

(Copy from C 4/31st Inf. Bn. veteran James B. Simms with the assistance of Mike Crutcher a veteran of E & HHC, 1/5 Cav, 1969-70 1<sup>st</sup> Cav Div. May 2014.)

196th Crest

**"C H A R G E R"**

Knight on a rearing horse

196th Infantry Brigade

Vol 1, No. 1

Da Nang, Vietnam

December 17, 1971 Page 1

## **Chargers regain independent status**

DA NANG - The 196th Infantry Brigade (Chargers) once again receives and accomplishes its mission as a separate brigade, as it did before joining the 23d Infantry Division in 1967.

Under the command of Brigadier General Joseph C. McDonough, the Charger Brigade now reports directly to HQ XXIV Corps at Da Nang.

The brigade is primarily tasked with the defense of U.S. installations in the Da Nang area.

To accomplish this mission, both support and combat units of the organization have been beefed-up. In mid-October a composite support battalion was formed to centralize and streamline administration, logistical training and maintenance services for the brigade combat units.

The brigade combat units—three grunt battalions, an artillery battalion and two cavalry units—keep the enemy on the move so that he doesn't have time to launch an attack against the U.S. installations or activities in the Da Nang area.

This mission is accomplished jointly with ARVN units by interdicting enemy support routes and searching out his hiding places in such areas as Charlie Ridge, Arizona Territory and Elephant Valley.

Another part of the Charger mission is to assist units of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam and the Regional and Popular Forces in their continued assumption of the combat role in this country.

Personnel of the Charger combat Center regularly provide training for Vietnamese forces both in Da Nang and in Hoi An, about 20 kilometers southwest of Da Nang.

The mission of the Chargers also includes the building of roads to aid the Government of Vietnam with the economic growth of the pacified countryside.

The 196th Infantry Brigade first saw active service in the Pacific during World War II. The brigade was deactivated in Japan in 1947 after occupying that country at the completion of the war.

Reactivated in 1965, the Chargers arrived in Vietnam after a year of training at Ft. Devens, Mass., and the Dominican Republic. Upon its arrival, the brigade was attached to the 24th Division and stationed outside of Tay Ninh, 65 miles northwest of Saigon. (Continued on page 2) **Chargers regain independent status**

**(continued from page 1)**

Since then, the brigade has headquartered its operations at LZ Hawk Hill, and more recently, Da Nang.

While in the south, the brigade took part in Operations in Military Regions III and IV., destroying Viet Cong and North Vietnamese strongholds and supply depots.

During its Tay Ninh days, the brigade took part in one of the largest military operations in the history of the war. Junction City I and II. The operation brought together manpower from two separate brigades and a division.

In 1967, the brigade became part of the first U.S. Army force in Military Region I when it joined Task Force Oregon. The task force later became the 23d Infantry Division (Americal).

This is the first edition of the CHARGER newspaper. The CHARGER is the 196th Infantry Brigade newspaper for the officers and men serving in Da Nang and Quang Nam Province. We hope you will help us to make your paper better by making suggestions and sending stories or letters to the 10th Public Information Detachment. the next CHARGER will be published Dec. 31.

The Charger staff wishes you the merriest Christmas possible.

Peace on Earth

***[Historian comment: There were prior issues of the "Charger" published in 1966 through 1970. However, this is the first issue after the brigade separated from the Americal Division].***

## **Christmas is for radicals only**

On today's social scene the common image of a radical is one who favors fundamental or extreme change. With burning zeal the radical foments unrest, and seeks, often violently, to bring about basic social changes. To say that Christmas is only for this brand of radical is tantamount to burning the flag and the Bethlehem manger with the same match.

However, our friend Webster tells us that the word radical has many meanings. In chemistry and mathematics a radical is quite different from a militant revolutionary. The basic meaning of radical comes from a Latin word meaning "root" or "foundation." In this sense, the "radical claim of the Gospel message is that God became man. On the eastern end of the Mediterranean Sea some 1000 years ago God revealed His true nature by taking the form of a human-namely, Jesus of Nazareth.

That is what Christmas is all about.

**Graphic Art: Christmas. (Christmas candles)**

**Photo Caption:** SESAME STREET II?--The children's television series "Sesame Street" was never like this pathway which winds around the perimeter of the 196th Infantry Brigade's LZ (landing zone) Linda wet of Da Nang. (U.S. ARMY PHOTO). (A sign names the path in the photo "SESAME St" which the caption plays on.)

## **Drug program offers exemption - once**

**By 1LT Kent Flanagan**

DA NANG - Get off drugs or be prepared to accept the consequences!

That statement is the gist of a new anti-drug offensive announced for the 196th Infantry Brigade by its commanding general, Brigadier General Joseph C. McDonough.

