

# SOUTHERN CROSS AMERICAL DIVISION

Vol. 3, No. 36

Chu Lai, Vietnam

September 25, 1970

## Americal marks third anniversary in Vietnam

By SP4 Thomas Neville  
**CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)** - Exactly three years ago, September 25, 1967, the Americal Division was officially designated as the seventh United States Army division to serve in the Republic of Vietnam and since that time Americal soldiers have succeeded in securing one of the strongest Communist-infested areas in all of Vietnam.

Although the division was not re-christened 'Americal' until September the nucleus of the force had been serving in Vietnam since April, 1967, under the name of Task Force Oregon. General William C. Westmoreland, then commanding general of the Military Advisory Command, Vietnam, spearheaded the organization of the task force and deployed it to the troubled I Corps of South Vietnam.

Under the control of III Marine Amphibious Force, the main elements of the task force and their area of operations were: 196th Light Infantry Brigade, operating near Chu Lai; the 101st Airborne Division, which operated in the jungles west of Duc Pho; and the 3rd Brigade of the 25th Infantry Division, which conducted search and clear operations in Southern Quang Ngai Province.

A massive revamping took place when the Americal Division's colors were unfurled on Vietnam soil in the fall of 1967. The 196th moved northward to replace the 1st Brigade of the 101st Airborne, while the 198th Brigade moved from the Duc Pho area to Chu Lai, replacing the 196th. In December, the 11th Infantry Brigade arrived and assumed the responsibility of securing the

area around and to the west of Duc Pho.

During the first year, the newly-christened division caused the enemy to undergo its own baptism by fire. The 11th Brigade took over "Operation Muscatine" from the 198th and the latter infantry brigade assumed responsibility of the Chu Lai area.

When the 1968 Tet offensive began in February, elements of the Americal Division were called upon to aid the Marines, who were under siege in the city of Da Nang. Task Force Miracle was formed and the 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry of the 198th Brigade and the 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry of the 196th were sent to the rescue. After four days of fierce fighting, the 60th Main Force Viet Cong Battalion was turned back. From January 25 to February 15, the enemy lost 1,407 men.

Action continued hot and heavy in the spring of 1968. The 11th Brigade participated in Operation Norfolk Victory in the mountainous terrain southwest of Quang Ngai City. The "Jungle Warriors" destroyed a major enemy base of operations and deprived the Viet Cong of weapons and munitions.

The Americal Division has the largest area of operations of any unit in Vietnam and oftentimes large units would be rushed to various strategic locations to meet the enemy. This was the case in April, 1968, when the 198th was sent to Quang Tri to participate in fighting near the DMZ. When that mission was completed, Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry, was rushed to the aid of the besieged Special Forces camp at Kham Duc. Alpha Company was

instrumental in the successful evacuation of personnel at the camp.

A series of major battles highlighted the waning days of the 1968 summer. The 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry teamed up with members of the 11th and 196th Brigades against regulars of the 2nd NVA Division about five miles west of Tam Ky. During the three day

(Cont'd on centerfold)

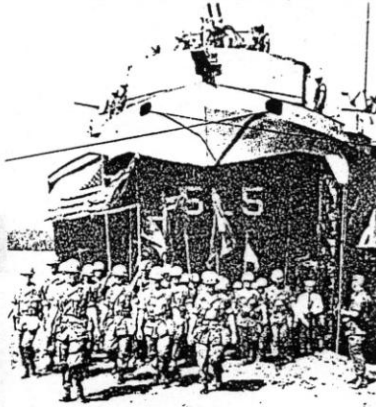
## 'Nighthawks' kill 49 enemy

By SP5 William Hayes  
**CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)** - Working the same area two nights in a row, a double "Nighthawk" team from F Troop, 8th Cavalry recently accounted for 49 enemy soldiers killed during a total of five and one half hours of air to ground battle. The dead enemy were tallied with the aid of the gnat searchlight on each Nighthawk aircraft.

The "Blue Ghost" ships, engaged a large enemy force near Ha Thanh 25 miles west of provincial capital Quang Ngai City. On a night training mission when contact was established, some of the crew members of each ship had never seen night action.

The first night, a Nighthawk ship, commanded by Captain Larry E. Gallatin of Dayton, Ohio, took fire from two enemy on a sampan in the river.

