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196th Crest

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

Knight on a rearing horse

196th Infantry Brigade

Vol 2, No. 4

Da Nang, Vietnam

February 25, 1972 Page 1

If you ask me (Photo of BG McDONOUGH)

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: All the drops have me confused. Can we expect to continue 30-to 60-day drops for all personnel? Also, if I come up on a drop, can I expect to be allowed to take it?

Answer: Even though numerous USARVR-wide DEROS curtailment drops have already been received, personnel now in the 196th Inf. Bde. are in no way assured they will serve less than their full one-year tour in RVN.

Various DEROS curtailment contingency plans have been made at USARV level to determine the impact of future drops, but these are only plans. The implementation of any such plan will depend on the mission requirements of USARV units and particularly for this brigade, the tactical situation in the Da Nang area.

The policy of the brigade is to permit each man to rotate in accordance with UASARV DEROS drop policy. While some men may be held to a normal DEROS the number will be few and those held will fill specific critical vacancies.

Question: In View of the President's latest troop withdrawal announcement, what plans does the brigade have to stand down with the least amount of hassle?

Also, what can I as an individual do to assist the command in this respect?

Answer: to cope with any future troop withdrawals the brigade has a Keystone Operation Center, whose primary mission is to plan, coordinate and direct the eventual redeployment of our personnel and equipment from Vietnam. This effort includes both planning and coordination.

You as an individual soldier contribute immensely to our effort. To begin with we must continue our defense mission until relieved of this responsibility.

You can be a big help here by not spreading rumors. We are all aware of thy President's latest announcement and realize it will eventually affect us. But until we receive official word, rumors will do nothing but lower morale and decrease efficiency.

One of the major problems encountered by previous redeploying units was the time wasted in out processing equipment. You can help here by helping your commander identify excess items in your office, supply room, or section area. That extra typewriter that never worked, that extra bunk in your hooch or those unused tools in your section area should all be considered for turn-in as excess.

The condition of your equipment, especially your vehicle, is equally important. Past experience has shown that clean vehicles spend 40 per cent less time at the turn-in point than those caked with mud and pena-prime.

If you have some free time and feel like working some sunny afternoon, get out an old scraper, some solvent and water and start taking the accumulated dirt off your vehicles, especially the undercarriages.

A few hours spent identifying what you don't need and cleaning equipment now may mean a few days saved at some later date when out processing locations get busier. And who knows, that extra day saved while helping your unit and brigade may turn out to be an extra day earlier you arrive back home.

Signed Joseph C. McDonough  
Brigadier General, USA

**196th coordinates  
destroyer's gunfire****(Handwritten note: been working with the U.S.S. Craig lately)**

By SP4 Steve Brooks

SOUTH CHINA SEA - It was Guadalcanal, Okinawa, the Solomon Islands all over again, only this time it was Elephant Valley in South Vietnam where US Naval gunfire bombarded Army-chosen targets.

The operation ranged from the pinned and colored maps of the 196th Infantry Brigade to the dimly lit war room of the destroyer USS Morton in the South China Sea. Everywhere was the motto of military security: "Hear ye! What you see here, what you do here, what you hear here, leave it here when you leave here?"

First Lieutenant James Smith (Klammath Falls, Ore.) 3d Bn., 82d Arty. says the exercise was one of coordinating naval gunfire with Army clearance for both ground and air. These clearances involve clearing all targets with both US and Vietnamese armies, and clearing the air space through which the lethal projectiles will fly with all aircraft in Military Region I.

The day of the operation dawned cool and sunny as Smith and Sergeant Kent A. Hester (Greely, Colo.) were on their way out to the ship as she anchored in Da Nang Harbor. After briefing the crew, Hester headed for the combat room behind the bridge, where he kept clearances current throughout the mission.

Meanwhile, Smith buzzed off over Elephant Valley in a LOH (light observation helicopter) where he proceeded to adjust fire on various enemy structures and locations.

After a couple rounds adjustment, the Morton's squawk box was a constant chatter of firing orders: "Number One gun, four salvos, fire for effect, Number One gun ten salvos, Number One gun ten salvos and repeat, Number One, Number One...."

