

Weekly re-cap

## 196th, 198th Bdes kill 16 enemy soldiers

### 198th kills 10

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

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

While on operations northwest of Chu Lai, the 4th Bn., 3d Inf.'s recon element engaged a group of Viet Cong soldiers. The recon element killed five Viet Cong soldiers and

detained two enemy suspects. The two detainees and two Chicom grenades were extracted to a nearby landing zone (LZ).

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

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

While working west of Chu Lai, gunships from Delta Troop, 1st Squadron, 1st Cav., killed

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

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

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

into the area and immediately captured one enemy suspect.

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

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

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

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

and destroyed several booby-traps.

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

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

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

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

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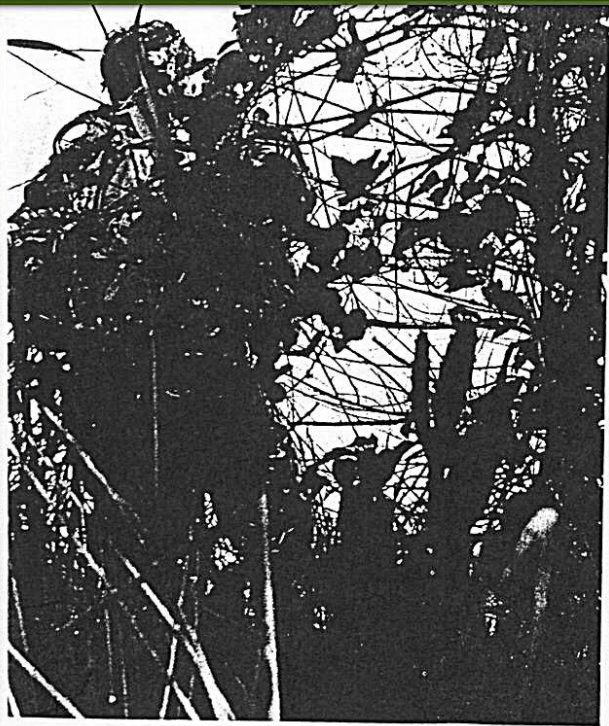
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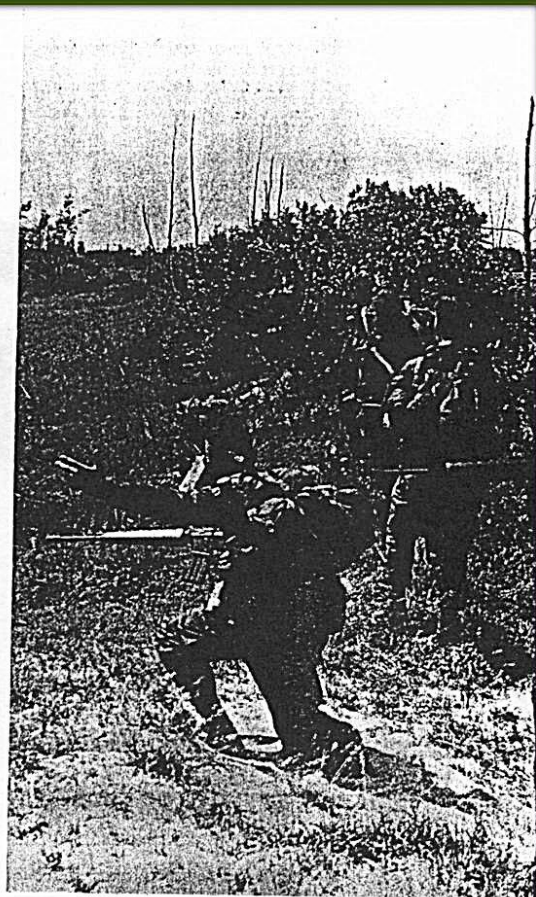
LEFT: A dog's eye view of a Combat Tracker mission.

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

GHY: Luke, in the center of the picture, leads the tracker team in pursuit of the enemy during a mission.

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

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



## Combat tracker

CHU LAI, (23d Inf. Div. 10) -- It was only a training mission inside the perimeter of the Chu Lai Combat Base, but everything was as if the team was on an actual mission.

