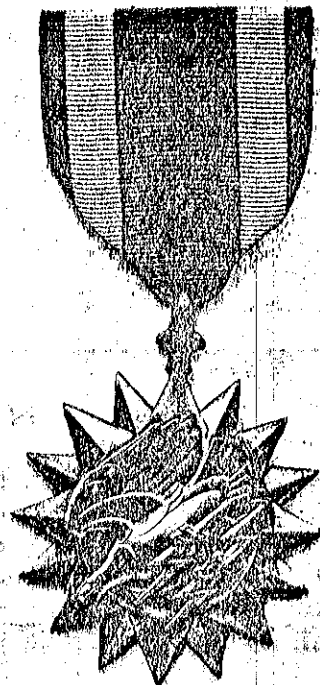
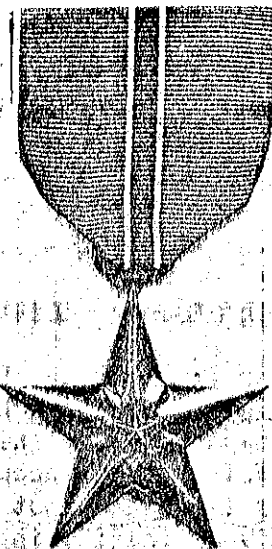


RIPCORD REPORT

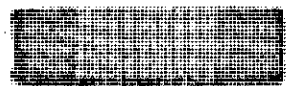
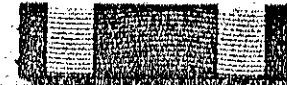
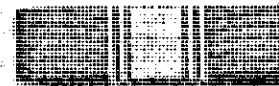
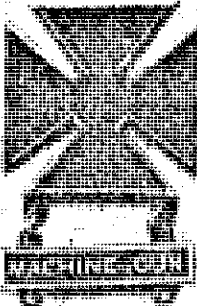
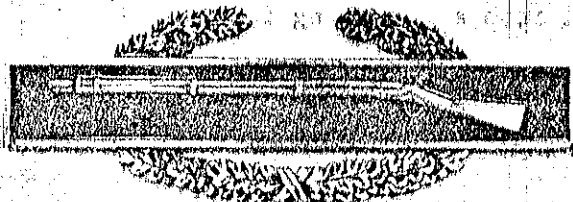
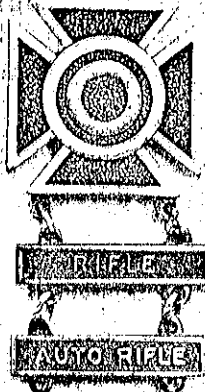
A NEWSLETTER

No. 19, May 1988

For Friends and Survivors of FSB RIPCORD, RVN



SELECTIVE SERVICE SYSTEM
NOTICE OF CLASSIFICATION
This is to certify that
RAYMOND H. BLACKMAN
(First name) (Middle initial) (Last name)
Selective Served No.
13 70 48 276
is classified in Class **4-A**
until _____
by Local Board unless otherwise
checked below:
☐ by Appeal Board
vote of _____ to _____
☒ by President
2 Mar 71
(Date of mailing)
My G. Klugman
(Member, Executive Secretary, or clerk of
local board)
Raymond H. Blackman
(Registrant's signature)
888 Form 110 (Rev. 5-25-67)
(Previous printings are obsolete)
(Approval not required)



= INSIDE =

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- * Contacts
- * Incoming
- * Sit/Rep
- * The 101 Ballad
- * Retrospective
- * The Screaming Eagle
(1971 Issue)

= FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTORS =

- * C. Schopper
- * J. Rodgers
- * A. Wiknik
- * V. Kenyon
- * J. Bowman
- * LTC S. Wintermute



= FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS =
(To Treasurer)

- * Ripcord Assoc.
c/o John Mihalko

= CO-EDITORS =

- * Chip Collins

- * Ray Blackman

NEWSLETTER INTENTIONS

The intention of this Newsletter is to bring those of us together that are interested in FSB Ripcord, RVN. The events, the people, the humor, the memories of that time are being written by those that served there. We want this to be a healthy experience for the Veteran, his or her family or friends. We encourage you to write, call and talk, or send a taped message to us with your feelings about our Newsletter or Ripcord in general. We wish to improve as we grow and your initial input is necessary.

However, there may be those Veterans who are still troubled by their Vietnam experience. We regret this situation, but can not share responsibility for their reactions regarding the Newsletter contents. Ideally, this Newsletter will help all of us through our past and into a rewarding future.

