

(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  
Da Nang, Vietnam

January 14, 1972 Page 1

## **McCain visits troops for Christmas dinner**

DA NANG - During his fourth consecutive holiday visit with his troops, Pacific Commander-in-Chief, Admiral John S. McCain Jr., spent Christmas Day 1971 rapping with troops of the 196th Infantry Brigade.

Every year since he assumed command in 1968, Adm. McCain has visited soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines throughout his command during the holiday season.

McCain began this year's Christmas Day visits by talking to the staff officers and senior NCO's at the brigade headquarters in Camp Charger. There he told the men that the South Vietnamese forces ready to over the war effort in Vietnam, but they still need air support from the United States.

From Camp Charger the admiral and his party flew in slicks to the 196th's northern artillery compound, where Adm. McCain talked to artillerymen.

He told them, "One of the finest aspects of my job is meeting people like you. You are the future of the United States, whether you believe it right now or not, and the future is in damn good hands."

He repeatedly mentioned, "We don't need admirals and we don't need generals, unless we have men like you doing their jobs."

Later, during a visit to Camp Faulkner and the 1st Sqd., 1st Cav. Regiment, he was presented with a plaque by the troops.

From Camp Faulkner, McCain visited the site of a target acquisition platoon.

Then Adm. McCain and his party traveled by helicopter to LZ Linda, where GIs had their chance to see and hear McCain.

One of his standard comments again was, "I can't do my job unless you do yours."

Following the trip to LZ Linda, the group flew to LZ Maude for Christmas dinner, following another talk with the troops. McCain had turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy with all the trimmings.

Then it was off to Fire Base Birmingham, southwest of Hue, to visit troops of the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile).

**Photo Caption:** CASUAL VISIT - Pacific Commander-in-Chief, Admiral John S. McCain Jr., raps with 196th Infantry Brigade soldiers during his fourth annual holiday visit to firebases before flying to the 101st Airborne division (Airmobile) (U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY SP4 JMES H. GARNER)

Photo Caption: BORING JOB-Specialists Four Cruz Rodriguez (Ponce, Puerto Rico), left and Robert Langston (Kansas City, MO.) ram a cleaning patch through the bore of their 105mm howitzer on LZ (landing zone) Maude. This is only a small part of the daily maintenance performed by the gun crew of Battery C, 3d Bn., 82d Arty (US ARMY PHOTO BY 1LT V. KENT FLANAGAN)

## 196th Bde spreads Christmas spirit

By SP4 Sam Rousso

DA NANG - Ask a GI in Vietnam about Christmas, and you'll probably get a mumbled reply about Bob Hope, or that it's really for the kids, or event that "It don't mean nothing."

Christmas, if you probe deeper, would mean "peace on earth" and "good will to men". In these troubled times, with crises sprouting up at every hour, these qualities may seem hard to find.

The men of the 196th Infantry Brigade took the ideas that are the foundations of Christmas-peace and goodwill-to heart as they celebrated Christmas with Vietnamese children, mainly orphans.

These were several "parties" for the kids.

In conjunction with the Da Nang American Red Cross girls, the brigade chaplain's office threw a party for the children of the Phuoc Thanh Orphanage at the Freedom Hill Red Cross.

Santa Claus made an appearance and presented the children with Christmas stockings which contained candy and small presents. Refreshments were served and the children sang Vietnam and traditional Christmas carols in English.

After the carols, the children performed some native dances and were well received by the Chargers in attendance. Candy, fruit and Kool Aid were also served to the children.

On Dec. 23, the men of the 2d Bn., 1st inf. went to the Sacred Heart Orphanage-taking the 196th band with them- to celebrate Christmas with the children.

1st Sqd., 1st Cav. held a party for about 100 children from the China Beach Protestant Orphanage in the squadron's enlisted mens' club, on Dec. 24.

Christmas Eve was also the date of the Christmas party given by the 3d Bn., 21st Inf. for 80 children from the Phuoc Thanh Orphanage. Toys and clothes-a ton-and-a-half of them, collected in a drive by a Dover, N.H. radio station-were distributed to the children, who entertained with singing and dancing, accompanied by the brigade's band.

The 37 children of Hoa Loc Orphanage hosted the men of the 1st Bn., 46th Inf. at the orphanage. The men from 1st Bn., 46th Inf. brought food and presents to brighten the Christmas of the children.

These weren't the only units in the 196th making Christmas a little more special for Vietnamese children in the vicinity.

On Dec. 24, the brigade's Support Battalion (Prov.) hosted 75 children from the village of Con Son for lunch and gift-giving.

The day after Christmas, men from the 3d Bn., 82d Arty, distributed candy to the children of Da Son village.

## **Cardinal Cooke tours Charger country**

DA NANG - Terence Cardinal Cooke, Archbishop of New York and Military vicar to all U.S. Armed Forces, recently visited the 196th Infantry Brigade on a stop in his fourth annual trip around the globe to visit American servicemen.

