

VC, Montagnards Rally at Doc Son

By PFC Charlie Petit

FSB BUTTONS — Led by nine armed VC cadre, two of them women, 73 Montagnard tribesmen rallied to the government of the Republic of South Vietnam at the village of Doc Son, just outside the 1st Air Cav's 2nd Brigade headquarters near Song Be.

The new ralliers raised to 629 the total who have sought the protection of the government in the 1st Cav since mid-September, according to Captain Michael Falkowski, assistant division

PSYOPS (psychological operations) officer. He said that figure included 209 Hoi Chanh.

The ralliers lived in the secluded hamlet of Bu Kho, six miles northeast of Song Be near Fire Support Base (FSB) Judie.

Said one of the VC, "We decided to Chieu Hoi because of the voices from the sky and leaflets which told us we'd be well treated."

"Even though it's near harvest time, we didn't have enough food. The NVA and VC took it away as soon as we harvested the rice."

Enemy Losses Near Tet High

PHUOC VINH — Frequent and fierce contact between 1st Air Cav Division units and NVA forces continued during the week, resulting in the deaths of 364 enemy troops.

At month's end, the total of 1,808 enemy dead showed that NVA forces paid dearly for their renewed activity during November.

Not since February in the 1968 Tet offensive, when the toll was 1,879, have Skytroopers inflicted such heavy punishment.

Action was heavy, and frequent as the month closed.

A two-day battle between a well-entrenched NVA force and 1st Cav artillery, gunships and Air Force fighter-bombers over and about a ridgeline 10 miles southeast of Song Be netted 96 enemy dead. The action was a culmination of several previous skirmishes in the area.

Of the second day of contact, 2nd Brigade Light Observation Helicopter (LOH) pilot, Warrant Officer George C. Gabler, said, "We poured everything we had

at them for eight hours before they finally backed off that ridge."

A Cobra of Delta Company, 299th Assault Helicopter Battalion, teamed with the LOH in the last day's dueling.

Although the NVA filled the air with tracers and B-40 rocket rounds, they caused only minor shrapnel damage to two birds.

Six Air Force jet strikes threaded their way through the enemy rounds to blast the NVA position.

In another significant air-to-ground battle, NVA gunners made the mistake of revealing their position to a LOH of Troop A, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry, as it surveyed the area. A Cobra, other member of the Pink Team, made a pass at the suspected enemy location but was about 100 meters off the mark.

First Lieutenant Ronald Whitesides, the pilot, said it was easy to determine the true location because an entire woodline to his left opened up with AK-47 and automatic weapons fire. He circled for the second run.

"I thought they had me for sure," Lieutenant Whitesides recalled. "It looked like bushel baskets of tracers coming up at me."

Before the action was over, 21 NVA were killed. Alpha Troop ground troops were inserted and found numerous blood trails and fresh bunkers. The "Blues" were extracted as the 4th Company, 11th ARVN Airborne Battalion, moved in.

A group of enemy soldiers in green uniforms was spotted southeast of Fire Support Base Buttons earlier in the month. The force was detected by Scouts and Cobras of Co. D 229th.

The Cobras and Air Force jet strikes quickly swung into action, netting 17 NVA.

In a region 25 miles northeast of Tay Ninh, an area long used for concealment of caches, reconnaissance birds of Trp. A, 1st Sqdn., 9th Cav. found and destroyed 10,000 pounds of rice.

Bundled in large sacks, the rice was found in three separate caches. Artillery and air strikes uncovered the vital foodstuffs.

In other action, a 300-vehicle convoy en route to FSB Buttons from Long Binh received mortar and small arms fire 16 miles south of Song Be. Delta Company, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry, the "Rat Patrol," returned the fire, killing two of the attackers.

Gunships from Co. D, 229th, rolled into action, killing another 10. Two vehicles were damaged.

During the week, 14 Skytroopers were killed and 82 wounded.

Cavalry Gets Navy's Goat At Briefing

PHUOC VINH — Top billing at a 1st Air Cav morning briefing went to a 22-man skirmish far removed from the division's area of operations.

Major General E.B. Roberts, division commander, settled into his chair in the briefing bunker at headquarters and listened as Captain Robert Wysocki, an operations officer, reviewed the previous night's significant incidents.

"Outside the AO to the east," said Captain Wysocki in the unemotional style of the Army briefer, "just off the wall map, an unusual cache was found. The contents are depicted on the first slide."

Projected on the wall was the following:

Cache, 300505 Nov (Local Phuoc Vinh Time): Army found 11 defeated Navy football players... 27 points... Victory.

The general, West Point Class of '43, chuckled in amusement and enthusiastic cheers rang out from the officers in attendance.

The village of Bu Kho has been the target of intensive psychological operations for several days. "I guess it really paid off," said Captain Michael W. Griffith, 2nd Brigade civil affairs officer.

The region in northern III Corps around Song Be has been a fertile one for psychological operations by the 1st Cav. The village of Phu Vang, just south of FSB Judie, produced 13 Hoi Chanh and 22 refugees the week before.

Captain Falkowski explained the good response.

"We're working in almost virgin territory up there," he said. "Most of these villagers had been under NVA and VC control for so long they were barely aware that there's a refuge from their captors. As soon as we convince them of our sincerity and that we'll treat them well, they come willingly."

The most recent ralliers — the men dressed in loin cloths, their hair pierced with large combs and the women carrying young children on their backs — were given food and shelter in the Ethnic Minority Center at Song Be.

The nine Doc Son Hoi Chanh brought with them three SKS rifles, two Mausers, one carbine, one automatic rifle and two bolt action rifles.