Private First Class Gary S. Frakes, Fort Know, Ky., played the ship's searchlight on the small boat. Moments later, Specialist Four William R. Holden of Torrance, Calif.,



Colonel James R. Waldie, CO, 198th Brigade, leads his staff and commanders ashore at Chu Lai in October, 1967. (Photo by SP4 Jack C. Andrews)

blasted them out of the water with minigun fire.

Believing his ship had been hit, Captain Gallatin returned to Quang Ngai to inspect the aircraft. Enroute, he requested a second two-ship team working further north to help work the area. After a brief ground inspection, Captain Gallatin turned his unscratched ship westward to rendezvous with Warrant Officer Joseph A. Petrucci, Fanwood, N.J.

Both specially equipped H-model Hueys and two additional standard H-model "chase ships" then rolled into the narrow valley and began a search pattern.

Within minutes, ground fire again shot up at the aircraft.

Descending to low altitude, the ships deployed in an offensive tactic developed by Captain Gallatin, who guided the Nighthawk project at F Troop from its beginnings.

The searchlights revealed large numbers of enemy with packs and weapons running around in the area.

"They seemed confused and disorganized," said WO Petrucci. "We spotted some by their muzzle flashes," Captain Gallatin added, "We were constantly receiving fire."

Both ships flew through the night sky, their searchlights and minigun flashes lighting up fragments of the valley with violent red and white bursts of

(continued on page 6)

### Division recap

## Action increases, 160 enemy killed

**CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO)** - Fighting increased in the southern part of First Military Region as the units of the Americal killed 169 enemy soldiers. The heaviest action of the week was in Operation Iron Mountain as the "Jungle Warriors" killed 53 enemy soldiers. The "Chargers" of the 196th Infantry Brigade in Operation Frederick Hill killed 30 enemy soldiers in sporadic contacts. In relatively light action the "Bravo and Bold" of the 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry and gunships of the 17th Aviation Company combined to kill 15 enemy in Operation Geneva Park.

Geneva Park

The combination of ground and air units proved to be a devastating force in an area southeast of Chu Lai. First, a gunship crew observed one VC moving in the area and engaged the enemy to kill him. Later the crew observed signs of enemy activity in a clump of rocks on the ground below, and saturated the area with automatic weapons fire.

Two platoons of Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry were then inserted and began sweeping through the area. As they maneuvered, the "Regulars" spotted one Viet Cong crawling from the rock formations and fired on him killing him. As they continued the sweep they found five more VC killed by gunships and two

rifles lying near the bodies. A short time later, the gunships, working in the same general area, took enemy small arms fire and spotted 15 VC on the ground below. The crew fired on the enemy to kill five more.

The next day, Delta Company made another sweep through the area of the previous day contact and killed one VC.

Men of the 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry saw light activity during the week. The battalion killed four and captured one in scattered engagements with the enemy.

Light action also characterized the activity in the 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry. Bravo Company found a maze of 10 bunkers and hooches built

(continued on page 6)



Crouched behind a rice paddy dike these 11th Brigade infantrymen wait for gunships to silence the sniper that forced them to seek cover. The "Jungle Warriors" later moved out to recover the bodies of the VC. The unit was operating northwest of Duc Pho. (Photo by Americal IO)

# Bangkok offers excitement for R&R

CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) - The city alive, pulsating with the movement of over 1,800,000 people and a myriad of arting vehicles. Man and machine merge refuse in this port city and flow in a thousand colorful directions. Intense colors, bright during day time, glitter at night as neon signs and brightly lit store-windows flash advertisements that capture the eye in a rainbow of color. This is Bangkok, one of the cities offered to you for R&R.

An exotic city of lights and sights, and where the ancient blends with the modern in a bustling metropolis, Bangkok is just a jet's jump away for the R&R round soldier. For entertainment, sightseeing and shopping, there is no place in the world quite like it.

After you land in Bangkok and make a brief customs check on a bus destined for the R&R Center located downtown where you will convert your money and make hotel reservations. But first your air

directed into a large conference-like room where a pretty Thai girl will show you slides on what you can see in the city.

Then you are given the opportunity to change your money and make hotel reservations. The exchange rate is approximately 20 Baht for one US dollar; one Baht equals a nickel. Under no circumstance may you cash a Treasury Check or personal check with a money changer, or make purchases with "greenback" on the economy.

