

196th & 198th's efforts net 36 enemy

CHU LAI (23rd Inf. Div. IO) - The combined efforts of the 196th and 198th Infantry Brigades, 23rd Infantry Division accounted for 36 enemy kills during the week of 26 May to 1 June. During this period over 41,950 pounds of rice was also confiscated from the enemy's food supply.

MIDDLESEX PEAK
The action was the heaviest in

the 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry, area of operation as the "Ready Rifles" killed eight enemy soldiers and accounted for 11 detainees, and captured all the rice in the Brigade which consisted of approximately 37,950 pounds.

Flying over an area southwest of Chu Lai, gunships observed and engaged a group of Viet Cong soldiers killing two. Charlie Company 1/52nd Infantry, was

inserted and killed one enemy hiding in a spider hole. The "Ready Rifles" killed two more enemy in a bunker and one Viet Cong evading down a trail. Captured in the action were one AK-47 rifle and two Chicom hand grenades.

Later in the week, Charlie, 1/52nd Infantry, engaged and killed a Viet Cong soldier who was setting up a boobytrap. Captured were 12 Chicom hand

grenades. Near the same area, the "Ready Rifles" found a booby trapped Chicom hand grenade. The hand grenades were all destroyed.

Near a day laager position southwest of Chu Lai, the infantrymen engaged and killed a lone Viet Cong who was attempting to evade.

Working southwest of Chu Lai, Charlie Company, 1/52nd Infantry, detained five Viet Cong suspects and captured three hand grenades, two ponchos, and one full rifle magazine. The detainees and equipment were extracted to Chu Lai. The "Ready Rifles" also found 22,500 pounds of unpolished rice which was extracted to an LZ.

Earlier in the week, the infantrymen found 6500 pounds of unpolished rice in several metal containers. Near the same area, the "Ready Rifles" found 2500 pounds of rice and detained three Viet Cong suspects. The detainees and rice were extracted to a nearby LZ.

Later in the week, Charlie, 1/52nd, found and destroyed 400 pounds of unpolished rice.

Working southwest of Chu Lai, a Recon element from 1/52nd, founds of unpolished structure, with enemy soldiers inside. The "Ready Rifles" engaged the Viet Cong resulting in two enemy killed.

While on patrol southwest of Chu Lai, an element from Alpha Company, 1/52nd, engaged and

killed one Viet Cong soldier who was evading from a military structure. Inside the structure were two Viet Cong suspects who were detained and extracted to an LZ.

Near the same area, Alpha, 1/52nd, found and destroyed four boobytraps. The infantrymen also found and extracted to an LZ 1260 pounds of unpolished rice which was hidden inside an old well. Also southwest of Chu Lai, an element from Delta Company, 1/52nd found 440 pounds of rice which they extracted to a nearby LZ.

An element from Delta, 1/52nd, working southwest of Chu Lai, found 2500 pounds of rice in six metal barrels. The rice was evacuated to a nearby LZ.

Near the same area the "Ready Rifles" found 1850 pounds of unpolished rice which was extracted to a nearby LZ.

Action was fairly moderate in the 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry during this recent week, as the "Mountaineers" killed six enemy soldiers, and captured two Viet Cong suspects, and captured 10 weapons.

While on patrol, an element from Alpha Company, 4/3rd, engaged and killed one Viet Cong and detained two Viet Cong suspects.

Working in an area northwest of Chu Lai, Alpha Company also engaged and killed one enemy soldier coming down a trail.

(Continued on Page 6)



Vol. 4, No. 25

Chu Lai, Vietnam

June 25, 1971

Largest in Army

APO serves many soldiers

PFC Sam Rouso
CHU LAI (23rd Inf. Div. IO) - Mail. In Chu Lai, it's almost like the weather. Everyone talks about it, but there are people doing something about it—the 64 enlisted men and three officers of the largest APO in the Army.

The statistics, if you're a figure fiend, are interesting. APO 96374 serves a population of about 30,000. In March, 766,000 pounds of mail destined for the soldiers of the Americal Division and other units in an around Chu Lai passed through the APO.

Each month, \$1.5 million worth of money orders and \$50,000 worth of stamps are sold in the APO's four branch offices. All that money is counted and accounted for by First Lieutenant Ernest A. Maher (Warwick, R.I.), the Custodian of Postal Effects.

"Considering the number of people we serve and the number of people we have, I'd say we're doing a pretty damn good job," comments Captain Darrell A. Hott (Ogden, Utah), Division Postal Officer.

Recently, the two branch offices in Chu Lai (one near Finance, the other near the 16th combat Air Group), the branch in Duc Pho and the branch in Da Nang, were joined by a second branch in Da Nang.

Mail destined for Chu Lai and the surrounding area is flown into Da Nang, then flown or driven here. Outgoing mail follows the same route back to the world.

Before the mail gets to you, unit mail clerk it is handled three times at the APO. First it is unloaded from a van onto a 2½ ton truck with no sideboards, and carried into the main sorting room, where the mail bags, which are addressed to the various units, are thrown into the unit's bin. Then, each morning and afternoon, the units' mail clerks drive through the building, and the mail is thrown onto the trucks by APO personnel.

According to Specialist Four Preston Fielder (Augusta, Ga.), "the work is hard physically, but

the realization that what we do is so important makes the work worthwhile."

As Hott says, "Our only reason for existence is service. If you're authorized postal service, we're here to give it to you, no matter who you are."



The mail moves through APO 96374, the largest APO in the Army, as SP/4 Russell Griffin (Marysville, La.), SP/4 Preston Fielder (Augusta, Ga.) SP/4 Fenton Parke (Casper, Wyo.) and SP/4 George Edson (Bingamon, N.Y.) prepare mailbags for PFC Sam Rouso.

1st kill for 48th scout dog platoon

By SGT Tom Mano
LZ HAWK HILL (196th Inf. Bde. IO) - Nowadays in Vietnam it's hard to accomplish a "first", but a scout dog handler here in the 196th Infantry Brigade has just earned this mark of distinction.

Private First Class Raypheal Kenney (Galveston, Tex.) was the first man in the 48th Scout Dog Platoon to kill an enemy.

The incident occurred when Kenney was working with Company B, 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry off their home firebase, LZ (landing zone) Mildred. Accompanied by Smokey, a 65 pound German shepherd, Kenney was engaged in seeking out an enemy convalescent home that intelligence had reported was in the area.