In a letter addressed to the officers and men of the 196th, BG McDonough noted that the urinalysis test has been expanded from a pre-DEROS test only, to pre-R&R, pre-leave and unannounced unit testing.

Test expansion became possible when a new testing laboratory was opened in the brigade area on Oct. 15. the new lab has the capability of testing 2500 men each day.

Thus, our program has been expanded and we are testing units on an unannounced schedule... This new program provides the means of identifying drug users now, "BG McDonough continued.

Periodic unannounced urinalysis testing is the backbone of the drug treatment program.

Any persons who has a drug use problem has a chance. He can sweat out the urinalysis test and take his chances on being identified as a drug user, or he can ask for exemption form his commanding officer.

Exemption is defined as immunity from punishment and notoriety for any individual who voluntarily requests help with a drug use problem.

Criteria for being granted exemption are tough.

First, the request for exemption must be completely voluntary and must be approved by a man's commanding officer. Also, the men must not have been previously identified as a drug user through unit urinalysis testing or prior drug-related offenses. Finally, he must have 45 days remaining in-country.

When an individual is granted exemption, he will be voluntarily admitted to the U.S. Army Rehabilitation Center at Camp Viking, Da Nang.

The mission of the rehabilitation center is to help **(continued on page 2)**

**Drug program offers exemption (continued from page 1)** U.S. Army members in the Da Nang area rid themselves of drug habituation by detoxification and medical treatment. Also included in the program is individual and group therapy, education, recreation, supervised athletics and work therapy in a 14-day rehabilitation program.

Another facet of the program is liaison with the units served, outpatient service and extensive follow-up for those who have completed the center's program.

It must be emphasized that no entries are made on the individual's 201 (personnel) File or on his Health Record. The time spent at the drug rehabilitation center is good time, and the individual is adjudged "Line of duty-Yes."

From the time the individual asks for exemption until he completes the rehabilitation program, it is up to him to kick the habit. BG McDonough has pledged the brigade will "provide all possible assistance to an individual who asks for exemption-one time!!!"

What's Your....**BOOZE I.Q.?**

1. Can one accurately prophesy the percentage of alcohol in the blood knowing only the amount of alcohol that a person drinks.
2. Can one state the minimum amount of alcohol consumed from the percentage found in the blood?
3. Does loss of judgment and the ability for self-criticism occur before there are obvious symptoms of intoxication?
4. Can an exceptional person have 0.15 per cent of alcohol in his blood and still retain all of his facilities?

**ANSWERS (printed upside down)**

1. No. To even guess at what the concentration might be one would have to know not only the amount of alcohol consumed but would have to know what period of time this amount was inbibed.
2. Yes. When a 150-pound man has 0.15 per cent in his blood he has accumulated in his body three ounces of absolute alcohol which would correspond to the amount of alcohol in six ounces of 100 proof whiskey or the amount of alcohol in six 12-ounce bottles of 3.2 beer.
3. Yes. the person is not aware of his shortcomings although careful psychologic examination may indicate marked loss of efficiency.
4. No. The individual may give a good account of himself but he has nevertheless lost enough of the clearness of intellect and self-control that he would normally possess to materially interfere with his mental and physical capabilities.

## If you ask me

Editor's Note: The following are questions from Charger troops and answers from Brigadier General Joseph C. McDonough. If anyone has a question they feel is of general interest to the men of the 196th Infantry Brigade, send it to the 10th P.I.D., APO S.F. 96256 or call 6213/6335. Questions will be evaluated and may appear in the Charger Daily News Sheet or the Charger newspaper.

**Question. What is the real mission of the 196th Inf. Bde? What are we trying to accomplish?**

Answer: Simply stated, the mission of the 196th is to defend bases and installations in the Da Nang area in coordination with ARVN forces, to coordinate the defense of all U.S. installations in Da Nang, and to assist in Vietnamization in Quang Nam Province, **even more simply - we defend Da Nang.**

This mission is an extremely important one for several reasons. Da Nang is the second largest city in Vietnam and possesses one of the busiest port facilities in the country. It is obvious that this be the port through which units in the area will withdraw. It is also the home of several vital U.S. and Vietnamese installations; the Da Nang airbase, XXIV Corps Headquarters, I Corps Headquarters, and the Da Nang Support Command.

The protection of these installations and facilities from rocket and ground attacks is the primary reason we are here. In accomplishing this mission, the brigade works in close cooperation and coordination with ARVN forces.

We are also giving our total support to the Vietnamization Program in Quang Nam Province so that the Vietnamese forces may continue to improve their capabilities with out assistance. If we each do our job well, then when DEROS comes, each of us can climb aboard a "Freedom Bird" at Da Nang and head back to the world.