**Fine Hotels**  
Offered for your comfort are some of the most modern hotels in all Asia, with nightly rates that range from \$6 to \$12 for a single room and \$12 to \$16 for a double. All R&R Center recommended hotels, for \$6 a night offer air conditioned rooms complete with bath and 24 hours room service. You have the option, however, to stay at whatever hotel you please, the only stipulation being that the R&R Center knows where

you will be staying. Now that you have settled into your room and changed into some light weight civilian clothes you almost forgot existed, you are ready to discover the allure of Bangkok.

Your first glance at the flow of vehicles outside the hotel may confuse you as you wonder which mode of transportation you should take. Buses and streetcars operate throughout the city but visitors tend to favor taxis. Taxi fares average about 25 cents a mile. Be sure you set a price before you start.

The Thais expect you to bargain, so do not accept the first price because it is usually to high. If you plan much traveling, a cab can be rented for the length of your stay for about \$25.

Now that you have an idea on how to get started toward fun-time, the problem lies in where to go to have that fun. Numerous possibilities arise.

After a satisfying meal you are

prepared to take in the night life, which will easily surpass your expectations of a swinging time. Nightclubs galore, in both eastern and western style, await you featuring music, dancing and other professional entertainment. Beautiful Thai girls will be your dance partner for about \$2 to \$4 an hour. The company of a hostess can be yours for the price of her drinks.

So as to not ruin your chance to cram activity into every minute, you would be wise to heed a few precautions. One is to remember that the tap water in Bangkok is unsafe for drinking. Your hotel will provide pitchers of potable water in your room. Another is to eat in the better restaurants and avoid food served by street vendors or in nightclubs.

Also available to you are PX facilities, including a snack bar and commissary, military medical facilities for routine treatment or emergencies are there as well.

## CSM Copeland visits Division

By MSG William Turner  
CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) - The third Sergeant Major of the Army (Designate) Command Sergeant Major Silas L.

Copeland, now sergeant major of the 4th Infantry Division paid a brief visit to the division recently, before departing this month for his new office in the

Pentagon. He was escorted on his tour of the division by Command Sergeant Major Charles Hall, USARV and Command Sergeant Major Edward Wilson, XXIV Corps. Sergeant Major Copeland, a 50 year old combat veteran, visited Hawk Hill and LZ Center where he talked with members of the "Chargers," 196th Infantry Brigade. In the afternoon he toured elements of the 57th Transportation Battalion where he was escorted by Command Sergeant Major James K. Forman.

Returning to Chu Lai from Hawk Hill, Sergeant Major Copeland was honored with an informal reception and luncheon where he met 76 senior NCOs of the division and talked informally with those present during the luncheon.

After the luncheon Sergeant Major Darling presented the top Army NCO with the traditional Americal bayonet and cigarette lighter as a memento of his visit and on behalf of those present extended best wishes in his new assignment.

In his remarks to the



Division Command Sergeant Major Fred E. Darling presents the newly designated Sergeant Major of the Army, Command Sergeant Major Silas L. Copeland with mementos of the Americal during a recent visit by the sergeant major.

(Photo by SSG Tim Palmer)

## Doughnut Dolly

By SP4 Breidenbach  
CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) - "I didn't join the Peace Corps because there's so much to do with America and its people."

Katharine Elizabeth Beckwith is proving her statement very well by serving the men of the Americal through the Red Cross girls.

The petite 23 year old was born in Downs, Kan., near the old geographic center of the United States. Her family moved to San Antonio, Tex., where she was raised. At Southern Methodist University in Dallas she obtained a BA in English specializing in American authors.

"My mother told me about the Red Cross program," Kate said, "she's been in the Red Cross for 10 or 15 years and is presently in Saigon at the 3rd Field Hospital." Probably the only American mother-daughter team in Vietnam.

Kate has been stationed at Bien Hoa and Cam Ranh Bay. Although she has been in country eight months she has been here but a month and likes it best of all here. Two wishes she has are, "That I had more time to talk to the men and that there could be more girls in country to talk to the guys."

Kate has always liked to travel and work with people. A brief look at her volunteer work during high school and college prove it beyond a doubt.