CONTACTS/NEW FACES

Wm. T. Ripley
(Associate)
R.R. #6
Decatur, IN 46733

Jack Tangard
(E, 1/502 Sniper)
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Garden Grove, CA 92641

ADDRESS CHANGE

Francis Lynch
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Kent, WA 98031



POW on O'Reilly
(photo compliments of "DOC" Dawkins)

INCOMING

March 25, 1988

First, let me thank you for expending the time to provide Wm. T. with the information you have relative to your participation in the Vietnam War.

I was a draftee in 1959 and thank God I did not have to see any hostilities - such as soldiers before me, or men such as yourself in later involvements. I was, as I know you are, proud to serve my Country in whatever capacity to preserve the heritage our forefathers died for.

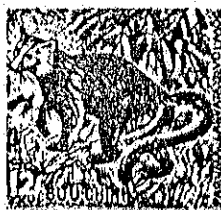
I am aware and familiar with; as is Wm. T., the type of language some times used, however over look it as one of the frailties of man. His interest lies in finding out what happened. (Incidentally, present T.V. fare can be just as abusive with a lot less substance.)

I have told Wm. T. I am agreeable to his receiving your newsletter if you would be so kind to send it.

Again, thank you for responding to his inquiry - and may God bless you.

J. W. Ripley
Decatur, IN

VIỆT NAM DÂN CHỦ CỘNG HÒA



April 29, 1988

I saw your ad in March Static Line, my first, given to me by an older trooper last week.

I was with E. 1/502 Snipers Nov. 70-71. My team worked all over Vietnam on certain missions. I've stayed combat fit even though I left active duty in 75. Normally I don't get a chance to talk to guys who worked those area's so I thought I'd drop you a line and say glad you made it to the big L.Z. back home.

I still have 3 of the maps I used in the Nam, they aren't in front of me, but I do believe Ripcord is on there. Sure looks like a small patch of ground till you have to walk in it with your house on your back.

If it makes you feel any better we took out 6 dinks in your A.O. One was a L.T., don't know what was on the paper work he had but they pulled us out 2 weeks later and put up by the D.

Maybe you could tell me what I missed.

Jack Tangard (Sgt., E, 1/502 Sniper)
Garden Grove, CA



We have a
HOME.

Where is
your home?



Compliments of



CHUNG TOI CO
NHA
NHA ANH
DAU

STRIKE RECON
1/502 70-71
SNIPER



SIT/REP

The tentative dates for this years official Ripcord reunion are from Oct. 7th through the 9th in Whippany, N.J. More information about the reunion will follow.

If you plan on attending the 101st Assoc. reunion in Omaha this Aug. please let me know so we can get organized on that one.

The recent postal rate increase has brought the cost for mailing the newsletter to \$.45 each. When you multiply that times our 170 Association members you come up with a total cost of \$76.50 per issue just for stamps.

Some of you have been steady contributors to the newsletter fund and we thank you very much for that. However, we cannot expect the same people to keep digging into their pockets month after month when so many of us are enjoying the contents of the Ripcord Report. We are trying very hard to keep from charging membership dues because there are some that simply can't afford it and we don't want to lose anyone. If you haven't contributed for awhile (or at all) and can afford to, please do so now.

Blackie

THE 101 BALLAD

Sent in by Gary Jestes

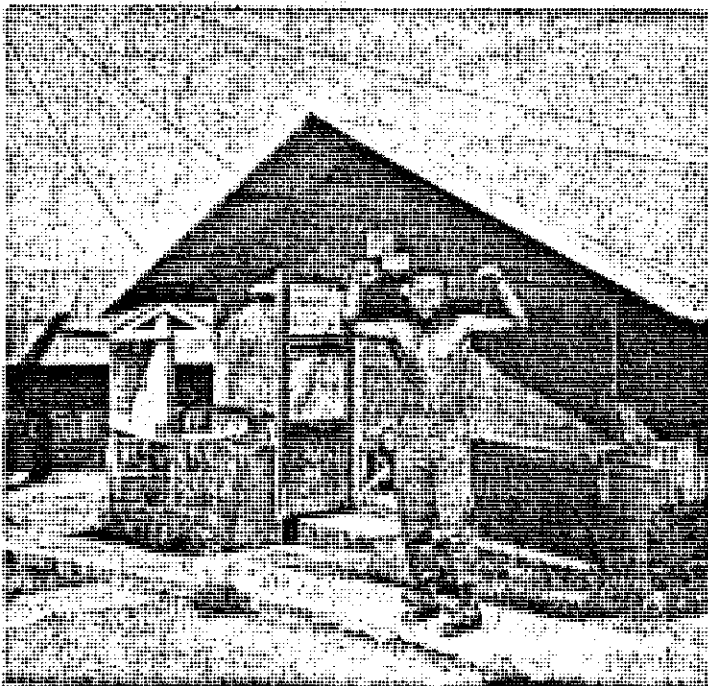
War is full of blood and tears and many good men must die
Men who fight to keep their freedom and protect our way of life
Slashing through the lines of the enemy taking them one by one
It's the brave young Screaming Eagles of the 101.