"I thought we'd be successful," commented Kenney, "because I heard Bravo Company were some squared-away dudes."

The men were air-assaulted into an area that the battalion had never worked before. Gunships provided support fire as the men ran across rice paddies and corn fields when they were set down.

"Those birds were rapping off so much ammo: you didn't know if there was any return fire."

Once the company had regrouped, they started humping west. Kenney and Smokey were the forerunners in the column.

"I always walk point because I think it's the most effective," said Kenney. "If I get killed, the hell with it, it's just my day."

When they hit double-canopy jungle on a mountainside, Kenney called for a man to cut vines, so he could devote his entire concentration to working his dog. After 150 meters hacking at the vines, the cutter stopped and the men set up their night defensive position (NDP). Movement

was detected a short distance from the perimeter so a few rounds of artillery were called in.

While walking through elephant grass the next day, the men received sniper fire. This confirmed their presumption that the movement the night before were not just water buffaloes.

After three miles of arduous "humping" the men settled down in a NDP. Kenney was just preparing to settle down for some needed sleep when Smokey alerted.

"I was blowing up my air mattress and Smokey's nose went up in the air searching for the scent cone (the area at which the smell is the most intense)," mused Kenney, "I looked around, but didn't see anything so I went back to my mattress. I didn't feel it was that strong an alert."

As Kenney was lying down, Smokey came to a strong alert. His rigid body and probing nostrils gave evidence to something strange nearby. Rising from his mattress, a VC suddenly loomed before him less than 100 meters down a nearby trail.

"I wanted to yell to the other guys, but the words just wouldn't come," reflected Kenney. "I'd never fired my weapon in the field and I was scared as hell."

Kenney open up on automatic and the enemy fell into nearby brush. Immediately Smokey bounded from cover and started scouting the brush. Kenney followed close behind and together they found the enemy's body.

It wasn't until the team returned to Hawk Hill that they learned of their "first". The First Sergeant was the initial person to tell him.

"In a way I was happy, in a way I was sad," said Kenney. "I knew I had killed somebody, but I also knew it had to be down to save the other guys."



PROJECT HELP. Question of the Week
ANSWER: USARV Cir 600-8 dated Feb. 28, 1971 states: No individual will be placed on the local recommended list whose total point score (board and administrative) is lower than the bottom man already on the list in the same three-digit MOS. In the event there is no one already on the list in the same three-digit MOS in which the individual is competing, then at least one individual but no more than 20 per cent of the total number of personnel competing in the MOS may attain list status.

QUESTION: A buddy and I went before a promotion board the same day. He made a higher score and was placed on the promotion roster but my name was kept off because supposedly only one man for each MOS could be promoted. I was recommended for promotion. Can they do this?

One on the house?

By Sp/4 Ralph J. Winter
FSB BRONCO (11th Inf Bde. IO) - "Sit down and have a drink. The First Sergeant will see you in a minute." Are you hearing things? A bar in the company orderly room?

Headquarter and Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry, of the 11th Infantry Brigade has one. Actually Army policy change does not go quite that far. However, Typhoon Wanda recently hit South Vietnam causing damage to many structures at FSB Bronco. One of those buildings damaged by the storm was the orderly room. In order to continue operations, the staff moved into the vacant Officers' Lounge with its leather trimmed bar and tiled floor and ceiling.

The sentiments of everyone working in the office were voiced by Sergeant Michael P. McGuire (Donaldsonville, La.), who said, "It's unfortunate this move is just temporary. I sort of like the atmosphere of our new unique orderly room."

'Big Bruiser' has terrific appetite for rock

By ILT. Feigenbaum

CHU LAI (39th Eng. Bn. IO) - As the sun rises over Chu Lai combat base, and guards are relieved from their posts, we see a cloud of dust in the distance. A three quarter ton and a two and one half ton truck loaded with men are approaching.

As you stand at Chu Lai's gate two, you see to the right of QL-1 a rather large stone quarry digging complex. Its layout is typical of modern technology. Trained Vietnamese civilians run the digging operation, and you can observe the morning activity of the civilians as they mount the equipment.

About this time the two trucks have arrived, and they turn east onto the combat base side of QL-1 and stop at a small, unimpressive shack. Moving closer to the shack, a machine comes into view. This machine is known as "Big Bruiser" but it is really only a 75TPH rock crusher. One laughs as he glances at this "toy" and then looks across the road at the impressive layout there. The operation on the east side of QL-1 is complete with crusher, track drills, leaders, crane and bulldozer, and is run by the 39th Engineer Battalion's 137th Engineer Company (Light Equipment).

After a few seconds of milling around, Sergeant First Class Roland L. Furgal, Warren, Mass., the non-commissioned officer in charge of the operation, scratches his head, yawns and exhorts: "Let's get to work!"

Staff Sergeant Willie Smith, Detroit, Mich., who supervises the crusher operation, gathers his men and climbs onto "Big Bruiser." Chief Warrant Officer Stewart Hurst, Hargate, Tenn., arrives on the scene and eyeballs

the machine. After a few puffs on his pipe, he says a few words to his men in the maintenance contact team at the crusher. The chief knows every inch of the crusher. Maintenance is ever present, and is the primary concern of every individual there.

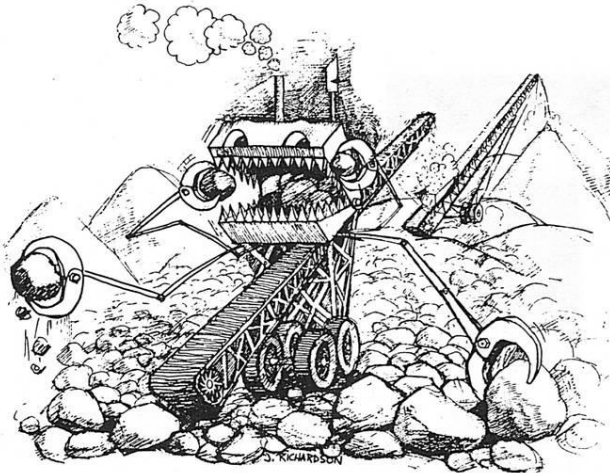
The engine is started and sits idling. The clutch is engaged and the jaws move... "Big Bruiser is hungry."

