking command of the Americal Division. Colonel William R. Richardson (far left) chief of staff, introduces Captain Frank N. Griscom, information officer. (U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY SP4 WILLIAM HUTCHISON)

SP4's take GED's to men

By SGT Tom Mano

CAMP REASONER (196th Inf. Bde. IO) – To misquote an old adage, "If the mountain won't come to Mohammed, then Mohammed will go to the mountain". This could easily be applied to two soldiers here who journey in search of an honest education for men of the 196th Infantry Brigade.

Richard Jones (Boston) and Gregory Bordon (Moab, Utah), both specialist fours, knew the men on the brigade's forward firebases couldn't come to them, so they decided to take the learning to the "Chargers".

Packing correspondence catalogues and in the near future GED (General Educational Development) tests for a high school education, the two visit the six firebases during three days of the week. Taking turns they are able to provide educational opportunities for troops in the rear and on firebases simultaneously.

"We have two basic objectives in our travels," said Gordon. "One, we want to make sure everybody has at least a high school education before they go home, and secondly, we want to refresh those people with an education, so it will be easier for them to readjust to their former jobs."

"To accomplish the first, we stress the unemployment rate and how important a high school diploma will be to a future employee," continued Gordon. "Our second goal is easier, because men with some college are eager not to forget what they've sweated for."

The response the first day was negligible, but it seems to be picking up. The men hope one day when they touch ground on a firebase, there will be a line waiting for them.

"It'll take a little time before we get a big response," commented Gordon. "The people have to know you're coming and realize that you're really concerned about them."

"The first day my partner went out; we hardly got anything," added the specialist. "But the next day I signed up four people for correspondence courses and received many inquiries on the GED test."

Paralleling the educational benefits, there is also information on veteran's benefits. The "backwoods" people are made fully aware of home and car purchasing, disability and loans.

SP4 Savicki —— 'sniffs' —— out enemy

By SGT Tom Mano

DA NANG, (196th Inf. Bde. IO) – "Now?" asks the pilot. "Now" barks the passenger. Immediately the tiny chopper dives from over 1000 feet to begin its whistling treetop level flight at speeds up to 100 knots.

Specialist Four Robert Savicki, a "sniffer" (airborne personnel detector) operator for the 27th Chemical Detechment attacked to the 196th Infantry Brigade said, "And when we drop, we DROP! You stomach goes into your mouth."

To anyone not acquainted with a "sniffer", it's a machine used to detect human presence in heavily-vegetated areas.

To be most effective, the machine is operated from a LOH (light observation helicopter) low-leveling at a feverish clip.

The mission for Savicki starts when he gets a designated "box", (area to cover). By 7 a.m. he's on his way accompanied by a command and control (C & C) chopper and Cobra gunships.

Once over the area, the LOH flies more than 100 feet above the terrain to get a "Background", a general reading of the area to be compared to future detections.

Using contours on a map the men decide what their route will be. Sometimes it takes them along 75 degree ridgelines.

"That can get pretty hairy," mused Savicki. "Sometimes I have trouble holding the sniffer in the LOH, because we're tilting so sharp."

The route plotted, the pilot goes into his aforementioned dive. Straightening out, the tiny chopper begins to zig-zag over the triple-canopy jungle to avoid fire. Staying well-above the LOH, the C & C chopper directs them and waits for a detection while the Cobras linger menacingly to swoop down on a kill.

Suddenly, the needle on the sniffer jumps. Savicki plots it and calls a "hotspot" to the C & C chopper, who in turn plots it.

"We try not to engage the enemy," said Savicki. "We always try to keep going, because it doesn't take much to shoot a LOH down, especially one at our altitude."

Assistant more than clerk

By SP4 Mike Cassidy

CHU LAI, (23d Inf. Dvi. 10) – Though the job is listed as clerical, the position of chaplain's assistant is more like being "man-Friday" to one of the busiest men in an infantry battalion.

After qualifying as a clerk-typist, the individual receives further training at Ft. Hamilton in Brooklyn, N.Y. The instruction specializes in the various types of religious services, graphics, tenents of religious beliefs and supply procedures.