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

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

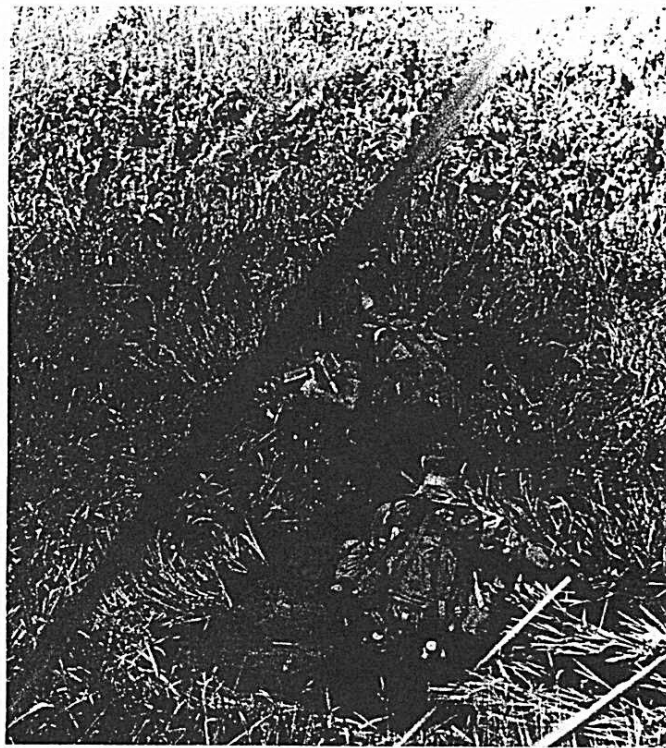
This is one of the four tracker dog teams in the 63d Infantry Platoon (Combat Tracker), part of the 23d Infantry Division (Americal). The platoon, actually company-sized, has mine detection teams and tunnel teams as well.

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

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

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





Story and Photos by SP4 Sam Rousso

## r team simulates mission in Chu Lai

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

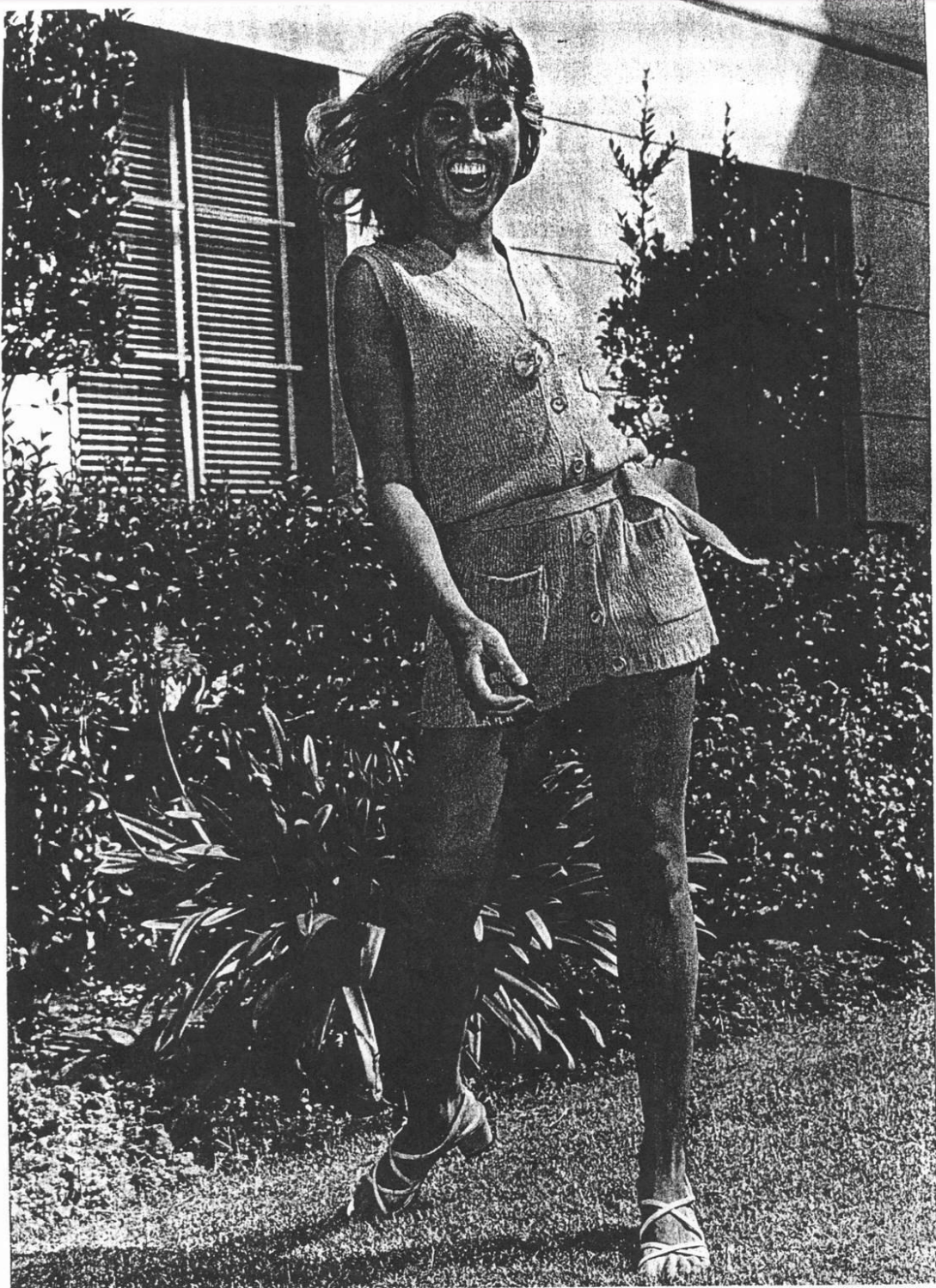
A combat tracker team is composed of five highly-trained men—a team leader, a visual trainer, two visual tracker covermen and a dog handler—and specially trained tracker dog. They attend a school comparable to Ranger School, physically, but different in the subjects stressed.