Out across QL-1, the crane, drills and dump trucks are in operation digging the large stone blocks out of the ground and carrying them over to the crusher to "eat."

One becomes impressed with the coordination, teamwork and professionalism of the two operations working together.

"Big Bruiser" has an insatiable appetite for rock. His diet only calls for 1500 cubic yards a week.

It was shortly after noon on Friday and the crusher was already sleeping, for by that time he had finished eating 2530 cubic yards of rock for the week. This is a new record for the crusher and all personnel are gathered around the machine with smiles on their faces. They are watching Lieutenant Colonel W. R. Mumm, battalion commander, open can after can of beer and pass them out to the men.



The man behind scenes of justice

By SGT Tom Mano
DA NANG (196th Inf. Bde. IO) - An infantry brigade may be deemed a small society controlling many of its own affairs, yet still receiving life-giving supplies from the outside. One aspect in the 196th Infantry Brigade that is given top priority is the execution of justice.

Some punishments are meted out here such as Article 15s, while judges higher up decide courts-martial. These men and those who argue for and against the defendant are well publicized, but what of the middleman?

What of the man who handles the paperwork, consults the brigade adjutant on cases that are unfair or wouldn't succeed in

court and advises non-judicial punishment? What of the man who makes certain that the evidence such as lab specimens and the witnesses are present for trial?

Where but in self-satisfaction is the glory for this man without whom a trial would not take place? Perhaps he is considered just a whetstone in the harvest of justice, perhaps just a few drops of oil for the "machine". Perhaps it is this oil that he has burned until the early morning in an effort to bring about a quick trial.

"When a man comes to me with a problem," explained Specialist Four Lyle M. Freeland (Belpre, Ohio), legal advisor for the 196th Brigade, "I first try to make him aware of his actions

and what might become of them. If he comprehends the details, I will acquaint him with the paperwork and who has to sign it."

Lyle, working hand in hand with the Judge Advocate General (JAG) in Chu Lai prepares all courts-martial that emanate from the 196th Bde. He sets up the courtroom and makes sure all required personnel are there.

Working closely with the brigade adjutant, he might recommend a lower punishment than the one imposed on a soldier by his commanding officer. "Like if a guy doesn't have his boots shined, his hair cut or his pants bloused and the commander wants to give him a court-martial, I will probably advise a lesser punishment," said Lyle.

Article 15s and courts-martial occupy much of Lyle's time, but personal problems requiring legal advice frequently come to his attention. Counsel on divorces from both foreign and American girls is included in his repertoire of skills.

"I had one guy who had married a Thai girl and wanted to get divorced over here," said Lyle. "I had to tell him it wasn't possible, and he would have to wait until he got back to the states."

Another problem Lyle works on are people desiring conscientious objector status. He encourages anyone seeking it to go through the battalion and then come to him.

To properly execute his job, Lyle has disciplined himself to ignore his personal feelings. "An evil disposition or sloppy clothes does not make a man guilty," stressed the Specialist.

When seeking justice, the men of the 196th Inf. Bde. have an enthusiastic friend in Sp/4 Lyle. "If a man has question I can't answer, I'll damn sure find it out for him," concluded the legal advisor.

Crime doesn't pay

Case 1

Private First Class James H. Bumgarner Jr., and Private William J. Schott, both of Echo Company, 26th Engineer Battalion, were convicted by general court-martial on May 31, for committing aggravated assaults upon two noncommissioned officers.

According to the evidence introduced at the trial, PFC Bumgarner and Pvt. Schott fashioned a "home made" bomb out of C-explosive and large nails. The bomb was placed under a building occupied by several noncommissioned officers and was detonated a few minutes later.

One noncommissioned officer was slightly injured in the explosion that severely damaged the building.

After announcing findings of guilty, the court sentenced PFC Bumgarner and Pvt. Schott to dishonorable discharge, forfeiture of all pay and allowances, reduction to Private (E-1) and confinement at hard labor for five years.

Both soldiers are presently confined in the Division D-Cell awaiting transfer to the USARV

Installation Stockade, Long Binh, Vietnam. Thereafter, they will be transferred to the U.S. Disciplinary Barracks, Ft. Leavenworth, Kan., to serve the period of confinement.

Case 2

Private Charles L. Lewis, a member of Headquarters, Headquarters and Service Battery, 3d Battalion, 82d Artillery, was convicted by general court-martial on May 31 for possession of marihuana, heroin and opium and for wrongful sale of heroin.

After announcing findings of guilty, the court sentenced him to dishonorable discharge, forfeiture of all pay and allowances, reduction to Private (E-1) and confinement at hard labor for five years.

He is presently detained in the Division D-Cell awaiting transfer to the USARV Installation Stockade, Long Binh, Vietnam. After review of his conviction in this command, he will be transferred to the U.S. Disciplinary Barracks, Ft. Leavenworth, Kan., to serve the confinement portion of the sentence.

Returning convoy uprights overturned Vietnamese bus

By Sp/5 Daniel McVann
CHU LAI - (39th Eng. Bn.) - A convoy returning to Chu Lai recently saved the day for some local Vietnamese.

The Convoy, consisting of two five-tons and a low-boy from the 39th Engineer Battalion, was nearing the Chu Lai combat base when they noticed a group of Vietnamese gathering around a bus that had apparently overturned into a rice paddy.

Stopping to investigate, they soon discovered the driver of the bus had lost control and in the ensuing accident several persons were still pinned under the overturned bus.

Staff Sergeant Morris Wire, Quinter, Kan.; assisted by Specialist Four William Cooper,

Xenia, Ohio; Staff Sergeant Stanley Williams Tacoma, Wash.; Specialist Four William Keller, Vancouver, Wash.; Specialist Four William Keller, Vancouver, Wash.; and Private First Class Richard Brown, Duck Hill, Miss.; immediately began their own rescue operation.

Backing the low-boy part way off the road into the rice paddy, they attached a chain from the rear of the low-boy forward the bus was righted and the people were helped from underneath.

After insuring there were no seriously injured persons and that those even slightly injured were being attended to, the members of Alpha Company, 39th Engr. Bn., continued on their way, having extended a helping hand to a fellow man in time of need.



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June 11, 1971

Weekly recap

196th Brigade kills 25

By Sp4 Richard Kerr

DA NANG, (196th Inf. Bde. IO) - In schatter action during the week of May 12 thru 18, enemy soldiers were killed in the 196th Infantry Brigade's area of operation.