Loneliness is a well known feeling in the middle of the cold dark night
Imagine hearing an awful sound, it's the sound of a painful cry
Then you feel the deep burning pain and see the flash from the enemy's gun
That's the life of the Screaming Eagles of the 101.

Then you say a little prayer and hope that it reaches some one
Not knowing if you'll live to see the rise of the morning sun
Then you pull yourself together cause you know that you must drive on
That's the life of the Screaming Eagles of the 101.

Fighting every night and day to keep America free
Cause they know it's the only way and all the world must see
Even though the going's rough they don't quit till the fighting's done
It's the brave young Screaming Eagles of the 101.

Through years and years of war
The American soldier is still standing
Still fighting for freedom
This isn't a survival for us but
it's an endurance we owe for a
Free way of life
We want that freedom
We must fight for it
Drive on Screaming Eagles
Drive on.



(photo's compliments of "DOC" Dawkins)

PROFILE OF A COMPANY COMMANDER
By: Sgt. Timothy Coder

"Card-seven, card-seven, this is two-one," shouts the voice on the field radio over the chaotic din of automatic weapons fire, commands to maneuver, and cries for the medic. "We've got contact over here!"

You could tell it was big. Across the yawning draw that separated your patrol base from the first platoon in the twisted jungles of Thua-Thien Province rumbled the resonant bursts of methodical .51 caliber machinegun fire, and the ugly staccato of AK-



47's. But interwoven in the bedlam could be heard the metallic ring of M-16 fire. At least this was good!

For three days you've suspected Hill 975 to be an enemy stronghold. And for three days you've watched as the Phantom jets that you called in swooped down over the mountain lobbing their deadly bombs in an effort to uproot the communist force which held the mountain. For three days you've cranked up artillery fire missions, guided in Cobra gunships, and called for more artillery until it seemed impossible that a shread of life could remain on 975. So today, it's time for the infantry to check it out.

You're a member of Delta Company, 2nd. Battalion (Ambl), 506th. Infantry, 101st. Airborne Division (Airmobile)-name: Captain Rembert Gary Rollison, from Hinesville, Georgia. You run the show.

"Two-one this is card-seven," you say with a twinge of southern drawl. "Okay partner, what ya have going on up there?"

"This is two-one," cracks the harried voice over the radio. "Point and slack men are hit. Far as I can tell right now we've got three bunkers 40 to 50 meters in front of us. Well dug in with a .51 cal. and AKs!"

"This is card-seven. Do you think someone can get up there to pull those two back?"

"Roger that. We've got two guys going after them right now. I think they can get them back allright!"

"Real fine partner," you say in your most reassuring voice. "Keep your people down, spread out, and putting out a good volume of fire. Hold your ground and be ready to pull back. I'm going to get some help ASAP!"

"Tim," you call over to your radio telephone operator (RTO), Sgt. Tim Heinzelman of Marion, Indiana, "call 'higher' and get ARA and a medevac on station right away!"

Across the draw you can hear the cracking of flying lead chewing up trees and zinging against rocks as if you were in the thick of it. You can vividly picture those men doggedly lowcrawling over bramble, hands bloodied, the dirt on their determined faces now turning to mud from sweat as they attempt to reach the wounded. You wish you were with them. But you've graduated now. You've got the whole ball game-120 men, and it's your job to see that they get the job done as efficiently as possible and get home safely when it's done. You hear the steady popping of M-16 semi-automatic fire. That's it! Just keep gnawing away at him. Make each man think that each shot is aimed at him! Charlie is good, but your men are pros....

"Card-seven, this is seven-zero." Now the second platoon was calling. "We're taking automatic weapons fire up here from the november-whiskey!"

"Damn!" you muse out loud. "Those little devils really have themselves burrowed in up there."

"Seven-zero, this is card-seven. Okay buddy, I think you've caught part of that bunker complex that's giving two-one so much grief. Got any wounded packs up there?"

"Roger that. We've got three men hit. None of them too serious though."