During his afternoon visit with the 196th on Dec. 30 the cardinal traveled out to Landing Zones (LZ) Linda and Maude where he spent his time talking with the men. He also visited with Brigadier General Joseph C. McDonough, 196th Infantry Brigade commander.

Cardinal Cooke's visit to the brigade was high lighted at LZ Maude where he was presented with a plaque making him an honorary Charger.

Among other areas of the world for the 50-year-old cardinal has visited thus far are Thailand, Europe and Jerusalem, where he spent the Christmas holiday.

After visiting Pleiku and a few other locations in South Vietnam, Cardinal Cooke planned to head on to Hong Kong and various U.S. installations in the Pacific on his way back to the states.

As the military Vicar to the U.S. Armed Force Cardinal Coke's Military Ordinate comprises nearly 3000 Catholic priests in the Armed Forces and veterans Administration, all Catholics in the Armed Forces including the Coast Guard, etc., all Catholics who officially accompany or assist the Military Government or the Government of Occupation and all who are employed by the United States or who are engaged in diplomatic and similar missions in foreign nations. These include some 2,000,000 Catholic personnel and military families.

In addition his archdiocese of New York has nearly 2,000,000 more Catholics in it.

## **JUMPS - Army system set in Bde by end of Jan**

DA NANG - Phase-in of the Joint Military Pay System-Army (JUMPS-Army) will be completed in the 196th Infantry Brigade by Jan, 21, according to Major Richard E. Darcy of the 196th Finance Office.

Implementation of JUMPS-Army began in Vietnam in November, 1971 and has been phased-in over a three-month period.

Approximately 2600 personnel in the 196th were put on JUMPS-Army during November and December, and approximately 2700 more personnel will be put on JUMPS-Army during January.

Darcy said that not all personnel in the 196th are eligible for JUMPS-Army. To be eligible, a soldier must have an ETS later than June 30, 1972 and a date of rotation from Vietnam later than Feb. 29.

Under the JUMPS-Army plan, each eligible soldier must elect one of seven different pay options and also elect the method of payment.

Pay options include a mid-month pay of up to one-half of monthly salary, accrual of pay, or all pay at the end of the month. Also, each person may elect to have his pay in cash or check sent to him at his unit address or to an address other than his unit.

## **Staff Sidebars**

Editors Note: Staff Sidebars is a column of short stories which the Charger staff feels may be of humorous or serious interest to brigade soldiers.

### **Veterans 'bennies' schedule posted**

For you soldiers who are almost veterans, we have a few items of interest concerning your Veterans Administration benefits.

After separation from the service (that's ETS, guys), you have ten days to advise your Selective Service of your address in person or by mail at your local board.

You have 30 days to register at your local board if not already registered.

You have 90 days to reapply for employment with your former employer.

You have 120 days, or one year if totally disabled, to convert your Serviceman's Group Life Insurance without examination with any approved insurance company.

You have one year from date of notice of disability rating to check with your VA Office to obtain GI life insurance based on service-connected disability.

You have one year to file for dental care with your VA Office.

You also have one year to check with your state and receive unemployment compensation from your State Employment service.

You have eight years to use all your GI education and training entitlements.

There is no time limit on obtaining a GI loan to buy, build or improve a home or to buy a farm; file for compensation claim for injury or disease; obtain VA hospital care; or get assistance in finding employment or job, or a job training program.

### **Was it a dog or a bear?**

There was a recent disagreement in the 1st Platoon, of Company A, 1st Bn., 46th Inf., about an animal approaching their position. Sergeant Steven Schultz claimed it was a dog, but Staff Sergeant Larry Mills claimed it was a 1000-pound bear. All we can say is that somebody has got to be wrong.

### **In-country R&R still available**

In addition to a seven-day out-of-country R&R, Vietnam personnel are also eligible for a three-day in-country R&R to China Beach here.

A China Beach R&R can be taken as either an additional R&R for three days, or for six days instead of an out-of-country R&R.

The China Beach facility for both enlisted men and the officers offers among other things a beach for swimming; boating and picnics; a library; music room; a beach club serving food; nightly movies and floor shows; and a restaurant style mess hall.

## Staff Sidebars

### How do I marry a Vietnamese?

Persons who might be interested in marrying a Vietnamese national should take several things into consideration, the least of which is that the U.S. soldier must have about 180 days left in country to apply.

The basic marriage application is DA 2029, but you'll probably be able to work all the way home on the red tape. A bare minimum of 90 days is required for processing marriage applications. Plus immigration papers and a visa must be processed by the US Embassy. So you can figure on a lot more than 90 days of hassle! Marriages will be approved by the Army no earlier than 150 days prior to DEROS (and you can't choose to stay in-country beyond your date of rotation. Neither can your tour of duty be extended when an approval for marriage has been requested.)

Of course, possible derogatory information, physical exams and financial reports all enter into it. Both you and your intended spouse must prove you are legally free to marry. Even if the application is approved, there is no certainty that she will be admitted to the U.S at the port of entry. There are the Commissioner of Immigration has the final say. Birth certificates, statement of consent from the parents and a host of other documents are also needed.