In addition to the nine who escorted the large group of Montagnards, two other VC left the village of Da Kia, six miles west of Song Be, and rallied to the government.

The two identified themselves as VC educational cadre and raised to three the number of Hoi Chanh from Da Kia who have rallied in recent weeks.

All the Hoi Chanh are at the Song Be Chieu Hoi Center.



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General Meeting . . .



(U.S. Army Photo by PFC Robert Conway)
Major General E. B. Roberts (right), 1st Air Cav Division commander, pins a star on Brigadier General Robert M. Shoemaker, assistant division commander, who was promoted in ceremonies at Phuoc Vinh.

General Shoemaker

ADC Earns Promotion

PHUOC VINH — Brigadier General Robert M. Shoemaker, assistant 1st Air Cavalry Division commander was promoted to his present rank in ceremonies at Phuoc Vinh Dec. 1.

Prior to the 1960's, General Shoemaker served with the 18th Infantry Division in Germany, the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, N.C., and the 2nd Infantry Division in Korea, as well as the Military Assistance Advisory Group in Iran, the Command and General Staff College and the Army Aviation School at Fort Rucker, Ala.

After serving with the Test Group of the "Howze Board," which studied airmobility in the

Army, the general was assigned to the Army Concept Team in Vietnam.

Returning to the United States in 1963, General Shoemaker was assigned to the newly formed 11th Air Assault Division at Fort Benning.

When the 1st Cavalry Division was reformed into the Army's first airmobile division in 1965, he was assigned to command the 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry, and led this battalion during its deployment to Vietnam and during the first several months of the division's action in Vietnam.

From December 1965 to May 1966, he commanded the 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry, during

fighting in the Western Highlands and on the plains of Bong Son.

After interim assignments at the U.S. Army War College and Pentagon, General Shoemaker returned to the Cav as the Chief of Staff.

Shortly after his nomination as brigadier general, he became assistant division commander of the FIRST TEAM.

The general was born in Almont, Mich., in 1924. After graduating from Almont High School, he attended college for one year before entering the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. He graduated in June, 1946.



SGT RE-UP
**SE... DID YOU
KNOW???**



PHUOC VINH — At one time, virtually every U.S. Army recruiter and career counselor has been asked, "How can I get into the recruiting field?"

To begin, the U.S. Army Recruiting Command is in need of qualified recruiters in every area of the country.

Don't misunderstand this need as a lessening of the quality of personnel needed. Each individual applying for recruiting duty must meet certain requirements as outlined in AR 601-275.

These requirements are:

1. Individual must not be drawing proficiency pay in his current MOS.

2. Must have a conduct and efficiency rating of excellent.

3. Must have minimum of six years service.

4. Must possess pay grade of E-5 or higher (specialist or sergeant).

5. Must have a recorded GT score of 110 or higher.

6. Must hold valid Army or state motor vehicle operator's permit.

7. Must be a high school graduate or credited with suc-

cessful completion of GED test.

8. Must have a favorable National Agency check, or possess a secret or higher security clearance.

Some of these requirements can be waived. If interested, the next step is to make formal application through your unit.

This application must be submitted six to eight months prior to your rotation date. All other information necessary for application is found in AR 601-275.

After completing the application and sending it to the Department of the Army, it is necessary to appear before a screening board, consisting of two officers and a non-commissioned officer from the 1st Cav. Re-enlistment Office.

The purpose of this board is to determine your common knowledge, speaking ability and general appearance. If you fail to favorably impress the board, no derogatory actions or unkind remarks will follow.

If interested in applying, contact any of the career counselors at the re-enlistment office closest to your location.

... For God And Country

By Chaplain (CPT) James R. Thompson
1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry Chaplain

NDP — Night Defensive Position. Every grunt realizes the importance of a good NDP for his physical safety. But what about an NDP for our souls—our spiritual lives?

It is very important for each one of us to be concerned about our spiritual safety.

We must first develop our relationship with God. Is our personal relationship with God such that we know He will hear our call when we are in need? When our hearts are right with God, then we can begin doing those things that will strengthen our defensive position.

Paul the Apostle stated that we should "pray without ceasing." In other words, develop an attitude towards life and God so that there will be communication at all times.

It is also important to have a set time of prayer every day. In almost every circumstance, we all can find a few minutes during the day to set aside to read the Bible or New Testament.

This daily effort will provide protection and comfort when the going gets rough, the body gets tired and tempers flare.

In the midst of the trouble, you can be secure because we have done as the Psalmist said, "Thy word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against thee."

Christian living is not a once-in-a-while experience. Just like the NDP is established every night, so our Christian life must be one of constant defense against the enemy of our souls. Start building your spiritual NDP today.

Stay Alert, Avoid Booby Traps

The enemy in Vietnam is an expert in the use of mines and booby traps, able to inflict friendly casualties with no corresponding losses.

Each soldier must be aware of the enemy's skill in this area in order to take appropriate countermeasures and prevent unnecessary casualties.

The enemy employs countless varieties of booby traps both explosive and non-explosive in nature, ranging from bamboo stake punji pits to command detonated 500-pound bombs.

In the 1st Cav's area of operation, booby traps encountered usually have been grenades or various types related materials adapted for this purpose.

Realizing this, it is important that Skytroopers do not leave any of their munitions behind when they depart an area, for if returning later they may have the unfortunate opportunity to discover that enemy booby traps are just as deadly when constructed from friendly materials.

Trails, stream crossing sites, bridges, tunnel entrances, approaches to bunker complexes, individual bunkers, enemy equipment and dead are all subject to booby trap employment.