While working in the 196th Brigade's AO, Helix 17 observed 15 to 20 NVA evading toward a treeline. The small aircraft immediately processed an air strike on the enemy's position. The air strike caused the demise of 15 enemy soldiers and the destruction of two bunkers.

Company A, 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry, while in their night defensive position early that week, engaged and killed one NVA with small arms fire. Captured in the action was an K-54 pistol.

While working an area southwest of Da Nang that week, Ranger Team 07 received small arms fire from approximately 15 to 20 enemy soldiers. An air strike was processed and artillery was called in on the enemy's location. Co. A, 2nd Bn., 1st Inf., later swept the area, finding two dead NVA and numerous bunkers.

Co. A, 2nd Bn., 1st Inf. and B Troop, 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry, killed two NVA that week during a joint operation southwest of Da Nang. The first kill occurred when the two elements were sweeping the area and engaged a woodline with small arms fire and .50 caliber fire.

A search of the area revealed the dead enemy

soldier. Upon continuing their sweep they came across four enemy structures and one bunker. A hand grenade was dropped into the bunker, killing the second enemy soldier. The four structures were searched and then destroyed.

While patrolling an area south of Da Nang, A Troop, 1st of the 1st Cav, engaged five NVA with small arms fire. As a result two enemy soldiers were killed as the other evaded.

F Troop, 17th Cavalry, while working an area west of Da Nang, engaged two VC with small arms fire. As a result one enemy soldier was killed and the other wounded. The wounded VC was taken prisoner and extracted to 95th Evac.

Company C, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry, while in their night defensive position, engaged three enemy soldiers with small arms fire. As a result two NVA were killed as the other evaded. One AK-47 rifle was captured in the action.

While on a search and clear mission, Co. C, 3rd Bn., 21st Inf., found one NVA killed by artillery. Battery B, 3rd Battalion, 82nd Artillery was credited with the kill for a fire mission in the area earlier in the month.

Later that week while moving to their night defensive position southwest of Da Nang, Co. C of the "Gimlets" engaged and killed one VC with small arms fire. A rucksack containing miscellaneous items was recovered in the action.

'Honcho' nabbed

By SP4 Don Newton

LZ HAWK HILL (23rd Inf. Div. IO) - After being critically wounded by small arms fire, the VC (Viet Cong) leader would only say, "Go home, Americans." Moments earlier, this same VC Deputy Province Commander of Quang Tin Province had been taking part in a briefing with other VC in a hooch area southwest of Tam Ky.

Staff Sergeant Max M. Braithwaite (Charleston, W. Va.) remembers the incident well. He led several men from his platoon into the initial firefight, and later captured and disarmed senior captain Le Noi - the VC Deputy Province Commander, confiscating the captain's 9mm pistol.

"We heard the enemy talking not too long after we had walked down a hill and into some (flat land)," explained Braithwaite, the platoon sergeant for 2nd Platoon of Company A, 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry. "All of us immediately took cover."

The 23rd Infantry Division soldiers stopped about 30 feet from the voices as estimated by First Lieutenant James Redmond (Oak Ridge, Tenn.) platoon leader for 2nd Platoon and the man who was part of the small patrol which made the first contact.

The adversary ran into a volley of M-16 fire from Redmond, Braithwaite and other nearby "Chargers." A second enemy escaped via a neighboring

hooch, while Noi attempted to escape through a rear door.

The "honcho" scrambled about half way up a hill before one of us shot him," recalled Braithwaite as he turned the captured enemy pistol over and over in his hands. "This 9mm pistol was on his hip, so we knew the guy was most likely an officer. However, he refused to identify himself and would only say, 'Go home, Americans.'"

Noi lived as a result of quick action by Co. A's RTO (radio telephone operator) calling in a medical evacuation helicopter. Captain Paul S. Spielburg (Lexington, Ky.) Co. A's commander, coordinated the operation and watched the captured VC province commander as the enemy officer was lifted into the waiting "dust-off" helicopter.

Five days later, both captains were surprised to meet each other in Chu Lai's 91st Evacuation Hospital. "I was in the hospital to visit a couple of my men, related Spielburg. I looked around the ward, and there lay Noi."

"We shook hands and talked," continued Spielburg. "He complimented my command, and said that I had a well disciplined, well coordinated unit - otherwise, we would never have captured him. Noi is a professional."

After his discharge from the hospital, the NVA VC commander was recently placed under protective custody for further questioning.

SGT. gets medal

By PFC Larry Rich

DA NANG (196th Inf. Bde. IO) - When Master Sergeant Ben O. Musquez (San Antonio, Texas) puts on his dress uniform, he can expect to receive more than a few stares and questions. Among his decorations is a green ribbon with verticle orange stripes on both sides and a bronze V device in the center. Unfamiliar to many Army personnel, the ribbon is the Navy Achievement Medal.

"I was awarded the medal during my first tour in the Republic of South Vietnam in 1968-69," the platoon sergeant of Company C, 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry, 196th Infantry Brigade, recalled. "I was working as a light weapons advisor with a group of South Vietnamese Regional Force and Popular Force troops in the delta area of Military Region Four."

"Operation Sea Lord was underway at that time," Musquez continued. "The object of the mission was to halt enemy movement through the area. We often worked in conjunction with the U.S. Navy."

"Sometimes Navy launches would pick up the advisory team and a group of South Vietnamese soldiers and transport us through the waterways," Musquez said. "We'd disembark and head inland while the boat would continue up the channel a little distance. The ship would then try to move through the channels parallel to our course."

Enemy units who tried to evade one of the searching parties would be likely to run into the other half of the combination. If one party ran into enemy opposition, the other group was close enough to lend support.

If the sergeant had to choose one incident which led to his award, he would probably decided on the time he was instrumental in saving the life of a Navy lieutenant.

"The boat came in with several wounded on board," he recalled. "I thought the lieutenant was dead at first, but in a situation like that you don't give up. I administered first aid and realized he was still alive. I rubbed his arms and legs to keep his circulation going and started to talk to him. I told him that the bird (helicopter) was on the way and that he was going to be all right. The RTO (radio telephone operator) had just started to call the dust-off, but he couldn't see that from where he was lying. He seemed to respond to my voice. I passed the word to the others to talk to and encourage the wounded, and stayed with the (LT.) until the medevac arrived."