First, go see your commanding officer, and make sure you read MACV Directive 500-8. A legal assistance officer is a must and, of course, a long talk with a chaplain wouldn't hurt either.

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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



## **Want to Be famous? Fill out your 1526!**

DA NANG - "Just fill out this last form and that'll be it," drones the clerk as your in-processing procedure grinds to a halt.

"What is it" you ask.

"A 1526."

"Yeah, sure," you reply, "what's a 1526?"

"A home town news release form." comes the answer.

Muttering an obscenity under your breath, you pull out your pencil. "What a waste you tell yourself he'll probably throw the thing in the basket when I'm gone."

So you fill it out hurriedly, not worrying whether the information is correct or not, leaving blanks and forgetting to sign it.

You were right!, the 1526 is going into the circular file.

But suppose you took your time, filled out the form correctly and legibly and signed it at the bottom. Here's what would have happened.

The clerk would have forwarded it to the Brigade Information Office where it would have been reviewed for security, accuracy and propriety. Then it would have been sent off to the Army Home Town News Center in Kansas City, Mo.

The center's sole job is to see that the 1526 you filled out correctly gets to a paper in your home town.

The first man to look at it gives it a once-over to see if there are any mistakes. Then he pencils a number in the corner giving an estimate of how many different places they can send the story—the average is eight newspapers, radio and/ or television stations.

Next, it's fed into a computer which takes the information you've supplied on the form and turns it into a new story.

By the end of the day, that story is in the mail and on it's way to the newspapers, radio and TV stations which service your home town and have told the center they want stories about servicemen.

So if your name is PFC Ken Jones, you're from Milton, Mass, attended Boston College and were a member of the Phi Alpha Delta Fraternity, and you've just joined the 3d Bn., 82d Arty. and filled out your 1526 correctly a story about you should appear in the Record Transcript, the Patriot Ledger, the Tribune, the Beacon and the Boston College Alumni News and the Phi Alpha Delta Reporter, and it will look something like this.

DA NANG, Vietnam-Private First Class Ken Jones, son of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth P. Jones of Midtown, e., Milton Mass., is now serving as an artilleryman with the 3d Battalion, 82d Artillery in Vietnam.

Ken, a graduate of Boston University, and a member of Phi Alpha Delta Fraternity, entered the Army in ....

Think of all those letters you won't have to write telling people where you are.

So the next time someone shoves a 1526 in front of you, like when you make Specialist Four or get that Bronze Star, take your time and fill it out slowly and carefully.

It will make you famous.

**CRIME**

Graphic Art: A man is trapped within a cage.

**Case 1**

On Nov. 27, Specialist Five Ruben Cabellero, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3d Bn., 82d Arty was tried and convicted for possession of heroin, communicating a threat to kill an NCO and assaulting the same NCO.

He was sentenced by the court to be reduced to the lowest enlisted rank, be fined \$75 per month for six months and be confined at hard labor for six months.

**Case 2**

On Dec. 17, Specialist Four Daniel C. Rodriguez, 1st Bn., 46th Inf. was tried and convicted of assault with a knife and cutting an enlisted man.

He was sentenced by the court to be reduced to the lowest enlisted rank, confined at hard labor for three months and fined \$75 per month for three months.

## **2d Bn, 1st Inf throws party for 280 children**

**By SGT David A. Rea**

DA NANG - To most people, Christmas in Vietnam can be very depressing, but for the men of 2d Bn., 1st Inf. it has been a very joyous occasion.

Under the supervision of the battalion S-5 (SFC John Forsythe) the men of 2d Bn, 1st Inf., with assistance from their families and friends, took it upon themselves to provide the 280 children of Sacred Heart Orphanage with a Christmas party.

The party was in the planning stage as early as September. Numerous letters were sent to friends, relatives and charitable organizations asking for contributions and donations. The results were gratifying, as boxes and letters arrived from all over the United States.

The festivities of the day began with a selection of Christmas carols sung by the older girls of the orphanage accompanied by the 196th Infantry Brigade Band under the direction of Chief Warrant Officer Arnold.

Sister Angela, Mother Superior of the orphanage, made a very warming welcoming speech which was followed by the presentation of a monetary gift from the men and friends of the battalion by first Lieutenant Michael Foxx.

Then came the highlight of the day, the occasion for which each of the forty-five men had been waiting - the chance to play Santa Claus. There was a wide assortment of presents and, as can be found in any group of children of Christmas, there were those that were pleased and those that were displeased with their gifts, a few a little too anxious to obtain their gift, and a few that had to be coaxed into overcoming their shyness in order to accept their gift.

Mass confusion and all pandemonium broke loose as wrapping paper, toys and noise filled the plaza of the orphanage. The soldiers assisted greatly in the confusion as the boy in each became very evident. Every man from the Battalion Commander Lieutenant Colonel Frederick H. Mitchell, to the lowest ranking enlisted man was faced with the problem of whom to help next.