The Operation was nothing new to the Morton, which has provided gunfire support during several Vietnam tours in the past eight years. After viewing the destroyed enemy locations from the LOH, Smith commented that "We have proven that we can utilize enemy locations from the LOH, Smith commented that "We have proven that we can utilize by radio-just call up, get clearances, and fire".

The powder smoke was just lifting off elephant Valley as the Morton returned to sea, only a radio wave away from the commo shop at the 196th.

**Heard the latest?****My friend says...**

RUMORS, Rumors, rumors! It seems that a single [day] doesn't pass without at least half-a-dozen rumors making the rounds.

The standard procedure for passing rumors has been immortalized: "Say, I just heard from a reliable source who heard it from a guy who works there, that ..."

More often than not, rumors are 180 degrees in the wrong, and couldn't come close if you said the latest gossip backwards.

Needless to say rumors in the 196th Infantry Brigade run the gamut from hearsay about unit stand downs and personnel drops to "the latest reliable information" about brigade operations and Charlie's plan for a post-Tet offensive.

Sooner or later, you hear them all.

You can take any rumor, dissect it, and put [it] back together again and have another piece of gossip that may sound just as plausible as the original. Rumors are really nice pliable subjects that bend at anyone's whim.

But rumors just don't make it.

Will Rogers once said: "Rumor travels a lot faster, but it don't stay put as long as Truth".

For your own peace of mind and the good of your unit and your buddies, the best course of action is to talk with the "old man" to get the straight scoop. If your CO doesn't know that is really going on, he will at least try to find out.

Don't put your stock in the unsubstantiated statements of any kind. Wait for your CO to put out the official "Word"

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Photo Caption: Chief of Staff Visits - General William C. Westmoreland, Army Chief of Staff, holds a formal discussion with troops on LZ Linda during his visit to the Charger brigade Jan. 30. (US ARMY PHOTO BY SP4 JAMES H. GARNER).

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**196th assists in training of  
local Vietnamese forces**

HOI AN - Part of the 196th Infantry Brigade's role in the Vietnamization program has been the training of Vietnamese Regional Forces (RFs) and Popular Forces (PFs) here.

Since early October, instructors from the brigade's Combat Training Center have been giving classes to the Vietnamese irregular soldiers at the Quang Nam Provincial Training Center at Hoi An.

According to Capt. James W. Turnbull, 196th training officer, the five days of training provided by the 196th instructors are part of 18 days of training each RF and PF unit the province goes through once a year.

Among the topics covered in the classes are map reading; airmobile operations; mines, boobytraps and mechanical ambushes; weapons; patrolling, hand and arm signals; and adjustment of artillery.

Because none of the instructors had worked in this particular type of program with interpreters before, they found the classes had to be expanded from two to five days according to one of the instructors, Sergeant First Class Lucario Padilla.

Padilla explained that the expansion was necessary to allow time for the interpreters and yet cover all the class material properly.

**1972 VOTING REGISTRATION INFORMATION**

EDITOR'S NOTE - This is the second installment of information pertaining to the absentee voting process. February 1972 has been designated "Armed Forces Registration Month". So see your unit voting counselor about any questions you may have, and register. Make your vote count in 1972.

**NEW JERSEY**

New Jersey does not require registration for members of the Armed Forces and their spouses and dependents. So, if you plan to vote in the Primary election on June 6, send a completed FPCA to the county clerk, county of residence in New Jersey, for an absentee ballot. Be sure to indicate your political party preference when applying.

**NEW MEXICO**

Members of the Armed Forces and their spouses and dependents must register to vote in New Mexico and your registration must be received at least 42 days before an election. Use an FPCA to register and request a ballot. Be sure to indicate your political party preference. New Mexico's primary election is set for June 6 - make plans now to take part in it.

**NEW YORK**

Registration is automatic for members of the Armed Forces, their spouses, and dependents, when application is made for an absentee ballot. There is no voting by absentee process in the Primary election in New York State, however, it is not too early to get ready for the November 7 General election. To request your ballot for the General election, send an FPCA to the Division for Servicemen's Voting, Office of the Secretary of State, 162 Washington Avenue, Albany, New York 12225.