Often booby traps are marked by a variety of signs such as rocks laid in an unnatural pattern, bunches of grass or broken branches placed at right angles.

Constant alertness, accompanied by sharp observation on the part of all troops, is the most effective defense against enemy booby traps.

"Don't bunch up" is a good rule to follow. Proper troop dispersal must be practiced at all times.

The enemy is not unbeatable in the art of booby trapping. You can reduce the number of chances for casualties resulting from booby traps by recognizing patterns of booby trap emplacement and then simply practicing a well known truth—stay alert, stay alive.

Fore . . .



(Photo by PFC Len Fallscheer)

The form is not exactly like Arnold Palmer's, but Specialist Four Steven Garza's enthusiastic swing would seem to indicate that, with a little imagination, Fire Support Base Jerri can jog memories of the links back home. Note the 1st Air Cavalryman's form—the firm left arm, the steady position of the head, the right elbow tucked close to the side, the transfer of weight on the downswing. The specialist is actually helping dismantle the fire support base.

Monetary Benefits

VA Assists Apprentices

PHUOC VINH — Aside from general educational training, the Veterans Administration offers aid to various other forms of educational endeavor.

If a veteran is undergoing a period of apprenticeship or other on-the-job training, he is entitled to assistance in defraying expenses.

To be eligible to receive aid, you must meet four requirements.

First, you must be working full time in the job for which you are training.

Your training period must not exceed two years, and your employer must be paying you at least one-half the wages for the job you are being trained in.

Lastly, your wages must be increased on a regular basis during the training until you are receiving at least 85 per cent of the normal wages at the end of the training period.

If you meet these requirements, you are eligible to receive monthly VA payments of \$80 for the first six months, \$60 for the second six months, \$40 for the third six months and \$20 for the fourth six months.

These figures are for those individuals with no dependents. For each dependent, you are entitled an additional \$10 per month, up to two dependents.

Another important VA benefit is financial aid for veterans engaged in agricultural employment which is considered related to approved institutional courses.

Attending full time, you are eligible for \$105 per month with no dependents. With one dependent, your entitlement is \$125 and with two, \$145.

For each additional dependent over two, you will receive \$7 per month. Depending on your number of semester hours and de-

pendents, you are eligible from \$50 to \$105 while taking less than full time studies.

If you are interested in flying and have a pilot's license or have completed enough flying hours to obtain a license, you are eligible to receive assistance in obtaining a commercial license.

The Veterans Administration will reimburse you for 90 per cent of the charges of your training. But for each \$130 paid by the VA you lose one month of your veterans benefits eligibility.

If you take your training as part of an approved college program, your reimbursement will be made at regular institutional rates.

If any of these program interests you, see your VA administrator as soon as possible. He'll be able to give you additional information and assist you in your application.



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Commanding General MG E. B. Roberts

Information Officer MAJ J. D. Coleman

Press Officer CPT James Ryan

Publication NCOIC SGT Roger Ruhl

Production Editor SP5 Ed Freudenburg

Lay-out Editor SP4 Dennis Keenon

Battalion Correspondents

1/5 SP4 Clarence Brown	15th Admin SP5 L.D. Barton
1/8 SP4 William Sill	2/8 SP5 Bob Robinson
1/9 SGT John Meek	2/8 SP4 Gerald Somerday
1/12 SGT Ronald Miller	2/8 SP4 Robert Fettlers
2/5 SP5 Ken Gardiner	15th Med PFC Gary Holland
2/7 PFC Robert Hackney	2/12 SGT Dennis Harding

Grunts' Field Experience Invaluable

By PFC Robert Hackney

FSB JAMIE — Poverty, deprivation, loneliness and insecurity on a daily basis — that's the lot of the infantryman in Vietnam. But a 1st Air Cav psychiatrist feels that the year's experience is worthwhile and invaluable.

"The men in the field go through as much deprivation and hardship as any group in the world," said Major Thomas Hefter, a psychiatrist.

"But at the same time, he is able to capture the uniquely wonderful experience of man's ability to communicate with man in a way simply not available to a person who reads sociology books or rides through the ghetto," said the major.

He explained that a fraternity and unity develops among men in the field, because they are in constant contact with one another, sharing the same daily experiences and depending on one another for companionship and security.

"When going from the rear areas to the field, one finds more 'love-sharing,' a type of love which demonstrates the capability for straight communication," said the doctor. "Almost everyone wants to leave the field, but everyone who does misses the unusual chemistry between the people there."

"There's something going on out there which is very much a part of what people are striving for in the world. You can't be a phony in the field."

The stresses in many ways are greater in the rear, Major Hefter said. The fraternity of the field is lost in the hodge-podge of the rear area where units tend to lack cohesiveness. There is more worrying and acting out fantasies. In this sense, the rear is more difficult to serve in.

The doctor finds that readjustment to life in the "world" is often difficult, but that the infantryman, because of his experience, is well equipped to handle it.

"The experience he has is not comparable to any civilian counterpart," he said. "The maturity he has achieved is one that he'll find lacking in his peers. He will find that he knows a great deal about

what people are like, and it will be easier for him to identify some of the naive attitudes of those around him.

"It will enhance his understanding of the beauty of using life at its highest potential and the real ugliness of letting life pass in a stagnation situation."

The psychiatrist, who carried a radio on his back during the Korean War, heads a 12-man staff, all of whom have done advanced work in the behavioral sciences.

To reacquaint himself with the life of the field trooper, Major Hefter went out and humped with a line company.