"Okay, that's fine. I want both you and two-one to pull back up to the high ground to the sierra-whiskey. One-zero will move up to provide security and we'll use that as a lima-zulu for the dust-off. In the meantime we're going to call in the world on Charlie."

"Sir, 'higher' just called and said that ARA will be on our internal in about zero-two," called Rick, your other command post RTO; Sp4 Fred Rearick, of Warren, Mass. "It's Dragon-niner-delta."

Seconds later, you could see the Cobras buzzing in the skies above, the most beautiful sight in the infantryman's world. The Cobras can get you out of most any mess. You know it, your men know it-and Charlie knows it! "Card-seven, this is Dragon niner-delta," sputtered the vibrating voice over the horn....

And so it went that afternoon under the burning tropical sun..."Dragon niner-delta, this is card-seven...Roger, we've got some little people with a .51 cal. and some AKs dug in down there...two-one and seven-zero, pop smoke to mark your forward-most positions...that's affirmative, banana and goofy grape...azimuth: six-two-three seven, distance: three zero-zero mikes...two-one and seven-zero give me an up when you're back at the lima zulu...that's beautiful, buddy. Can you swing left five-zero and drop two-five and give them another dive? Roger, two-one, I understand you're back at the lima-zulu. Put out some good security with one-zero; seven-zero should be moving in shortly..."

Tonight you can't sleep. Not that you ever really sleep out here, but tonight, your eyes like marbles, you lay on the steaming jungle turf blankly staring at the stars blinking through silhouetted branches. Thinking and wondering, and you suppose your men are doing the same. In a few short hours this afternoon you've lived a lifetime-a lifetime that skipped by in seconds. Only when it was over did exhaustion slap you in the face-your body drenched, mouth like cotton and a sand-paper throat caused by hours of shouting and too many cigarettes. You've experienced more today than in your years at North Georgia College, studying English literature, playing football, going through ROTC. It's that way every time.

What is it that drove you to the life of a professional soldier? You've thought about that a lot, tried other things, but nothing compares. As an infantry officer leading men in combat, you strive through the most demanding and frustrating of life's occupations...and receive the greatest reward. It's a spiritual exhilaration, you guess, something like the mountain climber or cross country runner experiences. And then there's patriotism-almost a dirty word in the minds of some. Sure, America isn't perfect; but it's the best country you've got and is certainly worth working for. So with all of war's filth and stench you know it's a good thing you've done today.



You wonder about your men-draftees most of them, 18, 19, and 20 years old. You know that many of them are skeptical about the war, but political beliefs in your company are beside the issue. You run a team. Every man has a job to do, and there is pride in a job well done. The American draftee infantryman is the best combat soldier in the world, probably because he's got so much to go home to-his girl, a new car maybe, an education. Today, your men have become heroes-more than any citation can ever recognize-in a way that only you and they will ever understand.

You look at your watch and it's two in the morning. Hell, you think, you're becoming a philosopher in your old age. Better get some sleep. We've got a big day tomorrow.



Eight are drafted

Eight men made up Muscatine County's selective service quota for the month of March on Monday. They include, sitting, David A. Enderle, Dean F. Stecher, Raymond H. Blackman, and Curtis D. Beeding; and standing, Gerry L. Coulter, Rickey D. Krueger, Charles L. Carpenter, and Dennis L.

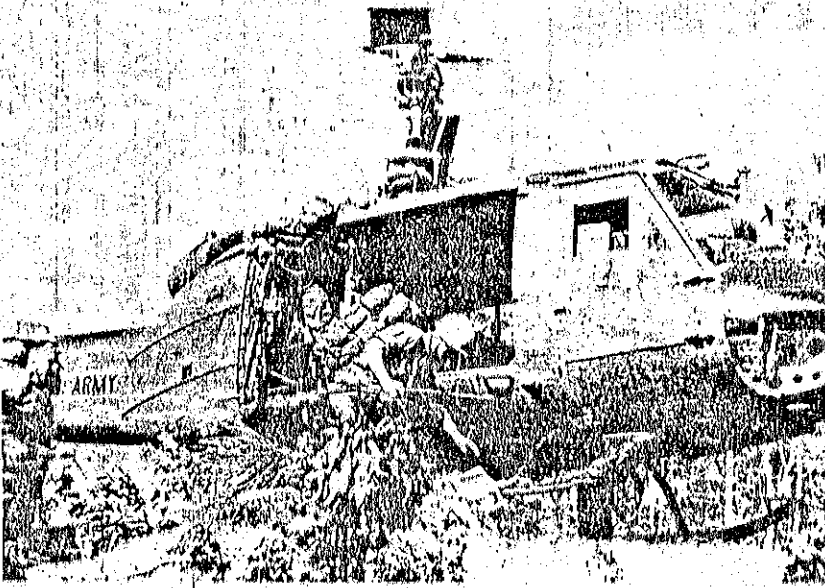
Monroe. The group departed from Muscatine by bus to Ft. Des Moines for processing, where they were scheduled to leave for basic training at Ft. Polk, La. One other, Robert L. Schrieber, enlisted.