Musquez did not know that he had received the award until after he had returned to CONUS and been assigned to Fort Polk, La. "I stopped in at the award clerk's office to see if they had received the paper work for my air medal," he said. "GGand they handed me the Navy Achievement Medal and citation. I never did get my air medal."



Project Help, Question of the Week
QUESTION: Can I get an R&R to Korea if I have a family there?
ANSWER: USARV 28-5. You may submit your request for R&R to Korea thru your normal R&R channels as an exception to policy. You must fly to an R&R site such as Taipei and pay your own way from there to Korea.



Crossing the Song Thu Bon River in a sampan is just about a daily excursion for Sp/6 Joe Tarbell (Security, Colm.), 29th Civil Affairs Company. Tarbell works with the local government official of Hiep Da Territory in the 196th Infantry Brigade's AO (area of Operation). (U.S. Army Photo by Sp/5 Robert Spangler.)

CRIME DOESN'T PAY

Contrary to his plea of not guilty, Private Ronnie Jones, F Troop, 17th Cavalry, was convicted by special court-martial on 16 May 1971 for willfully disobeying orders from his superior noncommissioned officers. Following announcement of the findings of guilty, he was sentenced to a bad conduct discharge and confinement at hard labor for three months. He is presently serving the sentence to confinement in the USARV Installation Stockade, Long Binh.

In Memory of...

FSB BRONCO (11th Inf. Bde. IO) - The 4th Battalion of the 3rd Infantry deeply regrets the death of Lieutenant Colonel Albert F. Coast, age 38 years. On 20 April 1971, LTC Coast was struck by the main rotor blade of a light observation helicopter. He was medevaced from the field and two hours later died as a result of head injuries at the 91st Evacuation Hospital in Chu Lai. He is survived by his wife and two children.

LTC Coast graduated from the Oklahoma State University with a Bachelor of Science Degree. His continued studies led to a law degree. He completed the Reserve Officers Training Course in college and was commissioned on 18 September 1954.

He took command of the 11th Inf. Bde's 4th Bn., 3rd Inf. on Oct. 5, 1970, and employed squad size saturation patrolling techniques in the Old Guard's area of operation. His tactics proved successful as the Mountainmen under his command killed 65 of the enemy in the Iron Mountain Operation.

Throughout LTC Coast's command the 4th Bn., 3rd Inf. maintained its status as jump battalion for the 23rd Infantry Division. Under his direction the battalion illustrated its mobility and fighting adaptability when OPCON to the 198th Infantry Brigade during 10 October 1970 to 7 November 1970 and when it participated in the Lam Son 719 operation, 29 January 1971 to 9 April 1971. The old Guard was accredited with 122 enemy KIA during Lam Son 719.

The record shows that LTC Coast accomplished his mission as a Battalion Commander, but his primary concern lay with the welfare of his men.

An appropriate eulogy can be best presented by the following excerpts from his memorandum notebook:

"SP4 Bemis (A Co) needs size 5 boots... SSG Erwin (D Co) needs a compassionate leave... check on 14-day leave policy for the troops, (ETG)"

These lines best describe Lieutenant Colonel Albert F. Coast, not only as the Commander of the Old Guard, but also as our fellow comrade in arms; now fallen.



Division soldiers work on different projects in the craft shop. Many varied areas of interest are offered.

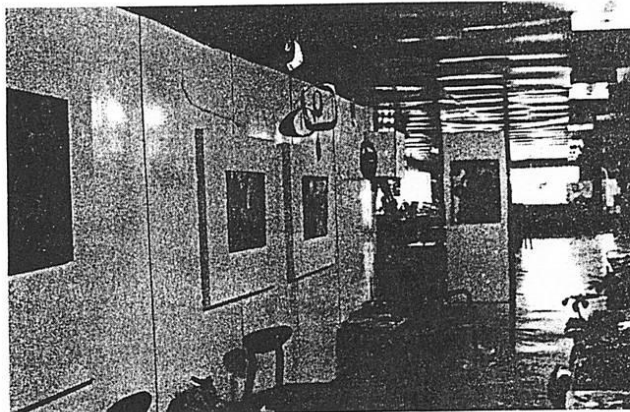


A soldier works on a pair of leather moccasins in the leather department of the Chu Lai Special Craft Shop.

Craft shop -- something for everyone



Here's an artsy-craftsey view of Specialist Four Dennis Whitaker, who runs the lapidary shop in the Crafts Shop.



The combination lounge-gallery is a good place to sit and relax. Craft magazines are available and works of art by 23rd Division soldiers are on display.

CHU LAI (23rd INF DIV 10) - Keep your cool and do something constructive, try the air-conditioned Chu Lai Special Services Craft Shop.

The Crafts Shop is the biggest and best in Vietnam, and it needs more active participation. It is open every day from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. for your convenience.

Most of its facilities are free, including a well equipped photo lab, fine arts shop, lapidary and jewelry shops, enameling and leather goods facilities, and plastic model kits.

There is enough equipment and space in the photo lab so you won't have to wait or be crowded. A color and ten black and white enlargers are available. At the present, Ektachrome color slides will be developed. In addition the Chu Lai Crafts Shop is the only unit in Vietnam planning to do color printing.

You don't have to be an expert photographer either. Specialist Four Dave McCallister is there to instruct and help you. In civilian life he ran his own photo shop.

The fine arts and crafts section is handled by SP4 Ron How who is quite apt in the various art projects offered. He will help with paintings, tie-dyes, or anything you would like to make.

Painting supplies are free as long as you do the work in the Crafts Shop. You can purchase paint to take out of the shop. Any painting medium can be exercised, the choice is up to you.

The lapidary and jewelry shops are run by SP4 Dennis Whitaker. Complete facilities are offered, for the cutting of uncut stones. You can buy the stones at the Crafts Shop, at a reasonable price you can pick them up on the beach.

They also have settings, sterling silver and gold available for purchase in the sales store. Items which have been made by division personnel are on display throughout the Craft Shop to help you decide what you want to do and to show you what can be done with a little effort.

The leather shop is one of the most used areas of the Crafts Shop. Specialist Four Wayne Hawker is there to provide assistance whenever you need it.

You can make a variety of leather articles including moccasins and sandals. The most popular seems to be the leather wrist bands.

Also there is an enameling shop where you can really get a difficult copper enameling or make a lot of ash trays, depending on your patience.