"Our attempt is to develop more contacts with the man in the field," he said. "The emphasis is grunt-directed."

Unique Weapon Awaits Sappers

By PFC Dennis Thornton

FSB VIVIAN — Any NVA sappers who try crawling through the wire at 1st Air Cavalry Fire Support Base Vivian may have second thoughts when a unique weapon opens up on them.

The weapon is a .50 caliber machinegun with a starlight scope attached. It is mounted on a swivel device atop the fire-base's highest structure, the air traffic control tower.

Major Robin Mangum, battalion executive officer, conceived and put together the highly-potent and extremely accurate weapon.

"We wanted to mount a machine gun up there (on the Black Hats' tower) but couldn't find a way to anchor it and still be able to swing it around," Major Mangum explained.

He finally decided to put a 55 gallon drum full of cement under the wooden platform to provide a counter-weight to offset the .50 caliber's recoil.

A 155mm canister was inserted in the cement and a length of pipe on the bottom of the gun's tripod fitted into the canister, allowing the gun to swivel in any direction.

From its 20 foot perch the machinegun can be fired in any direction freely without interrupting movement inside the perimeter.

With the starlight scope mounted atop the machinegun, its operator can detect movement outside the wire at night, zero in on the enemy and put an end to sapper attacks before they start.

Gourmet Rats Lured To Specialist's Trap

By SP4 Gary Holland

QUAN LOI — Table scraps and stock traps may be sufficient for the amateur rat catcher, but for real pros like the 1st Air Cav's Specialist Six

William Beam, you almost have to identify with the rodent.

Specialist Beam is having unparalleled success trapping rats which had previously launched midnight raids on hooches of Company B, 15th Medical Battalion, Quan Loi.

He now claims to have captured alive 15 of the night-marauding rodents in less than five days. Prior to Specialist Beam's anti-rat campaign, the weekly "count" of captured scavengers rarely exceeded one or two.

"The secret of my success," he claimed, "is knowing what foods the Vietnamese rats like best. Baiting traps with cheese may work as a lure in Europe or back in the states, but Asian rats prefer Oriental foods."

Pursuing this theory, Specialist Beam experimented using typically Vietnamese food as bait. When he tried fried chicken, hungry bandits rushed into the awaiting traps. So great was their appetite for fried chicken that an entire rat family was caught.

In recognition of Specialist Beam's rat-catching talents, he has been given the responsibility of eradicating all remaining rodent resistance in the Company B area.

If his rat-trapping techniques prove consistently effective, he will be allotted sufficient traps, chickens, and electric fryers to crusade against rats over the entire Cav basecamp.

"Today Quan Loi, tomorrow the world," someone overheard the specialist shouting.

Skytrooper Comes Down To Earth

By SP5 Al Persons

QUAN LOI — Specialist Five Roberto Carillo of the 1st Air Cav found himself at the end of his rope.

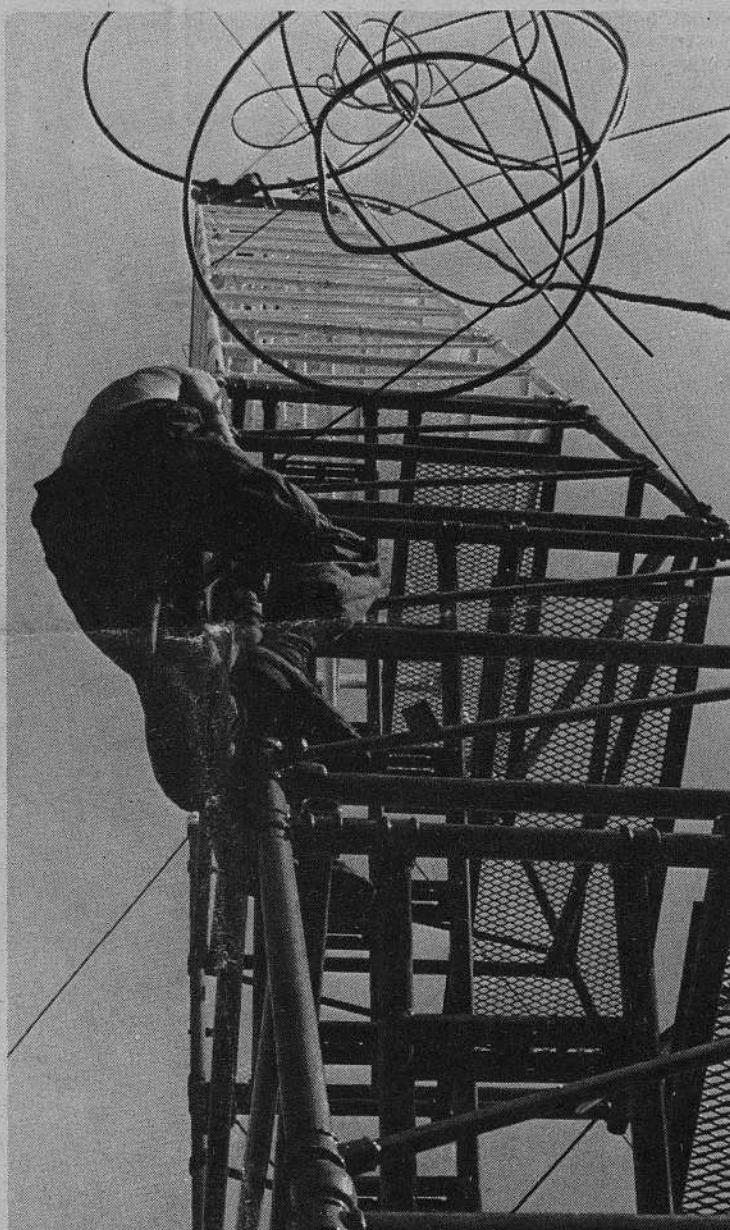
In a routine MEDEVAC extraction operation over the dense jungle near Bu Dop, a hoist malfunctioned leaving the specialist dangling in midair.