Some of the outside work includes social work with juvenile delinquents, welfare projects in Texas, teaching English to Spanish speaking children and work in various mental hospitals.

She likes to think big on city planning and after finishing her Red Cross tour would like to attend graduate school in international business.

## Promotion outlook dim for E-4 and 5s

By PFC Guy Winkler  
CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) - The outlook for promotion to pay grade E-4 and E-5 is dim due to a 250,000 personnel decrease at DA level.

Captain L. F. Hinson, division personnel management officer, said that the decrease in promotions are all based on appropriations and projected strength of the Army. In other words, as the manpower decreases, promotion allocations also decrease.

"In Vietnam, however," Captain Hinson said, "it's easier to get promoted to E-3, E-4, E-5 and E-6 than it is in stateside assignments. The policies allow an acceleration of these promotions without regard to time in grade and time in service. On occasion, USARV promotes on a month to month basis 25% to E-4 and E-5 without regards to vacancy."

The new DA Promotion Points System adapted February 1, 1970 for promotion to E-5 and E-6 features several new additions for a higher possible point rating. The Awards and Decorations section allows a maximum of 50 points to be scored by the individual and 100 maximum points for Civilian Education Section. In addition, the individual may score as high as 250 points before the promotion board compared to the old 200 point system. And he can score as high as 750 administrative points.

Promotion allocations which are put out through the Department of the Army are determined by the number of qualified persons needed to fill the slot without regard to specialty or field grade MOS.

## Jewish holidays to be observed

By SP4 Thomas J. Neville  
CHU LAI (AMERICAL IO) - Two religious retreats will be held at Da Nang's China Beach R&R Center for Jewish personnel in observance of the holidays of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

Rosh Hashanah is the celebration of the Jewish new year and begins at sundown, September 30 and continues until sundown, October 2. The second retreat will begin at sundown on October 9 and continue until October 11 in observance of Yom Kippur. Unlike the joyous holiday of Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur is a very solemn "day of atonement."

Americal Division soldiers and personnel from other units in the XXIV Corps may attend the retreats. According to Sergeant First Class Douglas Kendall, Americal Division chaplain's assistant, "Jewish personnel can contact their unit chaplain to find out the procedures necessary to apply for an administrative leave in order to attend the retreats."

By obtaining in-country travel

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orders, personnel should be able to insure a reservation on a fixed-wing flight to Da Nang, according to Sergeant Kendall.

Rabbi Edward Kraus, XXIV Corps Jewish Chaplain, arranged the retreats and will conduct services during them. The first day of Yom Kippur is marked by a 24-hour period of fasting. "According to history and tradition, this is the Jews' day of judgement for the year. We fast and pray to God that we will have a good year and will be forgiven for past transgressions," noted Specialist Four Mark Vogel, who recently assumed

duties as Jewish lay leader for the division.

About 300 persons are expected to attend the retreats. "We should have a pretty good turnout from the division," said Sergeant Kendall.

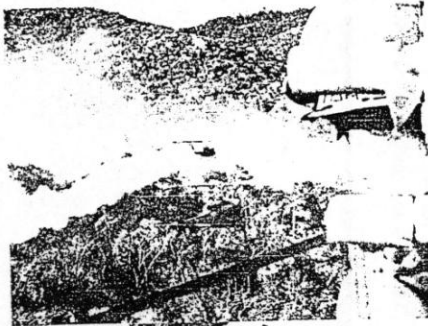
For those personnel unable to make the trip to Da Nang, Specialist Vogel will hold services in the division chapel during both holidays.

For further information about the services contact Sergeant Kendall at the Division Chaplain's Office, telephone Chu Lai 3541.



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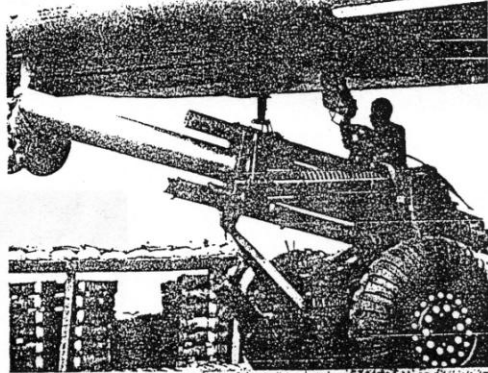
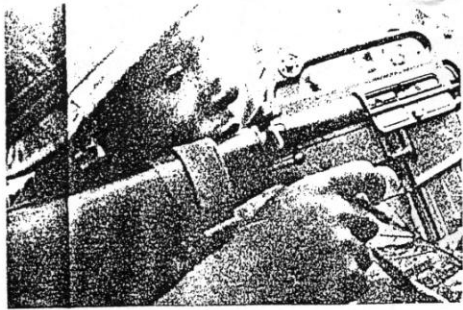
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## Americal Division marks its third ye