**NORTH CAROLINA**

Registration is automatic for members of the Armed Forces and their spouses when they apply for an absentee ballot in North Carolina. Be sure to indicate your political party preference when you apply. Use an FPCA to register and apply for an absentee ballot for the primary election in North Carolina on May 2, 1972.

**NORTH DAKOTA**

Registration is not required for any State or Federal election in North Dakota. You may apply for an absentee ballot for the primary election set for September 5, 1972, with an FPCA or you may simply notify the County Auditor, county of residence, of your current mailing address and a ballot will be sent. Be sure to indicate your political party preference.

**OHIO**

Registration is not required for members of the Armed Forces and their spouses when they use an absentee ballot. Use an FPCA to request this ballot for the primary election at any time up to three days before the election date of May 2, 1972. Be sure to indicate your political party preference.

**OKLAHOMA**

Members of the Armed Forces, their spouses, and dependents are not required to register in Oklahoma when voting by the absentee process. Send an FPCA in at least 30 days before the August 22, 1972 primary election, requesting your absentee ballot. Be sure to indicate your political party preference.

(Continued)

**1972 VOTING REGISTRATION INFORMATION (continued)****OREGON**

Members of the Armed Forces and their spouses and dependents who are outside the U.S. do not have to register in advance of an election. You will be registered when the oath on the ballot envelope is accepted. Be sure to indicate your political party preference when you apply for an absentee ballot for the May 23 primary election in Oregon.

**PENNSYLVANIA**

Members of the Armed Forces may register and request an absentee ballot along with their spouses and dependents residing with or accompanying them- by using the FPCA. Be sure to indicate your political party preference when applying for registration. Register and vote in Pennsylvania's April 25 primary election.

**PUERTO RICO**

If you're a member of the Armed Forces from Puerto Rico, you must have sent in an FPCA before February 1, 1972, to request your registration card. Be sure to indicate your political party preference. The registration card itself must be retained to the issuing office not later than the first Sunday in March of each general election year.

**RHODE ISLAND**

Registration is not required for members of the Armed Forces, or for their spouses and dependents when residing outside of Rhode Island. Use an FPCA to request your absentee ballot in time to vote in the September 12, 1972, primary. Be sure to indicate your political party preference.

**SOUTH CAROLINA**

Members of the Armed Forces and their spouses may register by mail at any time to vote in South Carolina. To vote in the primary election set for June 13, your request for registration must be in by May 13. Be sure to indicate your political party preference when applying for registration. Use the FPCA to register and vote in South Carolina.

**SOUTH DAKOTA**

Members of the Armed Forces and their spouses may apply for registration at the same time they apply for an absentee ballot in South Dakota. Be sure to indicate your political party preference. You may use an FPCA to take part in the June 6 primary election set for South Dakota.

**TENNESSEE**

Members of the Armed Forces and spouses and dependents residing with or accompanying them may register and request an absentee ballot at any time by using a Federal Post Card Application in Tennessee. Be sure to indicate your political preference. Register now and vote in the August 3 primary election.

(Continued)

**1972 VOTING REGISTRATION INFORMATION (continued)****TEXAS**

Members of the Armed Forces and their spouses and dependents may register for a specific election by applying for an absentee ballot with an FPCA in Texas. Be sure to indicate your political party preference. Or, they may register for all elections by requesting an application form from the County Tax Collector, county of residence, at any time after January 1, 1972. Register and vote in the May 6 primary election in Texas.

**UTAH**

In Utah, members of the Armed Forces and their spouses and dependents are automatically registered when they apply for an absentee ballot. Be sure to indicate your political party preference. You may use an FPCA. Send in your FPCA today and get ready to vote in the September 12 primary election in Utah.

**VERMONT**

Members of the Armed Forces and their spouses and dependents from Vermont will be placed on the check list (registered) when the affidavit on the back of the absentee ballot envelope is accepted. Be sure to indicate your political preference when applying. Use an FPCC to apply for an absentee ballot and take part in the September 12 primary election in Vermont.