The cake, candy and punch line opened and there was stickiness everywhere. No one really seemed to notice, however, for there was an intangible adhesiveness far more dominate present - that of love and happiness. It was evident that there is nothing more adequate at overshadowing life's problems, at least momentarily, than being in the presence of an effervescent child.

Although it appears that only the children benefited from the gifts, refreshments and entertainment, the greatest gift was received by the men that participated in the event, as even the most hard-core radiated the spirit of the season.

## **196th sgt's wife wins post contest**

DA NANG - For Sergeant First Class Gary Nearhoof, it was no surprise. "I had faith in her," he said.

His wife, Sandra, has been chosen "Military Wife of the Year" for Ft. Campbell, Ky. She beat out four other ladies who were nominated for the honor by various service groups on post. Mrs. Nearhoof represented Army Community Service.

With her victory at Ft. Campbell, Mrs. Nearhoof will advance to the Third Army level competition. From there, the winner will go to the Army wife competition.

If she wins the all-Army competition, Mrs. Nearhoof will vie for the title of Military Wife of the Year with all the other service's wives of the year.

**Snakes are chasers****Birds bait Charlie**

By SP4 Ed Buckley

CAMP CHARGER-They search, find, clear and depart ... from the air.

Although brief, it is an apt description of operations conducted by Da Nang's only two air cavalry units, D Troop, 1st Sqd., 1st Cav. and F Troop, 8th Cav.

In these units morale is high. So high, in fact that Captain James R. McLeod (Anaheim, Calif.) troop commander says, "I've got a waiting list of men trying to join my unit." He feels that one of the reasons for this is that the two air cav units are seeing more action ~~that~~ [than] most other US units in the Da Nang area.

Their mission requires them to perform air reconnaissance patrols and to act [as] a reactionary force in certain situations, this the two troops are always out and looking for enemy positions threatening the safety of Da Nang and the Us forces here.

McLeod feels that because their mission is so vital the men get involved and put forth their best. According to McLeod even the personnel working in the rear, are interested in their work and take pride in it because they realize the importance of having a smooth running operation and keeping the equipment in top condition.

In addition to maintenance and other support personnel, each troop has four special platoons which fly the missions. These are the scout platoon, gunship platoon, slick platoon and the aero rifle platoon (Blues).

Barely clearing the tree tops, a Light Observation Helicopter (LOH) manned by members of the scout platoon searches for signs of enemy activity or military structures.

If the LOH or the "little bird" finds something he may engage the target himself, mark the target's location with smoke and let the Cobra Gunships roll in and fire up the area, or he might do both.

While the LOH searches through the area two gunships (snakes) circle overhead prepared to move in and assist or protect the "little bird".

During the whole operation the slick command ship is circling high enough to keep a watch on the safety and location of the other ships, especially the "little bird" which is always in danger of being shot down when it's scouting at a low altitude.

In addition to a four man crew, a team of Blues also rides in the slick as a precautionary measure in case one of the choppers are downed. at that time the Blues will be inserted into the area to secure it from possible enemy attack.

Not only do the air cav units perform recon missions during the daylight hours, they are also responsible for patrolling the Da Nang area each night on Night Hawk missions.

With the progression of the Vietnamization program, both troops have become involved with certain Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) units in the Da Nang area.

F Troop has been working with the 196th's Combat Training Center training infantrymen from the 51st ARVN Regiment. These ARVN Greens - counterpart to the American Blues - are participating in reconnaissance patrol and insertion exercises to enable them to take over the job previously executed solely by the Blues.

In addition to the training program, F Troop has also been involved in actual combat operations with the same ARVN unit.

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D Troop has been working with the Greens from the 5th ARVN Regiment in recon and insertion operations for more than six weeks. On these operations D Troop uses their own choppers and crew members, but work under the direction of the ARVN's rather than the 196th. Instead of American Blues, the infantrymen inserted on the ground in this type of operation are ARVN Greens.

Each troop's operations are conducted in boxes or areas of land assigned them by the 196th. They work these boxes for a certain allotted time period according to the priority assigned each box.

If the unit is working with an ARVN unit on a certain operation, the box is assigned by the commander of that ARVN organization.

Photo Captions:

- 1) FILL 'ER UP? (TOP - A helicopter gas station may not be a beautiful place to visit, but it is functional. Here two crewmen from D Troop, 1st Sqd, 1st Cav. gas up their slick on an early morning refueling stop prior to heading out on a recon patrol.
- 2) MAKING SURE (RIGHT) - Door gunner, Richard Smiley, D Troop, gives his M-60 machinegun a final function check before leaving on a mission. Smiley is usually the first one to spot enemy activity from the low flying LOH. (US ARMY PHOTOS BY SP5s ED BUCKLEY AND STEVE BROOKS)
- 3) CAMERA CONSCIOUS - A Cobra gunship makes a close pass by the slick command ship on its way from a mission. The gunship, from D Troop, 1st Sqd, 1st Cav., had just finished expending its ammo, helping to destroy a number of enemy structures found near Da Nang.