**Question. President Nixon announced further troop withdrawals from the Republic of Vietnam on Nov. 12. Ever since that announcement was made, many rumors have been floating around that the stand-down of the 196th is imminent. Is there any truth to these rumors?**

Answer: The answer to that question is related to the preceding question on the mission of the brigade. I honestly do not know when the 196th will stand down, but I do know that stand-down is not imminent in light of our current mission. As long as key U.S. installations continue to function in Da Nang, the 196th will remain to assist in their protection. Because of this fact I do not foresee the brigade standing down in the immediate future.

**Question. I understand that other units in the Da Nang area allow their personnel to wear civilian clothes during off-duty hours. Why are brigade personnel not allowed to wear civilian clothes in the rear?**

Answer: Civilian clothes may not be worn by members of the 196th because the brigade is, first and above all, a tactical combat unit. The mission assigned to the brigade requires a high state of mental and physical readiness. The requirement to wear a uniform during off-duty hours keeps everyone prepared to perform his duties on short notice. We happen to have a rear area with a semi-garrison appearance, but we must be prepared to move to a field location at any time, and on short notice.

(continued)

## **If you ask me**

**Question: It takes the best part of a day to go to the Chase-Manhattan Military Banking Facility at the air base. Why isn't there a more easily accessible banking facility for 196th personnel?**

Answer. The Brigade Finance Officer has requested, through the Treasury Department that a banking facility be set up in this area. The request was approved and Chase-Manhattan Bank will be established in the vicinity of the Brigade Finance and PX area.

**Question: There have been many complaints about the bus service between the Camp Charger complex and Freedom Hill. The biggest complaint is that the bus runs infrequently at best and never on schedule. What can be done to improve this situation?**

Answer. A scheduled shuttle bus began service for personnel of the 196th Infantry Brigade this month. The bus route starts at Camp Professional, runs to Camp Purdue, Cross, Red Horse, Charger, Reasoner, Crescenz and ends at Freedom Hill Recreation Center. Bus schedules have been published for this service.

**Question: Will the Camp Charger annex of the Freedom Hill USO be reopened?**

Answer: According to Miss Nancy Masters, assistant manager of Freedom Hill USO, there are no plans to reopen the Charger Annex in fact, the Freedom Hill USO facility was scheduled to be closed during the latter part of November. However, through her efforts, the facility will remain open for a "couple more months."

**Question: Even though there has been a large influx of personnel to the brigade in recent weeks, the number of hooch maids continues to be reduced. Many troops, especially in HHC, are asking why the hooch maids are being released. What is the brigade policy concerning the release of hooch maids?**

Answer: The projected policy for obtaining hooch maids in the 196th is that hooch maids will be authorized on the basis of one maid for eight-men in unit rear area strength. All maids must be hired under a Domestic Hire Fund established under provisions of USARV regulation 230-2.

**Question: Also, with the steady influx of new personnel to the brigade headquarters staff and the addition of an AG Company, many enlisted personnel have complained about crowded housing conditions and a shortage of wall lockers and beds. What is being done to alleviate this situation?**

Answer: the overcrowded condition which existed in November and early December was the result of Typhoon Hester and the influx of the 23d Infantry Division (Americal) and Task Force Americal personnel. The situation will be somewhat relieved upon completion of the building program. On Nov. 27 most of the Americal personnel departed, and by now almost all Task Force Americal personnel have departed. During the interim, additional beds were secured from Chu Lai, and enough wall lockers are being located to provide one for each enlisted man.

**Joseph C. McDonough**



## Course rounds out GI

By SP4 Sam Rousso

CAMP PROFESSIONAL - The recently expanded 196th Infantry Brigade Charger Combat Center has added an 11-day Leadership Course to its list of learning programs designed to make the individual Charger a more well-rounded soldier.

"There isn't one thing in the course that the good, young NCO (noncommissioned officer) shouldn't know," according to Captain James W. Turnbull, the brigade S-3 training officer.

Among the subjects covered during the 99 hours of instruction are Adjustment of Artillery Fire and Concepts of Leadership.

The block of instruction on adjustment of artillery fire is 11 hours long. Two hours are devoted to principles of observation, data communication, marking rounds and the casualty effects of ordnance.

A practical exercise in the adjustment of artillery fire and range estimation takes seven hours, including transportation to the range. A written exam and a critique, each taking an hour, finish up the instruction block.

Concept of leadership, an important course for all NCOs-young or old-takes up nine hours. The class deals with such subjects as the characteristics of leadership, human behavior, leadership traits, indications of leadership and disciplinary problems.

Other subjects include Airmobile Operations, Combat Intelligence and Reporting Demolitions, Drill and Ceremonies and Map Reading.

There are "admission requirements" to the Leadership Course. A student must be an E-5 or below, have three months retain-ability in country at the completion of the course and a GI score of 90 or above.

In addition, the student must have demonstrated leadership potential, have a command of the English language and must be recommended by the unit commander.

Some of the prerequisites may be waived. A request should be submitted to Brigade S-3 not later than five days prior to the class reporting date.