If you just want to see what can be done, there is a combination lounge-gallery where paintings, crafts and photography are displayed and on hand are almost every craft magazine.

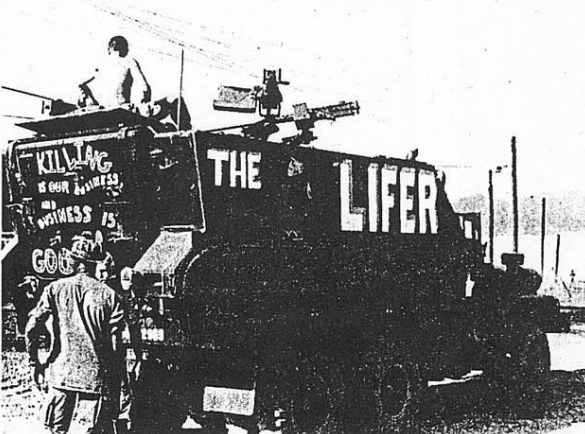
The Crafts Shop is located in the 723rd Maintenance Battalion area next to the Divarty mess hall.

Story by
Sp/4 Rick Holloway
Photos by
Sp/4 Ron Cryderman

5th Bn., 46th Inf. stands down



A truck load of men from 5/46 take a last look at Chu Lai as they begin their trip to Da Nang.



The 5/46 equipment convoy was afforded some powerful escorts as witnessed here.



The endless line of vehicles and equipment belonging to 5/46 begins to form up just prior to departure for Da Nang.



The last of the convoy makes it's way to the gate and "on to Da Nang".

Photos by
Sp/4 Ron Cryderman

USAFI offers varied courses

By SP4 Greg Wright
FSB BRONCO (11th Brigade IO) - The United States Armed Forces Institute provides opportunities for today's soldier to expand his education.

Today a soldier may choose from a wide range of courses on the pre-high school, high school and college levels, as well as occupational and language courses. Regardless of a man's location USAFI has a representative to help him select and complete the courses of his choosing.

Pre-high school courses may be obtained for all levels below high school. These pre-high school courses are taught in classes supervised by qualified instructors or in individual study with the help of a tutor. An 8th grade equivalency certificate is available through General Educational Development (GED) testing.

On the high school level USAFI offers most courses available in civilian schools. These may be studied either in supervised classrooms or in individual study. Upon completion of study the GED high school equivalency is available.

College level courses from 44 colleges and universities in the United States are offered by USAFI. The student receives the same textbook used in civilian classrooms, workbooks or supplementary texts, and other materials relevant to the course. In addition a study guide is provided to aid the independent study.

Occupational courses are offered which may help a soldier increase his efficiency in his MOS or prepare him for a civilian vocation upon leaving the Army. These courses cover a wide range of skills.

USAFI's history started on 1 April 1942. The Army Institute was established to provide educational opportunities for enlisted men of the United States Army. Although the Institute grew from World War II, its value was soon realized.

Since its beginning in 1942 USAFI has met with great success, enrolling well over 7 million military personnel as students. Regardless of career plans members of the armed forces should not fail to consider the possibilities of continuing or completing education with the U.S. Armed Forces Institute.

Christmas came late for orphans

By SP4 Fred Abatemarco
CHU LAI (23rd Inf Div IO) - If it is true that Christmas comes only once a year, someone certainly didn't inform Mrs. Dorothy L. Alexander.

As the wife of Major William M. Alexander, executive officer of the 523rd Signal Battalion, 23rd Infantry Division, she might seem a far cry from the traditional St. Nicholas, but it is doubtful that anyone could convince the 400 children at the Quang Ngai Catholic Orphanage that their most recent benefactor was anyone else.

Mrs. Alexander recently spearheaded a drive in Seattle, Washington that produced over 2,000 pounds of clothing, sundries and toys for the orphanage. With the help of a local wives group, a number of churches and even the services of a moving firm and answering service, Mrs. Alexander amassed what is probably the largest single donation that the

orphanage has ever received. When did the project have its origin? Last Christmas, naturally.

At the time, the 523rd Signal Battalion was acting as a sponsor for the orphanage. As the men became more familiar with the children, their visits became more regular and word of their endeavors naturally found its way back to the people at home.

Mrs. Alexander received the reports from her husband with avid enthusiasm, and before long she had the local radio station donating spot announcements for collections.

An indication of how successful her efforts were is the fact that a few strings had to be pulled with the Navy and the Air Force in order to transport the goods from the West Coast to Da Nang. And when a convoy recently visited the orphanage, they were only able to transport half of the bundles; the remainder to be taken at a later date.

'Wildcats' support 23rd Div.

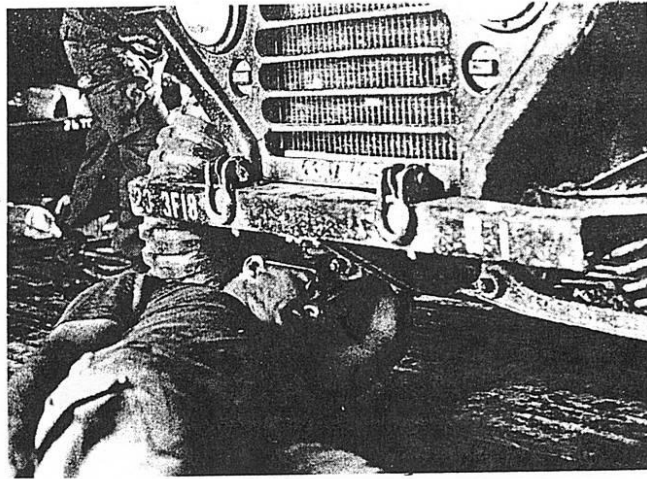
By PFC William Hutchison
CHU LAI (23rd Inf. Div. IO) - On April 6th the "Wildcats", Alpha Company, 228th Assault Support Helicopter Battalion, arrived in Chu Lai from the "Bear Cat" area near Long Binh, Vietnam. The "Wildcats" was the oldest "Hook" company in the III Corps. Operating with the older and slower "Model A Chinook" they accrued over 60,000 combat flight hours while with the 1st Cavalry Division.

The "Wildcats" are based in Chu Lai with their headquarters in Da Nang. They are working in direct support of the 24th Corps, 23rd Infantry Division and the 6th ARVN Regiment. Logging approximately 600 flight hours per month the

"hooks" fly direct Combat Support (DCS) missions moving troops in and out of the field, transporting tons of ammunition, food and equipment to the troops in the field.