## Hope troupe entertains Chargers

DA NANG - The Bob Hope Christmas show went on as scheduled Dec. 21 at Freedom Hill despite intermittent showers.

Before an estimated crowd of 10,000 GIs, Mr. Hope and his troupe bounced their way through two-and-a-half hours of comedy, singing and dancing.

Appearing in the show besides Hope were Oakland pitching ace Vida Blue, Jim Nabors, Miss World - US, Sunday's Child, the Blue Streaks, Jan Dailey, Les Brown and his Band of Renown and twelve never-to-be forgotten Hollywood Deb Stars.

Jim Nabors received a standing ovation for his performance of "The Impossible Dream" and Hope's traditional jokes about military life also drew enthusiastic response, but it was plain from the start that the female members of the cast would be the real showstoppers.

The performance was concluded with the singing of "Silent Night", after which Brigadier General Joseph C. McDonough, 196th Brigade commander, presented Hope with a plaque designating him as an honorary "Charger".

### Photo Captions:

- 1) Brucene Smith, Miss World - USA, and Bob Hope
- 2) BG Joseph C. McDonough and Bob Hope
- 3) Hollywood Deb Stars, Vida Blue and Sunday's Child
- 4) Sunday's Child
- 5) Jim Nabors
- 6) M????e Charney (text missing. Might have read Miss Suzanne Charney?.)
- 7) GI with Jan Dailey

## Photo Captions:

- 1) INGENUITY AT WORK - The idea of using a can, such as this apple juice can, to insure that the M-60 machinegun feeds properly is not new to soldiers in Vietnam. Somehow such ideas catch on quickly and each person who tries it likes to think he came up with a new innovation (US ARMY PHOTO BY 1LT V. KENT FLANAGAN)
  
- 2) PIG DEAL? - Private First Class Clavin [?Calvin] Cox, Company D, 3d Bn., 21st Inf., sashes to the finish line with a larded porker in the battalion's greased pig chase. The contest was part of the pre-Christmas celebrations held at Camp Reasoner (US ARMY PHOTO By SP4 STEVE BROOKS).



## Stock control system runs brigade supply

By SP4 Bill Simpson

DA NANG- When you need a spark plug for your quarter-ton you can't use a light bulb or a paint brush in its place. In order to use that machine you need a spark plug, which in the language of supply is an FSN 2920-287-9135.

If none are available, that quarter-ton may as well be a 1500-pound tin can.

Because supply is so basic, and to insure that you get that needed spark plug, a new automated stock control section has been established for the 196th Infantry Brigade. It's sole purpose is to insure that items - from C-rations to light bulbs- for which there are no substitutes.

The entire operation is run from a pair of connected truck vans, which were specially constructed to house the delicate data processing equipment. Each is temperature controlled and nearly airtight to keep the data cards dry and keep dust particles from damaging any of the computer's intricate components.

The automated supply operation is run much like a small bank. According to Captain David Raub, officer-in-charge of the new stock control section, each supply item is listed on its own ledger card which shows how much of a certain item is in the brigade warehouse or on order.

Then, as the requisition for an item comes in from the various brigade units, they are transcribed onto keypunch cards and fed along with the ledger into the computer. Lights flash, a few gears mesh and a release is cut which indicates how much of that item is to be shipped where. For example, 50 jungle fatigue shirts, size small-long, are authorized for release to the 3d Bn., 82d Arty.

Following that release out of the computer is the ledger card with a new balance-on-hand (40 shirts less than before) and what quantity the computer has re-ordered to replenish brigade's stock (50 shirts).

If over several weeks there is a continuous demand for more and more jungle shirts, the computer even has the capacity to adjust the brigade stockpile instead of maintaining a constant supply of 2000 shirts, the compute will figure the average number ordered in the last 12 months and recommend that the inventory be adjusted to a higher figure-to say 2300 shirts.

Conversely, if demand drops over several weeks, the computer will recommend that the brigade inventory be reduced. If there are no orders over several months, that supply item will be completely dropped.

"As long as the data-processing machines are maintained properly and the parts are good and clean, it'll be a foolproof system. Nobody should have to be short of supplies," Raub says. "But everybody in the brigade has to help us."

Each unit should plan ahead and order accordingly, he advised. Many supply clerks seem to think the system reacts instantly and that materials are [re]leased as requests are received. If the three gallons of paint they ordered this week aren't delivered, they just keep reordering that same three gallons over and over. The paint eventually arrives at the depot and then their unit receives 27 gallons of paint, three of which they need.

Scrounging also creates havoc with the supply service. Raub said. When one unit borrows from another, it means that no orders for that item are received by the stock control section, therefore stocks are not replenished. All of a sudden all the units in the brigade run out of the same item and the brigade's stockpile has been reduced to zero, because no orders came in.

If unforeseen requirements, arise and scrounging is an operational necessity, the unit which does the scrounging should submit a report to the Support Battalion. This way there is less danger of the brigade stock of any item becoming depleted.

Finally, explained Raub, it's especially important that company clerks copy the federal stock number correctly when filling out a requisition form. Otherwise, a unit that wants to paint a building might get steering wheels to apply the paint rather than brushes.