Further information can be obtained from unit training NCOs.

The *Charger* is an authorized unofficial bi-weekly publication of the 196th Infantry Brigade's 10th Public Information Detachment for brigade units in the Republic of Vietnam. It is printed by the photo-offset process by Pacific Stars and Stripes, Tokyo, Japan. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army. Contributions are encouraged and may be sent to the 10th P.I.D. 196th Inf. Bde., APO SF 96256. Tel. 957-6213/6335. The editors reserve the right to edit all contributions.

Brigadier General Joseph C. McDonough .. Commanding General  
Major Michael J. Williams.....Information Officer  
First Lieutenant V. Kent Flanagan.....Officer-in-Charge  
Sergeant Mark A. Schulz .....Editor

## Combat Trackers seek enemy signs

By 1LT Kent Flanagan

**CAMP CHARGER** - His eyes scan the knee-high foliage on either side of the faint trail.

Suddenly, he drops to one knee to examine a broken branch on a bush to the right of the trail. A torn remnant of cloth is caught on the branch.

Several steps later he discerns a faint foot print as he continues to look for more signs of the small group of men that proceeded him down the trail a few hours earlier.

Sounds like an Indian scout tracking his enemies on the American frontier of the 1800's, but instead the setting is a jungle trail in Vietnam with an American combat tracker trying to find the enemy which had recently broken contact with friendly forces.

The combat tracker is one of five men who make up a combat tracker team, along with a dog handler and his specially trained Labrador tracking dog. The 196th Infantry Brigade has the last combat tracking platoon remaining in Vietnam, the 63d Infantry Platoon, Combat Tracker (IPCT).

The primary mission of the combat tracker team is to follow the enemy and find him after he has broken contact, according to Sergeant First Class Ray Adams (Zacharia, Ky.), 63d IPCT first sergeant.

Life isn't easy for the combat trackers between missions, however, because the team also has a secondary mission of training troops to track visually and to read enemy "sign".

To accomplish their mission, the visual tracker finds the track and then, if practicable, the dog can be brought in to follow the track.

If the dog loses the track, the visual tracker finds it again by looking for broken twigs, bent grass and a multitude of other signs which would confirm a visual track.

A dog can track faster than the visual tracker, but the visual tracker has the power of reasoning and must often confirm the dog's track, according to Adams.

Adams is often asked to explain the difference between his tracker dogs and the more familiar scout dog.

His usual answer is that the scout dog usually has his nose in the air trying to catch air-borne scents and will alert on anything in the area.

By comparison, a tracker dog will follow a track or ground scent with his nose to the ground. The tracker dog's specific task is to aid a visual tracker in following a track through populated areas, or where a visual track is difficult or impossible to confirm.

A tracker dog does not necessarily alert on personnel, and his handler is trained to be an expert in caring for his dog and interpreting the dog's reaction to the enemy's smell.

Adams claims that an experienced handler can tell by his dog's reaction if an ambush is ahead of if the enemy is ahead.

Affection between a dog handler and his dog makes a big difference.

"It sounds funny, but you have to love your dog to get him to work for you," commented tracker dog handler Sergeant Mildred D. Keith (Osborne, Kan.)

A tracker dog is an asset to the team, but not the crucial member. The tracker team can and does operate without a tracking dog successfully, according to Adams.

Although visual trackers were used on the American frontiers in the last century, the Army's present combat trackers were first initiated a little more than five years ago.

(continued)

## **Combat Trackers seek enemy signs**

The first American Troops to be trained as visual trackers were sent to the Jungle Warfare School to be trained by the United Kingdom in Malaysia in October, 1966.

Those first two teams were deployed to the 4th Infantry Division and 25th Infantry Division in December, 1966. Other teams followed from Jungle Warfare School to be utilized by other brigades and divisions then in Vietnam.

Later, visual tracker training was moved to Ft. Gordon, Ga., where trackers were trained by veterans returning from tracker teams in Vietnam.

Action began slowing down in 1970, and now, the 63d gets perhaps 30 missions in a busy month.

### **Photo Captions:**

**TOP LEFT** - Luke, a black Labrador retriever, and his handler, Sergeant Mildred d. Keith of the 63d Infantry Platoon (Combat Trackers), keep a watchful eye on progress as the five-man tracker team of which they are part, search ~~as~~ for signs of the enemy.

**TOP RIGHT** - Sergeant Thomas Leisgang, a visual tracker in the 63d PICT checks the trail for enemy signs in much the same way scouts did on the American frontier in the 1800's. His teammate, Sergeant Gregory G. Heckert provides security.

**BOTTOM** - Leisgang confirms his findings with tracker team leader Sergeant Lee F. Simpson Jr., while Heckert [sic] keeps a sharp lookout on the trail ahead.