So, the MEDEVAC chopper lifted up and flew nearly four kilometers to Bu Dop with Specialist Carillo hanging on the rope 20 meters below the Huey helicopter.

"Things began to get pretty scary for me then," said the specialist. "I was hanging on for dear life, the wind rushing up against me, with my eyes closed, afraid to look down."

Within a matter of minutes, although "it seemed like a lifetime," the bird was back to the safety of the Bu Dop airstrip.

'A-Mazed' ...



A tangled maze of wires poses a temporary problem to Sergeant Lonnie C. Baldwin of the 327th Signal Battalion, 1st Air Cav. The Skytrooper is working on the construction of a radio tower at the Cav's 2nd Brigade Headquarters, Fire Support Base Buttons.

1/12 on Patrol

'Monkeyshine' Relieves Tension

By SGT Ronald Miller

TAY NINH — Tension marked the mood of a 1st Air Cav patrol moving quietly into an area ripped by huge bomb craters.

NVA tracks had been spotted earlier by low flying helicopters, and the men were prepared for anything.

Crack! As the sound of a single rifle shot sliced the stillness, everyone hit the deck. Those who couldn't

find cover quickly flattened themselves, wishing they could sink from sight.

Silence.

Puzzled expressions could be seen on the faces of the men as they shot questioning glances at each other. Tension mounted.

"Everyone wondered what was going on," said Private First Class Darryl Orns of Company B, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry. "And no one knew for sure where the shot came from."

Dentist Sees What He Likes

By PFC Robert Hackney

FSB JAMIE — Captain Donald Tauber looked into 200 mouths in three days and liked what he saw — few cavities.

The captain, from the 1st Air Cav's 499th Dental Detachment, recently moved into Fire Support Base Jamie's new underground dental station.

"Their teeth are in better condition than I thought they would be," he said. "The guys who take care of their teeth back in the world will take care of them over here, even though it's a little harder to do."

The dentist explained that in the past, soldiers with dental problems often had a hard time getting to Bien Hoa to get work done.

Now the dental station will stay at the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry, firebase long enough for everyone in the battalion to have a chance to see the dentist.

"Now we can keep the teeth in the men, and the men in the field," he said.

Captain Tauber, a Temple University graduate, likes his new surroundings.

"I find that there is a more relaxing attitude among the people out here, even though they are much closer to the war," he said. "I get the feeling that the men really appreciate our being here, and that's what makes my work rewarding."

Then a chain reaction began. From the patrol's front to rear, as the word was passed on, each man stood up with a sigh of relief and began laughing.

"Somebody had taken a shot at a monkey," said Specialist Four Tommy Bardwell. "The guy thought it was a sniper."

The relieved men watched in silence as the culprit, a large grey and white monkey, swung nonchalantly through the trees.



BLUE PECKER

Story by
SGT Steve Banko

PHUOC VINH—Dusk at the 1st Air Cav's Phuoc Vinh division basecamp brings a strange bird to the skies. It's a "Blue Pecker."

A sleek Cobra gunship from the 2nd Battalion, 20th Artillery (ARA), glides through the fading light with a rather unfamiliar companion, a Light Observation Helicopter (LOH) from Echo Battery, 82nd Artillery.

The combination of these two seeming opposites gives Division Artillery (DIVARTY) a unique hunter-killer team. "Blue Pecker" is its nickname, derived from the "Blue Max" cobra and the "Wood-pecker" LOH.

Combining the observation capabilities of the LOH with the quick strike firepower of the Cobra has set the Blue Pecker teams apart from the rest of the division's hunter-killer teams.

To familiarize crews of these two totally different aircraft with



A Cobra from the 2nd Battalion, 20th Artillery, and a Light Observation Helicopter from Battery E, 82nd Artillery, combine to make up the 1st Cav's unique hunter-killer team—Blue Pecker—under operational control of Division Artillery. At dawn of each day, Blue Pecker is a familiar sight above the jungle surrounding Phuoc Vinh, searching for the enemy before settling down after a night of activity. Captain Thomas Konitzer and Second Lieutenant William Dobbs (below), both of 2nd Bn., 20th Arty., discuss the day's mission prior to lift off.



the teamwork concept, the crews are put through a two-week training cycle. A complete revision of engagement tactics was developed to ensure that the firepower of both ships could be brought to bear on the enemy.

"The relation of the target to the low ship (LOH) is never the same on any two actions," said Captain Thomas Konitzer, operations officer for Battery B. "Therefore, we had to train the crews to mark and destroy the objectives without delay."

The success of any operation can only be determined in combat. And it has been in combat that the Blue Pecker team has made its mark. Engaging hot targets, plotting intelligence targets and general reconnaissance have proven its worth.

So move over Red Baron. Here comes "Blue Pecker."

RARE BIRD

Photos by
SP5 Terry Moon

His Bag—Bugs

Officer Assaults Jungle Insects

By SP4 Ronald Wright

FSB BUTTONS — While most GI's use the mosquito net to keep the little fellas out, one 1st Air Cavalryman has found it profitable to switch from defense to offense.

Armed with a butterfly net fabricated from discarded mosquito netting, First Lieutenant William Eubank, 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry, medical operations assistant, makes frequent combat assaults into the field searching for the elusive foe.