**VIRGIN ISLANDS**

Members of the Armed Forces are automatically registered when their absentee ballot is received and the affidavit on the back of the envelope is accepted by authorities in the Virgin Islands. Be sure to indicate your political party preference when applying for an absentee ballot. You may use an FPCA. Take an active part in the September 12 primary election in the Virgin Islands.

**VIRGINIA**

Members of the Armed Forces and their spouses may register and apply for an absentee ballot by mail using the FPCA in Virginia. If you are not registered be sure to note "registration requested" in Item #6 of the FPCA and indicate your political party preference. Take an active part in Virginia's June 13 primary election.

**WASHINGTON**

In the State of Washington, members of the Armed Forces and their spouses and dependents who are not registered may register for each election by signing the affidavit on the ballot return envelope. Use an FPCA to request your ballot for absentee voting from the Secretary of State, Olympia, Washington, and vote in the September 19 primary election.

(Continued on Page 7)



**1972 VOTING REGISTRATION INFORMATION (continued from page 2)****WEST VIRGINIA**

Members of the Armed Forces and their spouses and dependents may apply for registration when they apply for registration when they apply for an absentee ballot with an FPCA in West Virginia. Be sure to indicate in item #6 of the FPCA that you are requesting the absentee registration form and absentee ballot. Be sure to indicate your political party preference. The registration application must be returned by April 8 if you want to vote in the May 9 primary election.

**WISCONSIN**

Registration is not required for members of the Armed Forces and their spouses and dependents residing with or accompanying them outside the continental United States if they wish to vote in Wisconsin. Use an FPCA to request an absentee ballot. Be sure to indicate your political party preference. Put on in the mail now and get ready to vote in the September 12 primary election in Wisconsin.

**WYOMING**

In Wyoming, members of the Armed Forces and their spouses and dependents who are not permanently registered may reregister for each election by completing the affidavit on the back of the absentee ballot envelope. You may use an FPCA, to request an absentee ballot from the County Clerk, county of residence. Be sure to indicate your political party preference, and take an active part in the August 22 primary election in Wyoming.

How To Fill Out An Absentee Ballot Return

Standard Form 76 - commonly called the Federal Post Card Application, or FPCA - is a postage-free card which military personnel can use to request registration or an absentee ballot.

Properly completing the FOPCA is an important step in the process of registering or obtaining your absentee ballot.

- Item (2): For primary election, complete item 2 unless your State does not require such information.
Item (5): Make this address as complete as possible.
Item (6): This request is required by some States, if you are not registered.
Item (7): You may use any address official or not.
Item (9): You sign your name here, in the presence of the person who attests to (notarizes) your signature.
Item (11): Normally, any commissioned officer can complete this section for you.

In completing the card below, fill in the address of the election official at your voting residence. See "Voting Information 1972" or your voting representative.

Other Hints: Type or print legibly and use permanent in.

FILL OUT BOTH SIDES

.....]
.....]
.....]
.....]
.....]

OFFICIAL MAILING ADDRESS

(DRAWING OF EAGLE)

FREE OF U.S. POSTAGE INCLUDING AIR MAIL

To: (Title of Election Official)
(County or Township)
(City or Town, State, Zip Code)

How To Fill Out An Absentee Ballot Return

FILL OUT BOTH SIDES OF CARD

POST CARD APPLICATION FOR ABSENTEE BALLOT

State or Commonwealth of

(Fill in name of State or Commonwealth)

(1) I hereby request an absentee ballot to vote in the coming election: (GENERAL) (PRIMARY) (SPECIAL) ELECTION (Strike out inapplicable words)

(2) If a ballot is requested for a primary election, print your political party affiliation preference in this box:

(If primary election is secret in your state, do not answer)

(3) I am a citizen of the United States, eligible to vote in above State, and am:

a. A member of the Armed Forces of the United States

b. A member of the merchant marine of the United States.

c. A citizen of the United States temporarily residing outside of the territorial limits of the United States and District of Columbia.

d. A spouse of dependent of a person listed in (a), or (b) above.

e. A spouse or dependent residing with or accompanying a person described in (c) above.