(U.S. ARMY PHOTOS)

## Battalion supports the line

By SP4 Bill Simpson

**CAMP PROFESSIONAL** - In Vietnam, where it is becoming increasingly difficult to find battalion-sized units, a new one has recently been established.

With its stated mission "To Support the Line" of the 196th Infantry Brigade, the new battalion has assumed the most descriptive name imaginable, simply the Support Battalion.

The Support Battalion is the 23d Infantry Division (Americal's) Support Command boiled down to a battalion-sized unit. Where there was a Medical Battalion at the division level, there is now a Medical Company; the new Supply and Transportation Company was distilled from the Americal's 23d Supply and Transportation Battalion; and the Maintenance Company was drawn from the 723d Maintenance Battalion.

Other units of the new Support Battalion that were formerly part of the Americal Division include the Administration Company, which has been condensed, and the new Replacement Detachment, which replaces the old 23d Infantry Division Combat Center.

Only Headquarters and Headquarters Company is a new unit, and even it has a division element-what was formerly the Americal Band.

These individual companies were assembled into a single battalion to provide total support capability for the 196th. They collectively provide the brigade with class I, II, III, IV, VII, and IX supplies, transportation for the Combat Services Support Operations and the brigade, direct support maintenance of brigade equipment, administrative services and medical (including optical) and dental services.

A lot of time-saving convenience and "red tape" reduction was also planned into the new organization. For example, all the requisitioning, receiving, supplying and shipping of materials is processed in about a one-mile square near Support Battalion headquarters.

An NCR 500 computer system is used to minimize human error and speed resupply to the brigade combat units.

The brigade's direct support maintenance company is likewise housed in that same small area so that when combat units need maintenance support for engineer, ordnance, quartermaster or signal equipment, it is readily available. The equipment is received at one central point rather than being dragged around from one point to another to be received, repaired, shipped, etc.

Personnel services, such as are handled by the Administration Company, are also centrally located. The Finance Office, Inspector General's Office, Staff Judge Advocate, Personnel Management Center and Public Information Office are all in the same general area in Camp Charger, just down the road from Support Battalion headquarters.

And a little farther down the road, in Camp Crescenz, is the medical-dental facility, which is also fully equipped to perform eye examinations and manufacture eyeglasses.

According to Lieutenant Colonel Lewi, [?] battalion commander, and personnel in this new Support Battalion were screened before being accepted. Each man was selected for this particular support mission on the basis of his skill and prior performance with the 23d Infantry Division.

This selectivity, and the Support Battalion's tight organization insures that line troops of the 196th Infantry Brigade will receive the finest support possible. (continued)

## **Battalion supports the line**

### **Photo Captions:**

**TOP LEFT** - The Support Battalion's Maintenance company is divided into several shops. Here Sergeant Charles T. Smith (Hauula, Hawaii), of the Electronic Repair Shop makes fine adjustments on a 16mm projector.

**TOP LEFT CENTER** - Specialist Four James Johnson, a small arms repair specialist, rebuilds a barrel of an M-60 machinegun in the Maintenance Company Armaments Shop.

**BOTTOM LEFT** - Specialist Five Mike L. Viles (Newberg, Ore.) makes an angle cut with an acetylene torch. He is a member of the Service and Evacuation Shop of Support Battalion.

**BOTTOM RIGHT CENTER** - Staff Sergeant Raymond Caughman (Alexandria, Va.) checks over a two-and-a-half ton truck engine to determine whether it is repairable. His responsibility is to inspect each vehicle as it comes in for repair and diagnose the problem. Caughman also makes final inspections once repairs have been made. (U.S. ARMY PHOTOS)

**TOP LEFT CENTER**- Cleanliness is a necessity when working with computer equipment such as is used in the Brigade Supply Center. Sergeant Leon Richards (Syracuse, N.Y.) cleans the card drum of the IBM keypunch machine so that it operator can correctly transcribe handwritten supply requisitions onto keypunch cards.

**TOP RIGHT** - Specialists Four Tys Vandervelde (Chicago, Il.) and Sergeant Richards keep a constant check on the NCR 500 computer as it processes supply orders, computer inventory balances and then automatically reorders supplies in a single operation. Use of this automated accounting equipment has enabled the Support Battalion to more efficiently keep the line supplied.

**BOTTOM RIGHT** - Specialist Four Johnnie Spann (Gainesville, Fla.) of he Radio Repair Shop of Support Battalion, works on parts of a field phone.

Eggs to order**Cookouts raise morale**

**By SP4 Mike Cassidy**

**CAMP CRESCENZ** - One soldier had gone as far as to make a bet that it would not happen. Nevertheless, Specialist Four James Lawrence (Fort Worth, Tex.) stepped off the helicopter ready to cook breakfast in the field.

Staff Sergeant Ben Marcianti (Los Angeles), Specialist Four Larry Randl (Lincoln, Ill.) and Lawrence of the 1st Bn., 46th Inf. mess hall, have made several trips to serve hot breakfasts to infantrymen in the bush.