Down south Alpha Co. logged over 1,000 combat flight hours per month, again flying mostly DCS missions. There they also flew special "ladder missions".

Captain Ernest E. Tuggle (Montgomery, Ala.), the company operations officer, described them: "We would take our 'hooks' out to pick up an infantry unit in an area where it was too thick to land our big birds so we would lower a 100 ft. ladder out the 'hook'. It was quite a job to hold that big bird steady while the 'grunts'



Staff Sergeant Homer L. Jarrell (Logan, Va.), vehicle inspector, checks out the front axle of a jeep at LZ Phoenix where B Battery, 3rd Battalion, 18th Artillery is based at Tien Phuoc. (U.S. Army Photo by SP4 Guy Winkler)

Engr's. improve Rawhide

By SP4 Kerry Baird
LZ RAWHIDE (26th Engr. Bn. IO) - During the first two weeks of May, a remarkable thing happened to Landing Zone (LZ) Rawhide, 15 miles south west of Da Nang. First Lieutenant Peter Mandel, (Pompton Lakes, N.J.) and 10 men of Alpha Company, 26th Engineer Battalion, 23rd Infantry Division, came to give the fire support base a "face lifting". Their primary mission was the construction of a forward refueling and rearmament complex for helicopter gunships.

In the first two days most of the complex was completed. Four refueling pads, two rearmament pads, three fuel storage sites and an ammo storage area were completed, and a 300 meter stretch of road was relocated.

In order to complete the project, the men had to spread 20,000 gallons of penepime, a petroleum product used to stabilize the compacted earth, over the complex to prevent the dust "storms" that accompany helicopter landings. The real work started when the engineers were told that the last shipment of penepime would not arrive on schedule.

Having exhausted their supply of penepime, the engineers cast about for other work. First they prepared sites for a Radar Operations Center, a radar trailer, and a 155mm howitzer position. Next, they built three dugout positions for track mounted, twin 40mm "Dusters" followed by a parking lot extension for 3rd Battalion, 82nd Artillery vehicles. After that, four defensive bunkers were built and fields of fire were cleared in front of the bunkers.

Then the engineers found out that the hill was plagued by a water shortage. Water was being pumped from the Song Vu Gia River at the foot of the hill. The pumps were designed to "push" the water through a pipe line to the water tanks on top of the hill.

However, the pumps can only suck water 10

feet below the level of the pump. The water was 14 feet below the pump level though. A bucket loader was dispatched to the pump site and within 20 minutes had excavated enough dirt from the pumping site to allow the pump to function properly.

Back on the hill, the penepime distribution truck was inoperable. But, men of Alpha Company had a ready answer to the problem. Four at a time, barrels of penepime were loaded into the scoop of the bucket loader and holes were punched in the ends with a pick. This process resulted in splattering the unfortunate men from head to foot in the sticky black substance.

Then the bucket loader backed over the area to be covered, spreading an even coat of penepime over the surface to the delight of all concerned.

While on LZ Rawhide, the engineers saw their first action. The enemy shelled the hill during the second and third days of the engineers stay. Specialist Five Bruce Brown (Phoenix, Ariz.), commenting on the constant use of the bunkers said, "If this keeps up, when I get home I'll probably build a bunker without thinking. And Mom won't even like me using her good pillow cases for sand bags."

When asked if he liked working at Rawhide, Staff Sergeant Patrick Cannon (Perkinson, Miss.), answered in the negative. "I like it except for the rockets and I don't EVEN like them."

Understandably, the engineers would rather be on the giving end rather than the receiving end. Meanwhile the penepime hadn't arrived on the resupply convoy. "We can't go back to Da Nang till we get the last shipment of penepime spread," said Mandel.

If it takes much longer, we can start looking for the Grand Opening of the Rawhide Hilton, built of course, by the Combat Engineers of Alpha Company, 26th Engineers Battalion.



An M-60 gunner of Charlie Co., 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry, 23rd Infantry Division totes his "pig" through a shallow stream during a recent operation in the Ky Tra Valley. (U.S. Army Photo by I.L. Warren C. Mabie)



Miss Stella Stevens approach may seem a bit unusual but we at the Southern Cross want to voice our approval. Of course, we're talking about 101 ways to tan evenly. (Photo courtesy of Columbia Studios)

June 25, 1971

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Recon halts ambush

PFC Larry Rich
DA NANG (196th Inf. Bde. IO) - If fast reactions spell the difference between life and death on the battlefield, then the men of the Reconnaissance Platoon, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry, 196th Infantry Brigade, will live up to their motto, "We Who Do Not Die". Having killed an enemy soldier the previous day, the platoon was careful to expose itself as little as possible as they made a recent sweep west of LZ Hawk Hill.

Specialist Four Art Lerma (San Antonio, Texas) was walking point for a small patrol, when he noticed a path bordering and passing through a hedgerow. But the pointman made a new trail. After cutting through the hedgerow and pushing through a patch of elephant grass, the Texan found himself standing behind some enemy soldiers. They had set up an ambush along the regular trail.

Disregarding his own safety, SP4 Lerma stood fully exposed and fired into the enemy force. He stopped only to change 30-round magazines in his M-16. Hearing the sounds of the fire-fight, First Lieutenant James F. Dowling (Honolulu, Hawaii), platoon leader, radioed for air support and led a group of men from their position to support the embattled squad.

Within minutes, helicopter from F Troop, 8th Cavalry, 16th

Aviation Squadron (Blue Ghosts) arrived at the scene. The helicopter flight, consisting of two gunships, a light observation helicopter (LOH), and a UH-1H Helicopter (slick) containing a five man reactionary force, began searching the area for the fleeing enemy.

Spotting a well-hidden trail, the LOH pilot radioed the recon unit. The helicopter flew in a tight circle over the trail to mark the location for the ground troops.

The fact the trail was being used by the retreating enemy troops was soon evident. The doorgunner's bursts of suppressive fire were answered with return fire. Damaged by the enemy bullets, the chopper was forced to land.

The slick immediately landed the "Blue Ghost" reactionary force in a clearing near the downed aircraft. As the men attempted to reach the craft, they came under hostile fire.