(4) I was born on (Day) (Month) (Year)

(5) For years preceding the above election my home (not military) residence in the above State has been

(Street and number or rural route, etc.)

in the county or parish of the voting precinct or election district for this residence is

(enter if known)

(6) Remarks

(7) Mail my ballot to the following official address: For those assigned in the U.S.:

(Unit (Co., Sq., Trp., Bn., etc.). Governmental Agency, or Office)

(Military Base, Station, Camp, Fort, Ship, Airfield, etc.)

For those assigned elsewhere:

(APO or FPO number)

(8) I am NOT requesting a ballot from any other State and am not voting in any other manner in this election, except by absentee process, and have not voted and do not intend to vote in this election at any other address.

(9) (Signature of person requesting ballot)

(10) (Full name, typed or printed, with rank or grade, and service number)

(11) Subscribed and sworn to before me on (Day, month, year)

(Signature of official administering oath) (Typed or printed name of official administering oath)

(Title or rank, service number, and organization of administering official)

INSTRUCTIONS

- A. Before filling out this form see your voting officer in regard to the voting laws of your State and absentee registration and voting procedure. B. Type or print all entries except signatures. FILL OUT BOTH SIDES OF CARD. C. Address card to proper State official. Your voting officer or commanding officer will furnish you his title and address. D. Mail card as soon as your State will accept your application. E. No postage is required for the card.

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- Sergeant Mark A. Schulz.....Editor
- Specialist Four John G. Driesbach .....Production Editor

Your back depends on it  
**Pack that ruck right, Newbie!**

Photo Captions:

**DRY SOCKS** - (Top left) New grunt Private First Class William Davenport learns about foot protection from old timer Sergeant Chester Tumulak. Wet socks can mean jungle rot and athlete's foot, so care in packing a ruck is a "must".

**BEANS WITH MEATBALLS** - (Top right) Privates First Class Kenneth Karpinski and Victor Jefferies split their first of many cases of C-rations. They will carry enough food for four days in their rucks and in time will become adept at "cheffing up" edible meals.

**HERE'S HOW** - (Bottom left) Tumulak shows new grunt Private First Class Jimmy O'Brien how to tighten up a ruck: any loose gear can make a wearer miserable, so cinch 'em up!

**KEEP OUT LEECHES** - (Bottom right) Tumulak shows new grunts how to keep leeches out by tying their pantlegs shut when working in the lowland. The new grunts are Privates First Class Karpinski, Christopher Kane, Jefferies, and Gary Senger (kneeling).

US ARMY PHOTOS  
BY SPEC. 4 STEVE BROOKS

**Thunder returns to abandoned Rawhide**

By SP4 Steve Brooks

FIREBASE RAWHIDE. Rawhide thunder rolled over the Arizona Territory, and it was like old times on the once abandoned firebase.

Ghosts of grunts and redlegs from the past jumped aside and cheered as elements of the 3d Bn, 82d Arty, 2d Bn., 94th Arty, 196th Engineer Co (Pro) and F Troop, 17th Cav. returned to the hill to blast suspected enemy locations in nearby valleys.

For the 196th, the success of maintaining an effective defense posture around the city of Da Nang means keeping the enemy off-balance.

An artillery raid accomplished this by carting artillery batteries out to strategic positions where they bombard suspected enemy positions and interdict supply routes. Then, just as quickly the artillery moves back to their previous defensive positions. All this can take place in the space of a single day.

Operating with less than 24 hours notice, the surprise artillery raid was the first time the base, called Hill 65, had seen any action since it was closed down in October 1971. This particular mission lasted three days.

It didn't take long to occupy the hill-the first engineer units were clearing the road to Rawhide at 8 a.m. and the guns were being laid in on the hill by noon of the same day.

Photo Captions:

FIRE! SP4 Dave Weiss jerks the lanyard on this eight-incher of Battery C, 2d Bn., 94th Arty. The 2d Bn., 94th Arty, is a newcomer to the 196th Brigade, and formerly served with the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) Hue. (U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY SP4 STEVE BROOKS)

READY, HEAVE! - Gun crews of Battery D, 3d Bn, 82d Arty, lay a 155mm howitzer into position on Rawhide. These guns were part of Battery C, 3d Bn., 16th Arty, on Rawhide when it was still an active firebase. (US ARMY PHOTO BY SP4 STEVE BROOKS)

Then , with a LOH light observation helicopter) and a Cobra team from F Troop 8th Cav flying as spotters, the guns began to fire. It became a constant pattern of yelling directions to the blast-deafened gunners, jerking the lanyard and doing it again.