The program was the idea of Lieutenant Colonel Clyde J. Tate (Ft. Richie, Md.), battalion commander. In a conversation with Marcianti, the mess sergeant, the commander asked about the feasibility of cooking and serving food in the field.

The purpose of the program is to provide a change from C-rations and to boost morale.

Because Marcianti was not too certain about the mission, he decided to go on the first trip himself.

After his equipment was taken off the helicopter, he prepared to cook pancakes and eggs to order for the men of Company A. The first field meal ran into a major problem when the portable stove refused to ignite. Marcianti then reverted to a back-up system, wood, and the men got their hot meal.

Since then, the meals have gone more smoothly, though there are some standard problems. Limitations on the bulk and weight of equipment brought to the field force the cooks to leave any item that is not absolutely essential behind.

"It took me a while to get the knack of cooking on my hands and knees," remarked Lawrence about his first trips to the field. "I'd come back from out there with bruises on my elbows and knees."

Despite the problems involved, the cooks are anxious to return to the field.

Each of the cooks claims that he has never received as much personal satisfaction and as many expressions of gratitude as when he cooked for his battalion's men in the field.

## **Mortarmen set up beachside classes**

**CHU LAI** - The mortar platoon of A and F Troops of the 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry, spent several days on the beach at the Chu Lai USO, but it was not for a sun tan.

The platoons were there for some refresher courses in the use of their 81mm mortars, given by Platoon Sergeant Thomas Hackler (Riverside, Calif.), Company E, 2d Bn., 1st Inf.

There retraining exercises included fire under contact, use of an aiming circle and crew drills.

The mortar platoon of Company E had been set up on the beach to provide illumination for part of the base's perimeter in its last days of American control.

The tubes of the cavalry and the 4.2 inch mortars of the "Legionnaires" were set up on the seaward side of the closed USO buildings. The service organization had left the base with the standdown of the 23d Infantry Division (Americal).

The units were in Chu Lai as part of Task Force Americal. The task force of the 196th Infantry Brigade was responsible for assisting in the closing of former Americal installations in the area.



**Paperwork war****AG goes to work****By SP4 Sam Rousso**

CAMP CHARGER - For the first time since the 196th Infantry became a part of the 23d Infantry Division (Americal), there is an Adjutant General (AG) section in the brigade.

The AG is primarily responsible for personnel administration and personnel management. Before the brigade got its own AG, it served mainly as an intermediate stop for recommendations and reports on their way to a higher headquarters. Most of these functions were performed by the Brigade S-1 section.

In the realm of personnel management AG is responsible for casualty branch functions—reports through USARV and letters of sympathy. Moreover, there is a section dealing with 7&7 and R&R allocation.

Other AG personnel management functions include MOS testing, DEROS and ETS eligibility reports, breakdown of promotion allocations, assignments within the brigade, and maintenance of personnel files.

Special Services is also an AG function. A full-time staff will provide a film library, an athletic program and maintain a photo lab, according to informed sources.

The photo lab will permit those Chargers with photographic leanings to process and print photos.

In the realm of personnel administration, services provided include mail and distribution; assurance of proper format and grammatical content of outgoing official correspondence, brigade regulations and twixes (telegram of teletype messages), in addition, AG maintains a reference set of publications for the use of primary and special staffs.

The 196th Inf. Bde., AG's motto is "Give a damn."

As Captain Kelly Weems, the AG says, "We're trying to instill in our people that we are here to provide service for the grunt, if we can't, or don't, then there's no purpose in our being here and we might as well pack our bags and go home."

**Photo Caption: ON THE WAY** - Howitzers of Battery B, 3d Bn., 82d Arty. complete a fire mission on LZ (landing zone) Linda. Always firing for the direct hit, the motto of the group is posted on the sign in the lower left corner of the photo-"We Aim To Please." (U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

## **Red Horsemen meet long hair**

LZ MAUDE - It was 1 a.m. Intelligence had reported that the enemy was in the area. There were sounds of movement outside the wire.

"We were told to be especially alert that night because there were VC in the area," explained Specialist Four Dan Valentine (Centralia, Wash.), Battery C, 3d Bn., 82d Arty. "When we heard the noise, we expected the worst."

The call went in for illumination. The wait was filled with tightening fingers and hesitant breath.

Taking cover as the illumination round burst, the men scrutinized the landscape for the source of the noise.

"When I first saw it, I couldn't believe my eyes," recalled Sergeant Darryl Reese (Sunbury, Pa.) of the artillery battery. "I was expecting to see almost anything except an ape."

The base's intruder was a solitary ape searching for food and companionship. Since its first encounter with Battery C, the furry primate has been a frequent visitor to the landing zone perimeter.