Assistants are usually assigned to a chaplain in their own faith, but this is not always possible. In the 198th Infantry Brigade, Specialist Four Edward J. Clay, a Catholic, found himself working for Chaplain (Cpt.) James R. Anderson, a Christain Scientist, during the week and for Chaplain (Major) Thomas J. Confroy, a Catholic, on the weekends to help with services.

This sort of ecumenism is common because everyone's goal is to provide spiritual direction and support for the soldiers.

The duties of an assistant and extremely varied. He handles many of the chaplain's jobs, including requests for compassionate leaves and reassignments, requisitions for supplies, printing the Sunday bulletin and accounting for contributions.

An assistant also helps execute the many civic action projects that are taken on by the chaplain's office. For example, the 198th Brigade Chaplain's Office provides supplies and parties for six orphanages and administers a scholarship for Vietnamese students.

The non-administravite duties include being the chaplain's driver and, since chaplains do not carry weapons, his body guard when he travels by convoy. Once they arrive at their destination, the assistant sets up the necessary articles for a service.

The most important maxim to a chaplain's assistant is that he is just that, and not an assistant chaplain. Often when the chaplain is not present, they will listen to soldiers' problems, but they always leave the counseling to the chaplain.

When asked if there were any special images connected with being a chaplain's assistant, Specialist Four Gerard V. Barbato of the 11th Infantry Brigade explains that no more is expected of the assistant than the average soldier.

Though assistants deny any image is connected with the job, Specialist Four Peter A. Crawley of the 198th Infantry Brigade admitted that he is kiddingly addressed as "Reverend" when he goes to the motor pool.

Medic walked point, he carried no weapon

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he's going to be alright when you know he won't be," Douglas said. "When you see your friend hurt, it's hard to turn the other cheek."

He is proud he served his time in the field, helping the men. He speaks with the inherant pride of the infantryman and the combat medic.

"If I had it to do over again, I'd put in for duty as a Vietnam medic," Douglas said. "I wouldn't trade for any job the Army has."

The medic's feelings towards the men in the field and his efforts to aid them are answered by the respect of the men he worked with. Through living together and facing the same daily tests, the infantrymen get to know each other better than most brothers.

"There are some CO's who forget their beliefs when they find out they're coming over here," commented Specialist Four William L. Jenkins (Akron, Ohio), a security guard (former infantryman with Company A). "Terry (Douglas) really believed it. He's the first CO I've known that I've fully understood why he became an objector."

"A lot of CO's have reasons, but they don't want to talk about it," Jenkins continued. "Terry just stands out and gives his reasons."

Douglas will leave the Republic of Vietnam soon. He has served his tour of duty.

He will take memories of the infantry unit and the men he walked with. And he will leave Company A the memory of a man who walked without a gun.

VA working harder for GI training

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Veterans Administration has intensified its campaign to help develop GI Bill on-the-job training opportunities for returning servicemen.

At the same time, the VA is taking steps to simplify the procedures employers must follow in setting up their veterans' programs.

Veterans Affairs Administrator Donald E. Johnson said that special help is available to small businesses who would like to participate but who lack resources for developing training programs. VA regional offices will send training experts to survey on-the-job training possibilities and help set up acceptable training situations.

Under approved programs, veterans are paid subsistence allowances while they are in training. The salary paid by the employer goes up as the trainee developes skills useful to the employer.

Johnson said that over 100,000 veterans are currently taking on-the-job training, and almost 200,000 have taken apprenticeship or OJT since the current program was first authorized less that four years ago. Johnson pointed out, however, that more jobs and training opportunities are needed, and one way to provide them is through greater employer participation in OJT programs.

In an approved VA program, employers may pay new veteran trainees as little as one-half of the target journeyman wage.

While the VA provides information and helps employers develope OJT programs, Johnson pointed out that employer programs must be designed to meet the requirements of State Approving Agencies before veteran trainees can receive VA benefits.

To assist in the development of new training jobs, the VA recently circulated to all its regional offices, 34 prototype on-the-job training programs in occupations of agriculture and the manual skill fields.

Additional VA funds are also being made available to State Approving Agencies in support of the expected State approval process.