"Rarities such as the Rhinocerus Beetle are worth up to \$10 each to collectors back in the world," the future entomologist said. "The medics in the field are always bringing me new specimens, a few of which I have yet to identify."

An old hand at insect collecting, Lieutenant Eubank has assembled some 1,500 bugs back home. "My wife had a little trouble adjusting at first," he said, "but now she is conditioned to calling me before she steps on a bug."

He has found there are draw-

backs to insect collecting in Vietnam. "Aside from the lack of equipment, I have a real problem with rats — one invaded one night and ate a beautiful pair of Mole Crickets," complained the lieutenant.

"There is also some teasing which I must put up with," he said. "Everyone laughs at me running around with my net all the time."

Taking the joking in stride, Lieutenant Eubank has managed to mount a formidable collection. To date, he has worked only in the areas of Phuoc Vinh and Song Be but hopes to widen his range of operation.

"Any donations to the collection are welcome if they are packed in cotton," he said. "Just send them to the 2nd Bn, 12th Cav, aid station. And make sure they're dead."

By the end of his tour, he hopes to have made a dent in the 350 million varieties of insects in the world, and then continue his education which will lead him eventually into the fields of economic and biological control of insects.

Trackers Beat Bush

In Search of Enemy

By PFC Robert Hackney

FSB JAMIE — A 1st Air Cav combat tracker team's mission is to sniff out Charlie.

A clue might be a fresh footprint, a path in the grass or a broken twig.

The skilled tracker is able to

Hare Raising New Project Of Villagers

By SP5 George Vindedzis

FSB BUTTONS — It was certainly a hare-raising episode.

The civil affairs officer of the 1st Air Cav's 2nd Brigade has again tried the livestock trade, most recently with rabbits.

As part of the continuing attempt to aid the economy of Phuoc Long Province, the brigade provided money to purchase a total of 20 rabbits in hopes that a new source of income for some of the local villagers would be forthcoming.

In a previous project, the brigade donated 230 ducklings to the villagers.

Five families from the Song Be area were selected to receive the rabbits. With money provided by the brigade, a Military Assistance Command Vietnam civil affairs platoon went to Tay Ninh to purchase the animals.

"With a little luck, the families will not only be able to supply part of their own requirements for meat but have a marketable item as well," said Captain Michael Griffith, brigade civil affairs officer.

"Considering the birth rate of rabbits, the program has great growth potential," he said.

determine how long ago the enemy was there, the number in his group, the weight of his load and his direction of travel. Then his job is to find him.

"We make contact just about every time," said Private First Class Richard Marsh, point man for the 2nd Combat Tracker Team, 62nd Infantry Platoon. "If I've got a fresh track, sooner or later I know I'll find him."

The other members of the highly-trained team include a team leader, two cover men and a dog handler. All five members are trained in the specifics of visual tracking and dog handling. Teamwork is important, and the men are able to function as interchangeable parts.

The ideal situation is to insert the team soon after contact has been broken. To accomplish this the team rappels into areas where helicopters can't land.

"If a track is more than 12 hours old, we have a hard time picking it up," said Specialist Four Maurice Swanson, team leader. "First, we get the intelligence on the situation, have a little meeting among ourselves to get the right attitude and then move out with a machine gun and radio close behind."

The black Labrador tracker dog is an asset to the team, but the men can function without him. In an area where the track becomes difficult to confirm visually, the dog will be put to work.

"We're supposed to move back when we find the enemy and contact is initiated, but no one is in a hurry to move, even to the rear, when the bullets are flying," said Specialist Swanson.

Once the team has worked with a line company they're usually remembered.

"The guys walking behind us are sometimes a bit anxious," said PFC Marsh. "They often say, 'now don't you be finding anything out there today.' But they know we usually do."



It's summer in Sydney and 19-year-old Sylvia Delprat is making the beach her daytime home for sand and sunshine. The blond Aussie lists fishing as her favorite hobby. With Sylvia, the bait is never any problem depending on what she is trying to catch.

Log Bird Day

Resupply Chopper

Skytroopers (below, right) from Company C, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry, guide a Huey resupply helicopter to a landing near Fire Support Base Jamie, northeast of Tay Ninh. The "log" bird resupplies the company every three days in the field.