The men have tried to make friends with the ape. They have tossed assorted types of fruit into the wire, but the ape fails to take the hint.

## **Flyboys tour 196th area**

CAMP CHARGER - Ten airmen from Da Nang Air Base visited the 196th Infantry Brigade "Charger" area Nov. 27.

The purpose of the visit was to acquaint the men (picked at random) with the mission of the 196th, its tactical area of interest and the methods the brigade uses to accomplish its mission.

After being picked up by helicopter, the VIPs were flown to LZ (landing zone) Linda, home of the 1st Bn., 46th Inf. There they were given briefings by the Battalion Commander, Clyde J. Tate, and the battalion's operations and intelligence officers.

Following the briefing, the airmen were given a demonstration of the infantry's firepower, using M-16 rifles, M-60 machineguns, M-203 rifles and grenade launchers and 81mm mortars.

Command Sergeant Major Lorenzo Rivera, the brigade's top enlisted man, held a rap session for the men, complete with coffee and cookies. During the session, the command sergeant major fielded questions from the airmen on tactics, strategy, history of the 196th, future plans and enemy operations.

A special briefing, similar to one given to the men of the 196th by brigade S-2 (intelligence) and S-3 (operations) officers, ran down the military situation in Military Region I.

After the final briefing, the men were greeted by the Brigade Commander, Brigadier General Joseph C. McDonough.

After his day with the Army, one airman commented, "It was an interesting day. I got to see something not too many airmen see.... After seeing how those guys live on a landing zone, I'm never going to complain about my barracks again."

**Help offered****Got legal problems?**

By Sp4 Sam Rousso

CAMP CHARGER - "We are here to attempt to help all the troops in the 196th Infantry Brigade with their legal problems while they're in the Republic of Vietnam," says Captain Charles M. Rosenberg (Cleveland) brigade Legal Assistance officer.

"We will advise, prepare correspondence, notarize documents and review papers that the men receive from civilian lawyers," he says. Legal problems that require assistance include, but aren't limited to domestic relations, indebtedness, citizenship, adoption and discharges from the Army.

According to Rosenberg, the Legal Assistance Office "attempts to solve the soldier's problem, or at least postpone any proceedings until he returns to the United States.

In addition, says Rosenberg, "Many soldiers are unaware that the Soldier's and Sailor's Civil Relief Act protects them from court judgments while they are serving abroad; and that this act applies to divorce proceeding, actions on debts, landlord-tenant problems and real estate matters."

For further information on legal assistance, contact the Legal Assistance Office Building CQ 186, next to the Brigade Surgeon's office in the S-1 and S-4 building.

The phone numbers are 957-6196 and 6124. It's best if you can come in though, says Rosenberg. "We really can't give advice over the phone. Besides, you don't need an appointment-just walk right in." Hours are 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

**Photo Caption:** This Daffodil is Sandi Barnhart reviewing in the "Skin Revue" at Hotel Sahara, Las Vegas, Nev. We were wondering how this beautiful flower propagates its species-maybe a little pollen placed in the proper places would do (Photo courtesy Las Vegas News Bureau)

**Photo Caption:** VIEWFUL VANTAGE POINT - The View from the top of LZ (landing zone) Linda shows the lush, beautiful green of the surrounding countryside, but the strands of concertina and the instruments of war bring the thoughts of any observer back to reality. (U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

**Records,  
interviews  
only part  
of their job**

CAMP CHARGER- A small detachment with a big job.

There are many detachments in the 196th Infantry Brigade-indeed, in the Republic of Vietnam, to which that description could apply. In this case, the subject is the 3d Military History Detachment.

The detachment commanded by Captain Denver G. Compton, is primarily responsible for preserving records and sending documents for retirement directly to the chief of Military History.

"Our second priority," says Compton, "is the Military History Interview Program. It concentrates on interviews with senior commanders and staff officers at the end of their tour or upon change of assignment."

"It's purpose is to clarify and add to records - Compton-Combat After-Action and other official reports-which are submitted through official command channels."

When it was originally constituted, the 3d Military History Detachment was the military history detachment for USARV at Long Binh, according to Compton.

When the 23d Infantry Division (Americal) was formed the 3d Military History Detachment became an organic part of it. It remained with the division until it recently stood down.

The detachment joined the 196th Infantry Brigade early in November as part of USARV Special Troops.

"Even though our particular chain of command stretches from here to Long Binh, we still depend on a close working relationship with S-3 here at brigade," Compton said. "We anticipate no change in the method of operation."



## From serviceman to family **ARC stretches round the world**

**By Sp4 Bill Simpson**

DA NANG - The Red Cross has more than one mission, some think it is a Band-Aid dispensary, others see it as a remnant of the Clara Barton era which has really outlived its usefulness.

Both assumptions are false. The Red Cross in Vietnam has no connection with medical operations here, yet it provides more services today than Clara Barton and her band of volunteer nurses would ever have imagined.