Our job at the stock-control section and the brigade supply office is to help support the brigade," says Raub. "Any unit having supply problems should contact us and we will make an effort to assist them."

## **This 'cat' has nine lives**

**By SP4 Mike Cassidy**

CAMP PERDUE - A cat steps lightly and supposedly has nine lives and so does the "Cat" of Company C, 2d Bn., 1st Inf., 196th Infantry Brigade, Sergeant Richard Riggiero (St. Petersburg Beach, FLA.)

During his first two months in country, the sergeant accidentally stepped on three boobytraps which would have triggered a 122mm rocket, a can of petnum and a 105mm round.

"You can't believe the ribbing I've gotten because I found those boobytraps," said Riggiero. "Guys even say that they don't want to walk near me."

The first incident occurred when the platoon discovered several bunkers.

"The Luc Luong Scout was finding boobytraps about every five feet," recalls the sergeant.

Once in the area, the platoon began destroying the enemy structures Riggiero started over to one of the bunkers when he noticed something unusual.

"I was walking between two banana trees when I felt the ground change a little bit," explained Riggiero.

When the area was examined, a stretched cotton string was discovered. The string led to a firing device for a 122mm rocket.

"That incident wasn't unusual because other people had found them too," said the "Legionnaire"

Two weeks later, the "Cat" found another enemy device while he was moving his men to a night ambush site. Once again, the ground did not seem right. Stepping back, he discovered a string leading to a can of petnum.

The sergeant stepped on his third boobytrap while he was walking to the other side of a defensive perimeter with Sergeant Frank Ripley (New Buffalo, Mich.) to discuss a matter with the platoon leader, First Lieutenant Don Hall (Virginia Beach, Va.)

A hedgerow was located in the middle of the platoon's perimeter. Several people had already passed through the brush, but it was Riggiero who found the spot with a 105mm artillery round nearby.

Ripley and the other members of the platoon chide Riggiero about the incidents, but the "Cat" just hopes he does not walk into any more.

## **VA reports increase in GI Bill training**

WASHINGTON - Veteran Administration (VA) records reveal a 46 per cent increase during the last fiscal year in veterans training under the GI Bill for policemen, firemen or related "protective services" occupations.

VA officials report 38,000 veterans took such training last fiscal year, compared to 26,000 a year earlier.

Of the 38,000 veterans who pursued protective services training in the last fiscal year, officials noted, 17,500 took policeman-fireman on-the-job training (OJT). Another 8500 enrolled in college level science criminology or fire protection courses and 10,000 others trained below college level.

Also included in the 38,000 protective service trainees were nearly 2000 veterans who sought skills in other than policemen-firemen fields, such as game wardens or bailiff.

VA officials said the agency encourages veterans to enter OJT in areas of public service as recommended early last year by the President's Committee on the Vietnam Veterans.

While a veteran with no dependents takes OJT during a six-to-24-month period, he receives a starting stipend of \$108 monthly from V.A. This is supplemental ~~by~~ [to] from the employer for whose job the veteran is training, with the veteran usually assured a job after satisfactory completion of training.

Veterans interested in educational benefits including OJT, are urged to contact their nearest VA office or local veterans service organization representative. In the Da Nang area, the VA representative is located at the 501st Replacement Co. at the Freedom Hill R&R center. (Tel. 957-5010 or 5031)

## Respect is key word for Bn civil affairs NCO

By SP4 Mike Cassidy

CAMP PERDUE - The more than 50 snapshots on the walls of his seldom used office give some idea of vitality of the civil affairs program of the 2d Bn., 1st Inf.

Though the position is not usually held by a non-commissioned officer, Sergeant First Class John Forsythe is the S-5, and the "Legionnaires" would not have it any other way.

"Sergeant Forsythe is the best S-5 the battalion has had," Captain Richard Gundelfinger, the personnel officer, states emphatically.

Having been in Vietnam at least part of every year since 1966, Forsythe has served with the 9th Infantry Division, the Military Assistance Command Vietnam and the 196th Infantry Brigade. On two tours he served as an infantryman in the field, but now his position allows him to work for the more peaceful aspects of American Vietnamese relations.

One of the sergeant's favorite projects is the battalion's Medical Civic Action Program (MEDCAP). Because of the extensive planning which Forsythe makes, the team is able to make the most of the time allotted. The team averages 80 patients an hour.

The MEDCAP team consists of himself, two interpreters; Captain (Dr) David Thomas (Miami), the battalion surgeon; and several medics, including two Vietnamese who were trained by the doctor. While the Vietnamese medics take care of those with minor ailments, the doctor's attention is reserved for persons with more serious problems.

Thomas formulated two first aid courses which were given by the interpreters and presented in printed form for the people to take home in an effort to eliminate the problems which the team consistently found on the MEDCAPS. The team visits all three of its MEDCAP sites at least once a week.

The team does take weapons with them on their trips, but Forsythe makes sure that they are not visible because it might be taken as a lack of faith in their Vietnamese patients.