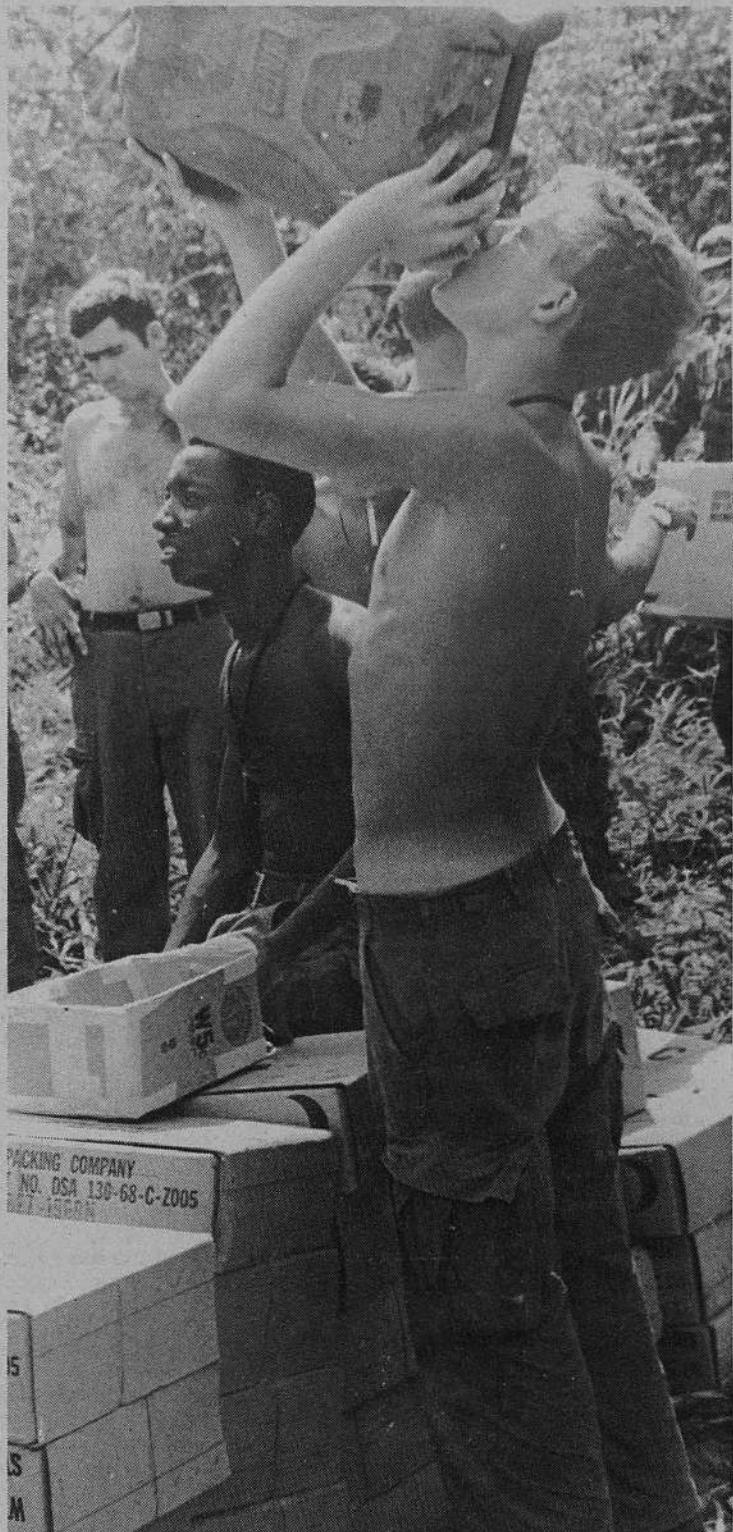
Long Drink

This thirsty Charlie Company grunt (right) takes a long drink from a water container. He'll need enough water, C rations and ammunition for three days—when another chopper comes with supplies.

Heavy Appetite

Loaded down with two boxes of C rations, this GI (below) will distribute the meals to his squad members, who will scramble to get their favorite dinner.

Photos by SP4 Vic Fitzwater





Stanley R. Resor

The Secretary of the Army, the Honorable Stanley R. Resor, addressed the annual meeting of the Association of the United States Army in Washington D.C. on the occasion of the opening session.

Mr. Resor discussed Vietnamization, non-appropriated fund activities and race relations.

He lauded the performance of U.S. troops in Vietnam, pointing out the unconventional character of the war and the enthusiasm, dedication and effectiveness U.S. troops have shown.

"It is now our highest priority to turn over the combat responsibilities in Vietnam to the forces of the South Vietnamese as rapidly as possible," the Secretary said. He noted that Vietnamization is reflected at all levels and that increasing numbers of successful operations are being conducted by the ARVN forces on their own.

The increased effectiveness of the ARVN, the significant improvement of the Regional and Popular Forces and the growing success of the pacification program together have already permitted the reduction of 60,000 men — including about 20 per cent of the U.S. ground combat forces.

"Vietnamization is working. I am confident that it will continue to work, and that as our progress continues, further sizeable reductions will be possible," he continued, emphasizing the importance of pacification, which, with its increasing success, robs the enemy of potential recruits among the South Vietnamese.

"Enemy main forces have been forced back to the border areas, exposing the local Viet Cong units and guerrillas to the progressively strengthened South Vietnamese territorial forces," he said. "As a result the South Vietnamese not only can bring security to an increasing share of the country, but also have the opportunity in the rural areas to move ahead in the important political sphere where the struggle will ultimately be decided."

Mr. Resor cautioned that although we clearly have the resources to outlast the enemy, the will to adhere to a sensible and deliberate withdrawal is of the highest importance.

"Those who counsel hasty withdrawal should consider the fate of our Vietnamese allies," he said. "They should weigh carefully the effect headlong withdrawal would have on the credibility of our commitments, not only to our Allies in Asia, from Korea to Australia, but also in other parts of the world where the balance of power is delicate."

"It would be tragic to be forced into too rapid a withdrawal, at a time when it is clear we can succeed if we proceed at a deliberate rate."

Turning to the recent news coverage of the investigation of improper handling of non-appropriated funds by "a handful of individuals," he noted that the allegations had "obscured the sacrifice, dedication and integrity of thousands of their fellow soldiers."

Mr. Resor described new procedures initiated to identify weaknesses in the system and correct them.

"I am receiving a weekly review of our investigative activities, and I have scheduled a monthly review of changes in our club management system for the next two months," he said. "Both of these reviews will continue until the problems have been brought fully under control."

Race relations in the Army, the Secretary said, is part of the need to re-examine Army policies and practices in terms of impact on the soldier as an individual.

"To its credit, the Army has led the way in breaking down the formal barriers to racial integration. Yet today, I must report to you, the state of race relations in the Army gives cause for concern. I stress at the outset that no racial tensions appear in those areas where troops are in direct contact with the enemy. Color is not a factor in the firebases in Vietnam.