"The Red Cross tries to do for the servicemen what the family would do if they were here, and tries to do for the family what the serviceman would do if he was there," according to Mr. Ray Beall, one of two field directors who head the camp Charger Red Cross Center (Building CQ 144).

This two-way aid policy encompasses a wide range of personal and financial services.

In the personal services category, the Red Cross has established a worldwide communications system to notify soldiers of family emergencies.

If there is a death, a serious accident or sudden illness, a call placed by the family to the local red Cross office sets the system into operation. The message is relayed by the local Red Cross into the Washington central communications center and then transmitted via government teletype anywhere in the world. If the soldier for whom the message is intended is not far out into the bush, the time from Washington to him can be as little as two hours.

While that troop is being informed of the situation, a representative of the Charger Red Cross Center is at the same time reporting the circumstances to that soldier's commanding officer. On the basis of Army regulations, the CO will decide whether or not there are sufficient grounds to grant an emergency leave. If there are the leave is granted immediately and as soon as the orders are cut that soldier can be on his way home.

Also transmitted out of Washington by the Red Cross are what are called "Regular" messages.

Regular messages are sent from the family to servicemen or vice-versa when there is a question concerning health and welfare of one of the parties. For instance, a wife who hasn't heard from her husband in four or five weeks could call her town's Red Cross branch, and via the same communications system established to transmit emergency messages, find out if her husband is well. He is notified that such a report on him has been requested and is urged to renew his correspondence with his wife.

An increased use of the Regular message occurred immediately after Typhoon Hester when many of the folks at home were anxious to find out about the welfare of servicemen in the Da Nang area.

The Charger Red Cross Center, like the other 32 Red Cross field centers in Vietnam, also assists financially when there are hardship conditions.

A soldier is called home for an emergency and needs money in a hurry for the trip; someone in-processes into the brigade short money because his finance record haven't arrived yet; or in extreme cases a soldier's family can't meet the expenses for food, shelter and clothing; all these cases can be solved at the brigade level. The Charger red cross Center stands ready to make interest-free loans, quickly and without a lot of "red tape."

Finally, the Red Cross people are interested in helping servicemen even if they aren't faced with family or financial emergencies. Again this Christmas they are sponsoring the distribution of "Ditty Bags" to all the troops in Vietnam.

"Ditty Bags" are small, gaily colored cloth bags packed with an assortment of useful items-candy, lighters, nail clippers, playing cards, pens, combs etc.

Even the bags themselves are handy for carrying shaving articles and they can easily be strapped to a rucksack.

(continued)

From serviceman to family

**ARC stretches round the world**

Our local Charger Red Cross Center is a participant in the "Ditty Bag" program and will be distributing them to the men in the various companies and battalions of the 196th on Christmas Day.

On a continuing basis, the Charger Red Cross Center sends comfort items (shaving cream, tooth paste etc.) to patients at the brigade hospital facility.

According to its two directors, Beall and Mr. John Stein, the Charger red Cross Center is a place to come "any time you think you have a problem, whether you do or not." Both men are pledged to finding out what the problem is, and the solution.

## Turkey day keeps him running

By SP4 Sam Rousso

DA NANG - During the holiday season, more than at any time of the year, food is very important to the morale of a soldier, especially those a half-world away from home.

At the Thanksgiving just past and the Christmas upcoming, food and its preparation got the undivided attention of Chief Warrant Officer Raymond A. Gammill (Texarkana, Tex.) the food advisor for the 196th Infantry Brigade "Chargers".

Gammill's job of seeing that food is properly prepared is a year-round, full-time job. But during the holiday season, he works extra hard.

The day before Thanksgiving he worked from 7 a.m. until midnight, making sure that all was in readiness. On Thanksgiving Day, he worked from 7 a.m. until the meals were finished being served - 4 p.m.

Typhoon Hester almost caused a Thanksgiving food disaster, according to Gammill. "The refrigerator banks at Da Nang Support Command were all but totally flooded out. Two banks were left, and those held the Thanksgiving menu."

Once the safety of Thanksgiving dinner was assured, events died down until a couple of days before Thanksgiving. Then, the 196th's Ration Breakdown Point - the only one in Vietnam that delivers to its "customers", the 11 mess halls in the 196th - started delivering the food that was soon to become Thanksgiving dinner.

On Thanksgiving Day, Gammill literally flew between the 11 dining facilities, piloted by Warrant Officer Wilbur J. Wright. Gammill made sure the mess halls didn't lack anything. "I had a chopper at my disposal if they did," said Gammill. "Fortunately, everything was set up so beautifully, no one needed anything."

Thanksgiving went off without a hitch. What about Christmas? Shortly after Turkey Day, Gammill said, "I don't want to see another turkey before Christmas - but I'm sure I will."