"Hey, number two gun! Deflection zero zero five eight!"

The gunner yells back "Zero zero five eight!", the engine roars to life and hydraulics whine, and it's Number two gun stand byyyyyy, FIRE!" The sweating gunner jerks the lanyard and it's shock wave and smoke, then lift another round and jerk the lanyard, over and over.

The raid was a standard artillery operation, according to Major Deral Willis, operations officer in charge. "The best defense is to zip out there and hit 'em now and then. It was a combined operation of the engineers, artillery and cavalry, because all three units are needed to work together.

"I can't clear the road for my guns or secure them on the road or in position. For this we have the engineers and the Cav. and of course, my guns are there to do the most damage. So we really need each other."

In less than three days the raid was over, and the base was abandoned as quickly as it has been occupied, leaving the dust and smoke to settle on the memories of the hill known as Rawhide.

Photo Caption:

LITTLE BIT OF EVERYTHING - 155mm and eight-inch howitzers, 175mm guns Sheridan tanks, .50 cal's and small arms gave Rawhide massive firepower at all ranges. (US ARMY PHOTO by SP4 JOHN DRIESBACH)

Photo Caption

WITH THE PROS - Silas Copeland Command Sergeant Major of the Army, raps with NCO's on LZ Linda in the 196th Infantry Brigade. His question: How can we make the Army more professional? (US ARMY PHOTO BY SP4 STEVE BROOKS)

**'Talk to me'  
says Army CSM**

CAMP CHARGER - "Talk to me. Tell me how it is!" Sometimes laughing, sometimes explaining, Silas Copeland, Command Sergeant Major of the Army, rapped with the men of the 196th Infantry Brigade all day Sunday, Jan. 30.

Copeland visited nine units of the 196th, asking the men, "How's Vietnam?" (hot.) "What else" (the pay is good.) "Tell me more." (silence.)

From the arty tubes on LZ Linda to the dusty compounds of the rear, Copeland found his biggest problem was getting the men to open up with him. So, he probed deeper.

"You think I'm BSing, don't you? I remember when I was a platoon sergeant and someone would come around to rap with the troops, I'd tell my men not to say anything, but that was wrong. We don't run the army in the same ways any more. We want your opinions on how to make the Army more professional.

Most often heard questions were on mail delays, boonie hats, and women.

"First off," Copeland commented, "We can't issue you women." (Laughter.) He then said that he thought one reason for the outlawing of boonie hats is because they are not safe.

"You never know when a rocket or mortar round is coming in, and a boonie hat won't stop much shrapnel. I don't like helmets either. They made me bald. But, they've saved my life more than once. And you look more soldierly in full combat gear.

He also commented on the sometimes spasmodic mail delivery. "Yes, I know this can be a big morale factor here. It even affects my morale when my mail is delayed in the Pentagon. This problem is everywhere, and we're trying to do something about it."

Copeland commented several times that all the troops he saw were "well turned out" in appearance. At the end of the day he met with the senior NCO's of the 196th and discussed the problems brought up by the troops, and possible solutions.



Cartoon caption: Tattoo artist says this as he applies a tattoo, "IF YOU FORGET WHERE TO WRITE FOR YOUR ABSENTEE BALLOT JUST ASK YOUR VOTING OFFICER!"

Hester, personnel

## Hassles for Band too

CAMP CROSS - Back from his exhausting nervous profession of beating the bush, a grunt hears music. "Good Lord," The grunt mumbles to himself, "What's going on now?"

What the GI hears is the music, and instruments, but mostly people. Chief Warrant Officer Brian D. Arnold is the band-master, the man who makes the Charger Band a unified body working toward a common goal. He commands 19 musicians; they have varied backgrounds but all are craftsmen with music. These men-the Charger Band-form a unique element in the U.S. Army.