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## third year in Vietnam

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battle, 548 NVA were killed. Shortly after that action, an allied force of 11th Brigade and 2nd ARVN Division soldiers accounted for 422 enemy killed at Quang Ngai City.

In November, the two longest running Americal Division operations, Wheeler/Wallowa and Burlington Trail, were completed. The results were staggering. The 196th Infantry Brigade accounted for 10,020 enemy dead and 2,053 captured weapons during the one year existence of Operation Wheeler/Wallowa. Operation Burlington Trail accounted for 1,948 enemy and 345 captured weapons.

One of the largest operations conducted by the Americal Division in Vietnam was Operation Russell Beach. That operation involved two basic tactics of this war—combat and pacification. Initiated January 13, 1969, on the Batangan Peninsula eight miles northeast of Quang Ngai City, the operation was a massive effort to win the hearts and minds of the Vietnamese. All civilians were removed from the peninsula in order to isolate VC units and members of the Viet Cong infrastructure.

The pacification phase ended on July 21st and the effort saw the resettlement of more than 12,000 refugees on the peninsula after it had been cleared of enemy bunkers and sanctuaries. The overall pacification effort continued in the Americal but was soon to meet some stumbling blocks.

Intensive Communist pressures were beginning to be felt in the Que Son and Hiep Duc valleys, 30 miles south of

Da Nang. The Hiep Duc Refugee Center and firebases LZ Center and LZ West were believed to be prime targets of the 2nd NVA Division.

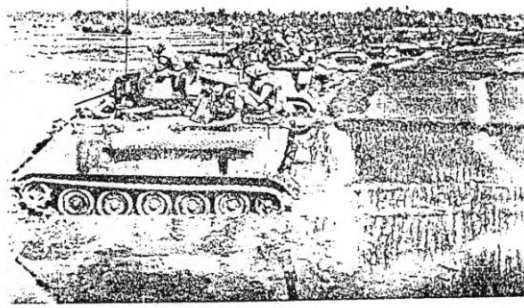
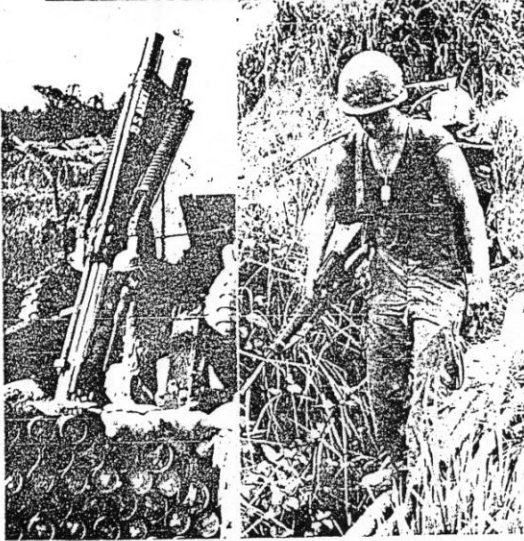
In early August elements of the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry beat off a ground attack at LZ West, killing 59 enemy soldiers. Later in the month, 196th Brigade infantrymen killed more than 312 NVA in 72 hours of fighting in the blistering heat on the Que Son Valley floor. Skirmishes in the two valleys continued through the month. At month's end more than 1,000 enemy had died in the area at the hands of Americal soldiers and Marines.

Pacification continued to be the name of the game in 1970. Americal engineers became involved in massive land clearing operations and resettlement villages sprang up everywhere.

The spring of 1970 saw a setback in one such pacification effort in Hiep Duc Valley when the NVA launched an offensive. Heavy fighting flared in the area but the enemy was soon stopped by 196th Brigade soldiers.