The recon force requested the slick to pick up a group of men for insertion into the same area as the disabled helicopter and waiting reactionary force. While Dowling attempted to lead his men into the area by foot.

Coming under fire the men of Echo Recon pulled back to determine another approach. Suddenly, the "Blue Ghost" chopper radioed them to prepare

for pick-up; the slick was going to transport them to the battle area.

Scrambling aboard the craft, Lt. Dowling and the rescue force were taken where the reactionary force had originally landed. Within minutes they were giving support fire for the "Blue Ghost" troops.

Splitting his force, Lt. Dowling and two of his men maneuvered to the downed LOH. "I've never met two men happier to see anyone in my life," the platoon leader said. "The pilot and gunner were in a bad spot, and for a while it looked like the first people to get to them would be the enemy."

The small rescue force soon rejoined the recon and "Blue Ghost" ground forces. The combined firepower of the soldiers and gunships forced the enemy to retreat.

The entire fire-fight had lasted only a few minutes, but during that time the recon unit had served in many capacities, from a patrol, to attack force, to rescue squad. In an ever changing war, the men "who do not die" had proven their adaptability.



Twenty-third Infantry Division infantrymen inspect a deserted area. The troopers are with Delta Co., 2nd Bn. 1st Inf. (U.S. Army Photo by SP4 John Cushman)

USO plans 'flag fair'

By SP4 Rick Holloway
CHU LAI (23rd Inf. Div. IO) - Would you believe a six-legged race? How about a pie-eating contest? These and many more fun filled games will be yours to compete in at the Chu Lai USO, Sunday, June 13th, from 1200 through 1600 hours.

The combined "rally round the flag FAIR" is sponsored by the service clubs around the Chu Lai area, including the USO, the Sandpiper Service Club, and the 16th CAG Service Club.

In addition to the aforementioned games there will be tests of skill in egg throwing, watermelon eating, tossing water balloons (no mention of whom at), a Demolition Derby where you get to bang up a 3/4 ton truck, basketball and volleyball games.

There will be live music from 1430 to 1600 for those of you who would rather just sit around and watch.

The girls making all this possible are from the USO: Renee Loustaunau, Donna Swope, and Sue Carlson; from the Sandpiper Service Club: Fern Wilgus and Ann Shoupe; and representing the 16th CAG Club: Kathy Phillips and Sue Goldenson.



Private First Class Stewart Moon (Garden City, Mich.) praises his dog "Chico" after the dog alerted to a decoy in a recent training exercise in Chu Lau. The two work as a team for the American Division's 198th Infantry Brigade. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Thomas C. Elmer)

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Regulars find NVA camp

By SP4 Thomas F. Boehler
LZ DOTTIE (23rd Inf Div IO) - A luxury NVA training camp, complete with running water and anti-pollution chimney in the mess hall, was discovered recently by infantrymen from the 198th Brigade, west of Chu Lai.

A platoon from Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry, was moving through mountainous terrain to support another element of the company when they came upon the camp at the top of a small ravine. Upon searching the area, the "Regulars" found six structures, including a large mess hall.

"Another element had spotted a large group of enemy and we were moving into a blocking position," said Sergeant Gary Piper (Denver, Colo.), the platoon leader. "Our nonman saw one of the structures when we were about 100 meters away. Half of our element maneuvered to surround the area and the rest moved in to search the camp."

A thorough search turned up simulated barbed

wire defenses and 75 practice Chicom hand grenades. The infantrymen also found two chicken coops, latrines, and an enclosed lookout position in a tree.

"The place must have been a sapper training camp," said Piper. "It was built to last a long time. All the structures had basement type bunkers with trap doors over them and everything was camouflaged from the air as well as the ground."

Luxuries abounded in the camp. "The mess hall was really something," said Specialist Four Bob Skibo (Fayette City, Pa.), the radio operator. "It was big enough to seat 40 people and even had a built-in stove. The chimney was an engineering marvel. It had a bellows which blew smoke through a tunnel that had small holes opening to the surface. The smoke then filtered up through the trees and would be invisible from the air."

The "Regulars" burned the structures to prevent their further use by the enemy and requested air strikes on the area.

VOLAR puch is on in 'nam

FSB BRONCO (11th Inf. Bde. IO) - Demand is up, and one of the world's largest organizations is investing millions of dollars in testing innovations. And more people are investing their future in the opportunities.

The challenge to meet increased quotas and yet maintain quality is being met by reenlistment NCOs like SSG. James Bobo who operates out of a red, white and blue office-hootch in the 11th Bde. Bobo, with a smile, pops up just about anywhere at anytime with a green ledger and an encyclopedia of Military Occupational Specialties (MOS) in his hand.

"There is definitely a push on for more reenlistments," said Bobo. "Under the commander's signature quotas are being imposed, and career counselors at battalion and brigade level are exempted from extra duties. Also air transportation has been made readily available. By July 1, our monthly quotas will go from 1 percent of assigned strength to 2 percent."

SOUTHERN CROSS

Bobo is also placing importance on communication between career counselors and commanders at lower levels. "The battalion counselor is only one man and he can't get everywhere," explained Bobo. He said he is attempting to keep people informed, and cited instances where prospective reenlistees said "no" simply because they had the misconception that they would automatically be extended in Vietnam after reenlistment.

New emphasis is helping, and Bobo said the number of pending reenlistments has jumped higher in May than in any of his six months in the Brigade. Other general changes in Army policy have also contributed to the higher rate. "There is no restriction to MOS now," Bobo commented. "So we've had more people reenlisting as doorgunners and in the mechanical fields."

"He also cites the fact that more people are getting involved in reenlistment. Special

ceremonies are held during the Brigade commander's formal briefings, and the 11th Brigade commander takes a keen interest in reenlistment, passing his advice to other commanders and executive officers.

Another deciding factor for a rear job. Nearly 80 percent of the Brigade's reenlistment involve people moving from the field to train in another occupational specialty such as mechanic or doorgunner. Most of these soldiers are between 20 and 30-years-old, and in grades E-3 through E-5.

In the future, Bobo sees an enhancement of the job of reenlistment NCO recruiter because of VOLAR. "It is due to the fact that under the new concepts, the only way to come in the Army or stay in it will be through a recruiter or career counselor."

Already, he said, the Army has doubled the number of reenlistment NCOs in the U.S. from 2,500 to approximately 5,000.

June 11, 1971