"The readiness of the Army to carry out its mission remains unimpaired. Also, there is no indication of any organized effort by any group within the Army to create racial disharmony.

"The Army has always been a cross-section of all the groups of our society. But as our society has changed, so have the attitudes, abilities and needs of the men who enter the Army."

Individuality is important to today's black soldier, Mr. Resor said.

"Like the white person entering the Army, he seeks to retain his personal identity, and in that identity his race is a part. A Negro in uniform does not cease to be a Negro and become a soldier instead. He becomes a Negro soldier."

"Occasionally one hears a commander say, with the best of intentions, 'For me, there's only one color, and that's o.d.' As a pledge to all soldiers with equal fairness regardless of race, it still states our unwavering policy. But putting black and white citizens in green uniforms does not relieve the commander of the responsibility to recognize the differences in racial background — and consequently in experience and outlook among troops."

He noted that, "Because of his racial background, the black soldier has unique problems in our society, off post and sometimes on post. He may be uncomfortable with officers and noncommissioned officers who seem uneasy and reluctant to acknowledge the existence of race. He needs to know from his leaders where they stand, whether he can expect help from them, whether they are willing to accept him without asking that he reject his heritage.

"He needs to sense whether a commander can treat a complaint of racial discrimination calmly and factually. He needs a commander who recognizes such slogans as "black is beautiful" as the gestures of pride, comradeship and solidarity that

"We demand a neat appearance, a military bearing, hard work and discipline. We don't ask our men to pretend they are patterned from a single mold. In areas which affect the individual, our policies and procedures should be rethought to see which are essential to military discipline—and which are arbitrary or counter-productive." —Stanley R. Resor, Secretary of the Army

to most young Negroes they represent.

"The commander must understand his men before he writes off the spirited ones, who may be potential leaders, as troublemakers or militants. On the other hand, he must be firm and ensure that his troops realize that discipline is not discrimination.

"At no level can commanders afford to assume that all is well with their troops simply because there is silence on racial matters. It is not enough to wait for complaints. And, of course, not all complaints of discrimination may be justified or reflect mistreatment because of race.

"But the crucial element in terms of morale, is not just what the state of affairs is. It is also what the Negro soldier perceives it to be. We need to be sure not only that soldiers receive fair and equal treatment, but that they know it."

Commenting on the need to pay more attention to the individuality of all soldiers Mr. Resor said, "Our troops today are more highly educated, more sophisticated, more intelligent than at any time in our history.

"They are also, by all the reports of our combat commanders, the finest soldiers the Army has ever put in the field. We need to know how best to lead these men — how to help them make the most of their time in the service, to give them a sense of satisfaction and accomplishment in their work, to encourage the skilled and able to make the Army their career. Our success will depend on how the life they find in the Army measures up to their aspirations.

"Retention of one's individuality, and resentment of

seemingly arbitrary exercises of power, are today foremost concerns of enlisted men of all races. The soldier continues to show a willingness to bear great hardship, when he understands the reason for it.

"On the other hand, he may balk at small things which appear to discomfort or demean him unnecessarily. Such matters as living conditions, minor restrictions, administrative procedures, all can be sources of discontent, sometimes out of proportion to the positive ends being served.

"We demand a neat appearance, a military bearing, hard work and discipline. We do not ask our men to pretend they are patterned from a single mold.

"In areas which affect the individual, our policies and procedures should be rethought to see which are essential to military discipline — and which are arbitrary or counter-productive, causing men to leave the Army or to be less, rather than more, effective."

Mr. Resor noted that, "Racial consciousness is part of this larger striving for uniqueness and individuality which affects white and black troops alike. Therefore, we believe that one way to minimize racial tensions in the Army is to make the Army as responsive as it can be to the needs of all men."

He explained that revisions are planned for training programs and service school curricula, to help officers and NCO's better understand racial sensitivities of both majority and minority groups.

One of the goals of the program is to promote racial understanding among soldiers and, "ensure that no man who wears the uniform, and none of his

family, is demeaned in the community outside the post because of his race."

"Finally," he continued, "a key to good morale for all men in the Army is the expectation of a useful life after they leave the Army. Project Transition, entering its third year, is a step toward the goal that no one will have to leave military service without a useful civilian skill.

"Do not misunderstand me. The Army does not view itself as an institution of social reform. That is not our charge. But we cannot ignore the realities of the society in which we live. If ignored, those realities can lessen our ability to defend the nation.

"Nor do I suggest that the Negro soldier should be given preferential treatment, or held to anything less than the Army's traditional standards of performance and discipline. Like every soldier, he bears a personal responsibility for his actions. We point out only the need to see him as an individual, and give him the respect he earns.

"Our task is a double one," he explained, "dealing with the racial attitudes which our soldiers bring into the Army from civilian society; and understanding the need of each soldier, white or black, to feel respected as a unique and valuable human being."

Mr. Resor concluded by calling on all the members of AUSA for support.

"With your total commitment to this necessary goal, we shall improve the ability of the Army to assure the security of our country. At the same time, we shall preserve and build in the Army a degree of racial understanding and respect for human dignity of which the nation can be proud."

Outdoor Chapel . . .



(U.S. Army Photo by PFC James McCabe)
Specialists Four John Pitt (left) and Gary Bradley set pews in place during the construction of an outdoor chapel by members of Battery A, 1st Battalion, 21st Artillery. The 1st Air Cavalrymen are located at Fire Support Base Mary.