In July of 1970, elements from the 196th along with other Americal units recaptured the remote out post at Kham Duc. The former Special Forces Camp had been overrun in May, 1968, by the NVA but Americal and ARVN forces reopened the camp via a massive assault this summer.

Today, three years after its arrival in Chu Lai, the Americal Division is the largest Army division in the world. Its soldiers are fighting in the largest tactical combat zone in Vietnam and their main goal is to win the hearts and minds of the Vietnamese people.



# 11th Bde soldiers find tons of enemy rice

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together in an area northwest of Quang Ngai. Inside the bunkers, the infantrymen of the "Ready Rifles" discovered five AK-47 magazines, two CHICOM grenades, five mortar rounds, one RPG with seven rounds and another antitank weapon. Also found were two VC bodies dressed in brown uniforms. It was determined the two VC had been killed by an airstrike earlier in the week.

**Frederick Hill**  
After finding a basecamp early in the week Delta Company, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry spotted 10 VC. Delta engaged the enemy, killing three while the others fled into a nearby treetline.

Company A of the "Gimlets" did its share when it killed two NVA during a sweep of the double canopy jungle at the end of the week northwest of Tam Ky.

A daring day light raid by Recon platoon northwest of Tam Ky resulted in the death of two NVA.

A defensive position set up by Recon effected the deaths of seven enemy later in the week northwest of Tam Ky. The first of two encounters led the "Gimlets" to kill three NVA, in a thickly vegetated area.

"We counted four more VC killed late in the afternoon when they stumbled into our defensive position along a well used trail," said First Lieutenant Joseph D. Barrett, Burlington Mills, N.C., platoon leader.

Four NVA were killed and a basecamp destroyed by Recon, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry with the help of artillery at the end of the week in thick double canopy jungle terrain northwest of Tam Ky.

"Four NVA were caught unaware as they were moving out of ambush position by one of our patrols that was checking

out an enemy laager site previously bombed by arty," reported Sergeant Bill Milburne, Harriman, Tenn., squad leader. Three of the enemy were killed in the encounter that followed.

The "Polar Bears" of the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry came into possession of two packs when they surprised and killed two VC northwest of Tam Ky early this week.

**Iron Mountain**

Early in the week while on a search and clear mission in the lowlands south of Duc Pho, Company A, 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry uncovered a 300 pound rice cache. The rice was found in a wooden box inside a small hut. It became apparent that Company A had broken up a VC rice carrying detail when a short time later, near the first cache, 15-100 pound bags and 12-55-gallon drums of rice was found lying in the open. The estimated three and one-half tons of rice was evacuated to LZ Bronco.

The next day at noon Alpha Company, 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry discovered a 2200 pound rice cache in the lowlands northwest of Duc Pho. The "Always First" found the rice buried in a ditch. Later in the afternoon Company A uncovered another rice cache consisting of 1000 pounds. This cache was found buried in a 55-gallon drum.

Continuing their productive rice denial campaign in the lowlands northwest of Duc Pho, Company A uncovered 400 pounds of rice the next day. The rice was found in 55-gallon drums buried in a hedgerow. Four tons of rice had been uncovered by Company A in the last three days and found in four different caches.

In the middle of the week Company B, 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry and Regional Forces had an estimated VC Company

attack their night laager position in the lowlands northwest of Duc Pho. The enemy hit with CHICOM grenades and RPG rounds in the early morning hours. The attack which saw the enemy assault the "Jungle

Warriors" position twice, both times being repelled, included five VC killed. The VC broke contact when Blue Ghost gunships arrived on station. Late in the week Alpha Company, 4th Battalion, 3rd

Infantry saw action in the mountains northwest of Duc Pho when they engaged and killed four NVA. While checking out the area one more NVA was engaged and killed.



198th Brigade infantrymen keep spread out as they cautiously move down a trail in search of the enemy. The Delta Company, 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry soldiers were conducting a search and clear operation southwest of Chu Lai. (Photo by SGT Thomas C. Elmer)

## Gimlets kill 6 stubborn VC

By PFC Joseph Alward  
FSB DEBBIE (11th INF BDE 10) - Six stubborn VC were killed recently when they ran afoul of an equally obstinate

unit of the 11th Infantry Brigade in action near the village of My Trang eight miles south of Duc Pho.