An Army band is usually located within a division, but when the 23d Infantry Division stood down, it was decided that their band would remain in Vietnam. Due to the interest and efforts of its commanders, the 196th became the only U.S. Army brigade to have its own band- a fact which members of the band take pride.

As with everyone else in Vietnam the band members also have their "hassels" - Typhoon Hester was one. When Hester struck the process of standing down the 23d Div. was in full swing.

With 33 standdown ceremonies to play for, the band found itself with punctured drums, plugged brass and destroyed woodwinds. With a little tape, string, work, and luck the band was performing again within four days.

The event known as DEROS is a source of another hassle. With a chronic lack of personnel, they find it difficult to complete important projects-for example they have the equipment to create a rock group, but no guitarists. A search is always being conducted for qualified musicians; sometimes it's successful.

Sergeant Arlan Roan is one of two new members. He was a mortarman, and later grunt squad leader with the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) before being reassigned. Arlan arrived at his new unit, completed processing and was about to be assigned to a line company when he happened to talk to a band member.

He hadn't played trombone since high school, but he was good enough to win a spot in the band.

Arnold is hoping more people like Roan will try out now.

Photo Caption: WALKING BOOTS - The 196th Infantry Brigade Band serenades another group of grunts just back from the bush. The band makes appearances upon request to any 196th unit and has made appearances to play at orphanages and schools in the Da Nang area. (U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY 1LT KENT FLANAGAN)

## R & U on the job

By SP5 Bill Simpson

CAMP CHARGER - The rear infantry brigade is a complex of offices and shops here the emphasis is on supporting the efforts of the grunt.

In the course of the day's work in the rear, someone steps through a screen door, a couple of dozen electrical fuses blow, a road sign gets crunched, and maybe one of the burners on the mess hall store conks out. In all a dozen other minor bits of damage usually are racked up.

These little things won't cause the complete breakdown of the defense of the city of Da Nang and they might even go for months without notice. However, as these minor deficiencies mount, the rear becomes less effective and eventually that puts the grunt in danger.

Eighteen enlisted men and five Vietnamese civilian craftsmen, the brigade Repair and Utilities section (R&U) are on a 24-hour a day campaign to keep those little deficiencies from impairing the mission of the 196th. Most of the GIs at R&U are apprentice craftsmen (electricians, carpenters, plumbers) who are putting their civilian acquired skills to work for the Army and at the same time are keeping themselves in practice.

Under the direction of Captain Michael Flack and Sergeant First Class Bobby Roland, the R&U team accomplishes an average of 70 minor repair jobs a week which must be done immediately. That minor maintenance on any day can range from resetting a roof shingle to installing a new wiring system for perimeter lights.

"We'll take on any type of minor repair job," according to Captain Flack, and he also says that since arriving here, the R&U section has had to prove that claim on several occasions, sometime in wicked weather conditions through very long hours.

R&U is under the command of the Installation Coordinator's Office and is a quick source of aid to every commander and section chief in the brigade. Usually they require only one-day notice to perform any job as long as it's minor maintenance.

## **SP4s run war**

### **Just ask acting CO**

#### **By SP5 Sam Rousso**

CAMP CHARGER - It is a well-known, if seldom acknowledged fact that Spec 4s run the war.

Generals may dictate the strategy and first sergeants may just dictate, but it's the Spec 4s and 5s--and an occasional PFC--who actually get things done.

Keeping this in mind, let me clue you in on one of the most fantastic occurrences of the Vietnam war--the time a Spec 4 was actually in command of a very small unit.

In command, not merely in charge. He was according to the orders "Acting Commander". For four days he was in command, responsible and totally in charge of the situation. Not much else, but he did know what was happening.

The story of how it all happened is long and involved. Let's say he was the senior person present. So it all came to rest on his slumped shoulders.

Why not?" he shrugged as he shook his head in disbelief.

After the shock wore off--which didn't take long, since he had to run the orders off on the mimeograph machine himself--he began to realize the potential of the situation.

Power.