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

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

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





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

August 20, 1971

SOUTHERN CROSS

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

## SP4's take GED's to men

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

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

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

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

"To accomplish the first, we stress the unemployment rate and how important a high school diploma will be to a future employee," continued Gordon. "Our second goal is easier, because men with some college

are eager not to forget what they've sweated for."

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

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

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

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

## SP4 Savicki — 'sniffs' — out enemy

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

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

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

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

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

Once over the area, the LOH flies more than 100 feet above

the terrain to get a "Background", a general reading of the area to be compared to future detections.

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

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

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

Suddenly, the needle on the sniffer jumps. Savicki plots it and calls a "hotspot" to the C & C chopper, who in turn plots it. "We try not to engage the enemy," said Savicki. "We always try to keep going, because it doesn't take much to shoot a LOH down, especially one at our altitude."

## Assistant more than clerk

By SP4 Mike Cassidy  
CHU LAI, (23d Inf. Div. IO) - Though the job is listed as clerical, the position of chaplain's assistant is more like being "man-Friday" to one of the busiest men in an infantry battalion.

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

Assistants are usually assigned

to a chaplain in their own faith, but this is not always possible. In the 198th Infantry Brigade, Specialist Four Edward J. Clay, a Catholic, found himself working for Chaplain (Cpt.) James R. Anderson, a Christian Scientist, during the week and for Chaplain (Major) Thomas J. Conroy, a Catholic, on the weekends to help with services. This sort of ecumenism is common because everyone's goal is to provide spiritual direction and support for the soldiers.

The duties of an assistant and extremely varied. He handles many of the chaplain's jobs,

including requests for compassionate leaves and reassignments, requisitions for supplies, printing the Sunday bulletin and accounting for contributions.

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

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

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

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

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

## Medic walked point, he carried no weapon

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## VA working harder for GI training

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

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

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

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

Johnson said that over 100,000 veterans are currently taking on-the-job training, and almost 200,000 have taken apprenticeship or OJT since the current program was first

authorized less than four years ago. Johnson pointed out, however, that more jobs and training opportunities are needed, and one way to provide them is through greater employer participation in OJT programs.

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

While the VA provides information and helps employers develop OJT programs, Johnson pointed out that employer programs must be

designed to meet the requirements of State Approving Agencies before veteran trainees can receive VA benefits.

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

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