Intelligence revealed the location of a pair of tunnels harboring armed VC soldiers. The reports were confirmed when the members of Recon, 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry and the battalion S-2 made a heliborne assault into a rice paddy neighboring My Trang.

Immediately after insertion the men proceeded 100 yards to the bank of a winding stream where they discovered a small spider hole. "There were indications that it had been entered very recently," stated

First Lieutenant Jerry Webster, Winston-Salem, N.C., "our interpreter made repeated attempts to urge any occupants to come out, but he received no response so the decision was made to destroy the tunnel. The explosion enlarged the opening through which Sergeant David M. Graff, San Pedro, Calif., entered.

"He slipped all the way inside and returned, dragging with him an AK-47 and a dead VC," continued Lieutenant Webster. A search of the tunnel uncovered AK-47 ammunition, blasting caps, and a pistol belt with four grenades on it.

The Recon element then approached an underground bunker located approximately 150 yards from the spider hole. First Sergeant Cecil Zachary, Kalispell, Mont., and Specialist Four Ronald Boisse, Woonsocket, R.I., moved toward the entrance and came face-to-face with a VC wielding a grenade. "I knocked him all the way back inside with several bursts of fire from my M-16," said Sergeant Zachary.

A grenade was then thrown into the bunker, collapsing the walls and ceiling and exposing a tunnel entrance within the bunker. "The interpreter again asked any remaining tunnel inhabitants to surrender," explained Lieutenant Webster, "but no response was received so we placed claymores on top of and inside the bunker."

After the explosion sergeant Graff squirmed through an opening in the rubble. "I slipped in up to my waist while Specialist Boisse held onto me by my belt. When I looked in I saw five dead VC."

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## 'Nighthawks' pursue enemy

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light. When both ships' miniguns expended, the pilots teamed up to provide each .50 caliber machinegun with illumination from the other ship's searchlight.

The .50 on each ship tore into enemy bunkers and fighting positions. When the heavy guns paused for reloading, free M-60 machineguns on each ship maintained a base of fire to keep the enemy from establishing fire superiority. As the .50 caliber guns resumed firing, the free gunners fired in short bursts to provide additional suppressive fire to the flanks.

All the while, the two chase ships stood by at higher altitude, ready to assist if needed.

After an hour and a half of continued contact with the enemy force, the ships broke station with 16 enemy dead left in the area.

The next night, both teams returned to the same area, ready for trouble. They found it. This time, the enemy was ready with more automatic and small arms fire and fought from more and better positions in the same area.

Passing over the river valley, both ships took small arms fire. The minigunners returned fire immediately, killing one enemy in his ground position.

The two ships resumed tactics similar to the previous night's, working their way downstream. The enemy, applying the

previous night's experience, fired from strong concealed positions.

Despite the well-prepared enemy, both ships were credited with an additional 33 confirmed enemy dead in four hours.

During the action, both Nighthawks had broken station once to refuel before returning to the Ha Thanh area.

After what might have been a heady victory, the pilots and crew members maintained a healthy respect for the enemy in the area.

In an interview the morning after the action, Captain Gallatin explained: "You can't underestimate him. If you do, you're finished."



Men of C Battery, 3rd Battalion, 82nd Artillery, fire a 105mm Howitzer at enemy positions one mile west of Hiep Duc. (Photo by SP4 Triburio Sanchez)

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As a reminder that it is already the 25th of September and the Fall general elections November 3rd are fast approaching. So act now to have your absentee ballot in time for your ballot cast. Absentee ballots may be obtained through your county auditor. Remember your vote counts.

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## Div's Own Rock Group Plays Throughout AO

By SP4 Ed Breidenbach  
CHU LAI (AMERICAN 10) - Did you know that the American has four Joint Chiefs of Staff? And they are all enlisted men at that. Actually the Joint Chiefs of Staff are the American's own band operating for the entertainment of troops all over the AO at their firebases.

The group consists of Sergeant Wayne E. Hart, Tacoma, Wash., formerly of Echo Recon, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry who plays organ. Specialist Four James V. Satokoski a medic from 14th Combat Aviation Battalion and his home is in Laport, Ind., on drums. Specialist Four David C. Nealis a Chicago bass player formerly of the 23rd MP Company and Private First Class Donald E. Russell, Phoenix, Ariz., previously assigned to the 132nd Helicopter Company on lead guitar.