Though Forsythe does not consider himself a supply sergeant, he has done his best to obtain materials for the civil affairs program. A search of the battalion area for surplus wood provided enough to put a roof on a new school. Another search for equipment provided and intercom system for the Hoa Khanh Children's Hospital.

"I've gotten excellent support from everybody in the battalion," explains Forsythe. Nevertheless, the sergeant has even been able to get support from outside the battalion.

Forsythe was not sure that he could solicit for funds and gifts so he cleared the project with the legal assistance office first. The resulting collection from the friends and relatives of the men netted \$500 for the Sacred Heart Orphanage and toys for the children there.

According to the sergeant, much of the success of his program is due to his assistant, Specialist Four Russell Reis (Colby, Wis.) Forsythe claims that Reis' job of assistant typist, clerk, and driver has enabled him very often to cover two places at once.

"You don't have to speak Vietnamese to get along with the people, you just have to respect them," explains Forsythe. The Vietnamese have reciprocated Forsythe's efforts in many ways.

For example, the recently-built Wounded Soldier Office in the village of Hoa Khanh bears the names of the "Legionnaire" commander Lieutenant Colonel Frederick H. Mitchell (Mililani, Hawaii), and Forsythe for their battalion's contribution of materials for the structure.

Also a ceremony marking the opening of a new school in Cong Son which borders camp Perdue, was postponed so that Forsythe could attend.

Photo Caption: One of the many people who Sergeant First Class John Forsyth meets with several times a week is Village Chief Nguyen Te (left) of Hoa Khanh, which borders Camp Perdue. Speaking through ARVN interpreter Staff Sergeant Nguyen Van Ninh, the topic of conversation can range anywhere from traffic problems to a volleyball game between the "Legionnaires" and the villagers. (US ARMY PHOTO BY SP4 STEVE BROOKS)

## **New standards set for reenlistment**

**DA NANG** - Soldiers in the 196th Infantry Brigade in grades E-4 through E-9 have to meet entirely new standards for reenlistment, as a result of the Reenlistment Control Program which began Jan. 1.

The program regulates reenlistment by establishing quarterly ceilings by grade and primary military occupational specialty (PMOS). The controls for this quarter have already been announced by the Department of the Army (DA) and new ceilings will be provided quarterly to the major commanders.

The program is intended to enhance the equality of the career enlisted forces by providing selective retention, while balancing the Army's enlisted grade and MOS structure. In evaluating soldiers commanders will be employing the "while man concept", including such factors as MOS evaluation score, disciplinary record, promotion, schooling and job performance.

Following are some guidelines regarding the new re-up program:

Soldiers with valid PMOS evaluation scores of 100 or higher may be reenlisted regardless of a quarterly ceiling imposed. (A valid MOS score is one that has been achieved not more than 12 months after the last award termination date for the MOS). This is the only provision for exceeding a ceiling.

Soldiers with valid PMOS scores of 70 to 99 may be considered for reenlistment and retention in their MOSs only when a ceiling has not been attained with personnel having scores of 100 or higher.

Soldiers with scores of 41 to 59 may have requests for waiver approved provided their histories of qualifying scores and other quality factors clearly warrant such action. (Waivers may also be approved for conspicuously deserving individuals without previous MOS evaluation scores) These soldiers may also be considered for retention in their OS.

Soldiers whose MOS scores are not up to date may be retained in active duty until they have taken the test and their scores are verified. While waiting test results, soldiers in the continental United States will not be reassigned.

Those on unaccompanied tours in overseas commands will not be retained beyond their normal completion date. Those on accompanied tours will be retained in the command until results of their tests have been completed.

**Photo Captions (2) :**

Raquel Welch is holding something in her soft hands and she will sock it to you if you can guess what it is. Sevi Aberg was tiptoeing around this building so the photographer wouldn't catch her. (Photo courtesy 20th Century Fox).

## Howitzer goes home to Big Red One

Photo Caption: FORMAL REVIEW - Commanding General of the 196th Infantry Brigade, Brigadier General Joseph C. McDonough (far right), salutes and bids farewell to the howitzer which fired the last round in combat for the 1st Infantry Division in Vietnam in 1970. The howitzer was returned to the "Big Red One" after it had been declared historical property (US ARMY PHOTO)

DA NANG - To the strains of "The Army Song", a 105mm howitzer was given a grand farewell here Dec. 17 as preparations were made to return the piece to the 1st Infantry Division, courtesy of the 196th Infantry Brigade.

The howitzer (M102, SN 383) which fired the 1st Infantry Division's last round against enemy forces in Vietnam, was the subject of a formal review by the commanding general of the 196th, Brigadier General Joseph C. McDonough.

Also participating in the ceremony were approximately 10 former members of the Big Red One, including the brigade's deputy commanding officer, Colonel Warner S. Goodwin, who commanded the 1st Bn., 18th Inf. of the 1st Inf. Div. in 1966.