Medals, Arcoms, Bronze Stars, even Legions of Merit!  
even Legions of Merit.....

Far out!!

A Spec 4 with a Legion of Merit? It isn't any more ridiculous than a Spec 4 detachment commander.

As far as promotions went, he was due to be promoted anyway during February, so there was no use wasting time on that angle.

Leaves. A typical commander, he was trying to figure out all the angles on how to wangle an extra leave or R&R - for his men, of course. On the other-hand, if he could get a little of the action too, well...

Then came the time to sign his first morning report. All went smoothly. He didn't misspell his name, although he did have to ask someone how to spell it.

A little while later, all his dreams started to dissolve like a sand castle at high tide.

Personnel called about the morning report, asking what the hell was going on. When they refused to believe it, the new commander-- and 3247 copies of his orders were taken down to the Morning Report Support Section.

After a series of dubious looks, people began to run for the relevant ARs.

I never did catch the numbers they quoted, but it seems that all I had legal power to do was assume command--and the responsibility if anything should go wrong.

The AG officer looked at me and said ominously, "If I were you, I wouldn't let anything even think of going wrong. I shudder to think of even the best that could happen to you."

I thought he was joshing, but on the other hand I didn't sleep much at nights until after I was relieved of command.

## Unusual aid station

CAMP PERDUE - I wouldn't do it if I didn't think it would benefit them," says Doctor (Captain) David L. Thomas (Miami, Fla.), the battalion surgeon for the 2d Bn., 1st Inf., 196th Infantry Brigade.

What is he referring to? His three Vietnamese assistants - Phan Luong ("Charlie Brown"), 16 a clinical assistant; Pham Thi Hoi ("Cheri"), 19, a laboratory technician; and Nguyen Son ("Son"), 16, another clinical assistant.

Charlie Brown has been with the dispensary the longest - three months. "He was trained partly by the Marines and partly by me," says Thomas. "He came in one day looking for a job and proved he deserved one."

Cheri was brought to Da Nang from Chu Lai, where she was unhappy with her previous employment. "She is an excellent lab technician," says Thomas.

"She is fully capable of running the basic tests necessary for good clinical medicine," he continued. "She can run blood count tests, gram stain tests (to determine the presence of bacteria) and urinalysis to determine the presence of chloriquine (in those famous orange pills).

"Because of the shortage of medics, she also serves as our receptionist," according to Thomas.

"Son is the latest addition to the staff. He is learning from us and from Charlie Brown," says Thomas.

"We set the two of them up in their own little clinic. What they can't handle I usually can. We hold MEDCAPS (Medial Civil Action Programs) almost daily in one of several villes - La Binh, Da Phu, Da Son and Khan son."

Thomas assesses his assistants by saying "Son and Charlie Brown are almost of draft age. When they are drafted they will become skilled medics. Charlie Brown has indicated that these are his plans, but I haven't really had time to talk to Son about it.

"As for Cheri - she can go to any Vietnamese hospital and get a job as a highly skilled technician," commented Thomas.

Photo Caption: This delectable miss is guaranteed to get a rise out of any GI—  
and why not, she's the Rise Girl of the year.  
(Photo Courtesy of Carter-Wallace, Inc.)

## Charger country photos

### Photo Captions:

1) PLEASE PASS THE SOAP - An early afternoon photo taken outside Da Nang while traveling on QL-1 near the Nam O Bridge. The photographer used Plus-X film (f5.6 @ 1/500) and a normal lens. (US ARMY PHOTO BY 1LT JOHN WHITNEY)

2) CHINA BEACH R&R - Have you given any thought to taking an in-country R&R at China Beach? If you have, perhaps this photo will help you make up your mind. Charger photographer Specialist Four Steve Brooks snapped this photo on a sunny afternoon not too long ago; but unfortunately he failed to get the name of the young lady taking archery lessons (US ARMY PHOTO)

(3) READY TO FIRE - Rows of 105mm rounds are stacked on LZ Gunfighter ready to fire. This unusual angle was captured on film by using a 24mm wide angle lens set at f16, 1/30th of a second, on Tri-X film. (US ARMY PHOTO BY 1LT KENT FLANAGAN)