In charge of the band is First Lieutenant Chuck Leary a former tour manager of the Bee Gees and co-owner of Northern Artists Limited, a recording company in New York City.

Headquarters for the music makers is the American Amphitheater and Birthday Sound Studios. Birthday Sound Studios consists of two acoustically tiled rooms complete with a separate sound and recording room. "We worked for four days and nights to get it done, but it was worth it," they commended. The name came from the completion of the studio on the bass player's birthday.

A recording of "Proud Mary" was given to Lieutenant Colonel James M. Eubanks, the American AG in appreciation for all the help given in getting the band together and equipped. It was the groups first recording and the first of many more to come.

The relatively new equipment is Jazzmaster amps guitars and speakers by Fender plus a Bogen amp. The 20 odd pieces weigh approximately 800 pounds. This equipment goes through pelting by rocks and dirt thrown up by choppers and constant moving that normal equipment would never have to face. "It's a hardship tour," Sergeant Hart explained.

The band was formed on May 8th of this year. Specialist Nealis was the first member. After a couple days wait the rest of the group showed up and began to mesh, through Lieutenant Leary's direction, their different styles. It involved long 18 hour practice sessions in order to be ready for the deadline set to see if the group would stay in existence. They met it with flying colors despite having to work around Private Russell's country and western background, Sergeant Hart's acid music experience. Specialist Nealis' experience with the Mauds and Buckingham's of Chicago and "Ski's" work with his hometown group. It was a real challenge.

An average day starts about six in the morning. Everyone gets up and assembles at the studio and begins packing the equipment from the night of practice onto the blue pickup. They crowd on and proceed to the 23rd S&T pad near the main gate and meet with the fast team which is there with their 201 Files of the host unit and the mobile FX cones.

When a Chinook finally comes the equipment is transferred to the waiting bird. On the journey to LZ Center which will be used as an example, some members of the band were bumped from the first flight and were forced to wait for another chopper that was not long in coming.

At LZ Center the equipment was waiting on the pad for the rest of the group to arrive only two had unloaded it from the first chopper. When the rocks and dust had settled from the last Chinook the large cumbersome boxes were packed in two jeeps with trailers along with the fast team.

The equipment was moved up then down the rutted road to a chapel. Here it was unloaded to the outside of the chapel until someone scrounged up a key. When that finally came the door was opened and again the heavy boxes were moved.

About as soon as everyone and everything was inside the group was informed that they must move to another part of the LZ so that a promotion board could be held in the chapel. The move was to be to the "Gimlet Inn" where the door was opened and again the heavy boxes were moved.

Two moves were performed to the outside and to the jeep.

Tables and chairs were moved at the "Gimlet Inn" so the equipment could be placed and more people could be squeezed in. Another blow was dropped. The mess sergeant made clear the group had to be out before noon so the individuals that eat there would be served on time. This meant the program was to be cut short by about 20 minutes. They had to wait for the fast team to finish so as not to detract their business. "It really makes us sad when we can't give the guys a show, but even half a program is better than none. So we give half a show," Specialist Nealis pointed out.

After changing into civies they use for the show, final tuning and tests were conducted. The show opened at 11 a.m. Real American music played and performed by professional American musicians. This group is not run of the mill. Every tune is polished. The routine and humor though is one thing that comes off the top of the head. It sure loosens the crowd up.

As the music went on the crowd grew larger and larger. People lined up on the porch, then began sitting on the bunkers on both sides of the Inn. Inside they were crammed like sardines. One of the spectators even felt so moved he got up and danced during "Midnight Hour." It was a time of release for some for others it was a somber moment during some of the wide variety of songs that brought back fond memories of home. In this particular crowd most were somber and thinking.

At 11:40 the guys completed their final song and began to pack up. The show had been cut short by 20 minutes. A move was made to the chopper pad, then lunch.

Two hours later, a Chinook landed but with a large number of people already on, only the equipment could be transferred to Hawk Hill. The band was rejoined with their equipment an hour later at Hawk Hill when another hot and tiring wait began. Two and a half hours this time. Chu Lai was a welcome sight.

On reflecting on the day, general consensus seemed to be that LZ Center was one of the longer days as far as moving and waiting went. But to them it was worth it because they guys had enjoyed it.

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