The howitzer fired the last round in support of the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry as the cav unit withdrew into the base camp at Di An. That round was also the last round fired by the 1st Inf. Div. before the unit was redeployed to Ft. Riley, Kan. in early 1970.

After that action, the howitzer was sent to the 23d Infantry Division (Americal), where it was used by the 1st Bn., 14th Arty. With the recent standdown of the 23d Inf. Div., the piece wound up with the 196th.

Earlier this year, the commanding general of the 1st Inf. Div., Major General Edward M. Flanagan, requested that the howitzer be returned to the Big Red One as soon as it became available.

Now the piece has been readied for shipment to Ft. Riley and the unit it served so well in combat-the 1st Inf. Div.

## **Some personnel face Korea ITT's**

CAMP CROSS - The 196th Infantry Brigades Adjutant General Section announced Dec. 27 that some enlisted personnel in grades E-5 and above, and officers, may be involuntarily reassigned to Korea between Jan. 1 and Sept. 30.

The inter-theater transfer (ITT) is designed to fill MOS requirements in Korea which cannot be filled through normal replacement procedures. Enlisted personnel, grades E-5 and E-6, serving in 18 different MOS Codes will be considered for assignment to Korea, as will all senior enlisted personnel and officers who have more than six months remaining on their current 12-month tour in Vietnam.

The MOS Codes include 11, 12, 13, 31, 36, 52, 63, 64, 67, 71, 72, 76, 91, 94, 96, and 97.

Personnel in grades E-4 and below are not expected to be affected, nor will the following categories of personnel, regardless of grade, individuals serving on an extended Vietnam tour or those who volunteered for assignment to Vietnam, and individuals whose last overseas tour, if within the last three years, was unaccompanied Personnel who last served in Korea must have a minimum of 18 months before a subsequent tour.

According to brigade AG, officers must be declared excess and have their names submitted as such by their unit to AG.

Only excess officers with more than six months remaining on their 12-month Vietnam tour will be eligible for inter-theater transfer to Korea.

Personnel who wish to volunteer for ITT to Korea should see their personnel Services NCO (PSNCO) immediately. The Brigade AG announced, further, however, that movement of dependents in conjunction with either voluntary or involuntary IT will not be authorized.



## **Handshake tour 'speed' experts talk to troops**

DA NANG - GIs from the 196th Infantry Brigade got to talk about "speed" with the experts Dec. 17.

"Speed" to this group meant getting a vehicle to 195 miles per hour or faster, if possible. Rap sessions were conducted by Don Garlits, National Hot Rod Association champion, Art Pollard, second in the California "500", Richard Petty, 1971 NASCAR champion, Walley Dallenback, and Art Leonard, who were all touring Vietnam on a USO Handshake Tour.

The group visited the 196th Med. Co. (Prov.), the 3d Bn., 21st Inf. area, LZ Maude, the 2d Bn., 1st Inf. area and 196th headquarters, where they showed racing movies and discussed cars and driving with their audiences.

**Photo Caption:** CUTTING ORDERS - Private First Class Denis C. Lamere (Claremont, N.H.) is cutting the master stencil for a set of orders in the 196th Infantry Brigade Adjutant General Office Service Unit (OSU. On an average day OSU turns out 35-to-40-thousand individual copies of special orders, general ers [sic] and letter orders for the brigade (US Army PHOTO BY SP4 STEVE BROOKS).

## **No nuoc mam at Bamboo Burger**

**By SP4 Mike Cassidy**

CAMP CRESCENZ-The chow line at the 1st Bn., 46th Inf. is getting some close competition at lunch time from a place known as the Bamboo Burger.

No, the Bamboo Burger is not a Vietnamese version of the local drive-in featuring hamburgers with nuoc mam sauce. It is a short order window located a few feet from the regular chow line.

The Burger was the idea of Sergeant First Class Arthur Thompson (Burns Flat, Okla.) Thompson, the assistant mess hall sergeant, who had worked a snack line while on a tour in Germany, thought the idea would work at the 196th Infantry Brigade.

When a man enters the mess hall, he has the choice of the regular chow line or the Bamboo Burger. The short order line offers bacon, lettuce and tomato sandwiches, shiska-bob, chili burgers, or grilled balogna and cheese sandwiches with side orders of french fries or Lyonnaise noodles.

Though the project is relatively new, the burger accounts for a third of the noon-time meals. If enough enthusiasm is generated by the short order line, Thompson plans to expand it to other meals.

Thompson hopes to have eight to 12 items on the Burger menu shortly.

"I think the young enlisted men very often want a quick lunch," he claims. Meanwhile the men working on the regular chow line are not taking the competition lying down.

Specialist Five Cecil Bratton (St. Louis), who supervised the chow line, has taken the Burger as a challenge to improve the presentation and quality of the food.

"The idea behind the project is to make everything as good as possible," explains Bratton. The men working on the regular line have made many efforts to spice up the normally unpopular meal items, such as fish cakes or powdered potatoes.

Thompson's future plans include the opening of an omelet line for breakfast and special ethnic suppers, such as Italian or German.