(Journal Photo)



Drawing sent in by Martin Glennon
(artist unknown)

CA Gets Troops Where Action Is



HIT THE GROUND RUNNING - A UH-1 Huey helicopter drops onto an LZ during a combat assault in the rugged mountains of northern Military Region 1. Sikhs like this one are used to transport troops and supplies throughout the AO. (U.S. Army Photo)

For Infantry

'Grunt' More Than A Name

His grandfather was a "Doughboy." His father was a "GI." And he's a "Grunt." Different names, different times, different wars, but the job of the combat infantryman remains the same. It's a 24-hour-a-day working, sweating, grunting job. A seven day-a-week job of giving all he can; and then giving a little more. But, believe it or not, he's sort of proud of the name-GRUNT.

True, at the end of any given day, the Grunt would never be chosen for an honor guard on appearance alone. Because of this work he must do, it is inevitable that his hair be mussed up and sun-blanched; his uniform dirty, wrinkled and torn; his face grimy from mud and dust. Those boots, a sort of trademark of his, are brown-not black-and scratched from scrambling in and out of helicopters. The dirt is unavoidable, and though he doesn't like it, he learns to live with it as an inescapable part of war.

He works hard. On a combat assault, he'll walk over rock-hard dikes, through deep mud and stinking leech-filled canals. He'll "hump" up "one more hill" and down the other side only to find a mountain he must ascend. And always there are the huge, biting red ants and the blood-thirsty mosquitoes. Sometimes those prove to be even more of a challenge than the enemy, as they are certainly more plentiful.

When he does get a chance to relax, he stops and reaches for that old, worn-out sock and pulls out some C-rations. Washing his food down with ample gulps of warm canteen water, he thinks about home, his wife or sweetheart, or, flying home in that "big, beautiful Freedom Bird," back to the time when things were better.

Now that he has those rare, spare moments to rest, he scrawls an answer to one of those stained, soggy letters he's

been carrying in his pocket. Then, if only for a moment, he dozes into a sleep so deep only those who have worked to near-exhaustion can understand. And yet, the slightest sound will wake him.

In a firefight, the Grunt's display of courage is common-but courage is never commonplace. Sure he's scared, but he has no time to think about being scared, and the difference is self-control. He knows what he has to do and he does it. Sometimes he does more; then he's called a "hero." But just by doing what he does, he's a hero.

The Grunt is a special kind of man. He lives with dirt, danger and destiny unknown. In the field, he lives in a way most people will never experience even in their worst nightmares, the kind of living that has to be experienced and can never be fully imagined.

He bows to no man for he has been "where eagles dare," he stands above other men for he has proven to himself, his fellow man and the nation that he can handle the toughest job a man can be given.

The Combat Infantryman's Badge (CIB), that blue and silver hunk of metal, identifies this different kind of man who has lived in hell, who has known that glorious feeling of walking out of a situation alive when he could have just as easily been killed.

The CIB is his "fraternity pin." It identifies him as a member of the most cohesive group of Americans there is. A group in which teamwork is often the difference between life and death. A team in which one man will risk his life to save his buddy because tomorrow his buddy will do the same for him. A fraternity in which a man does a little himself every time a buddy gets wounded or killed. And they all share a spirit of



pride, self-satisfaction and a sense of accomplishment in knowing that they are doing the toughest job a man can do-and doing it well.

Yes, this is the combat infantryman-the GRUNT. He even calls himself a "Grunt." And he's proud of it because it's more than just a name-it's a title.

And the CIB is more than just another hunk of metal. It's a badge-one that identifies its wearer as a member of the proudest, most elite fraternity in American society--the brotherhood of the Doughboy, the GI, and the Grunt-The Combat Infantryman.

Standdown--Refreshes, Retrains

Faded green fatigues, threadbare and torn from months in the damp jungles, hung loosely on the haggard men. Standing, sitting, catnapping, laughing, joking, sipping sodas and drawing on borrowed cigarettes, the men were waiting trucks which would take them from the landing pad of the firebase to the rear area and their first standdown after months in the field.

For Screaming Eagle infantrymen, standdown comes at varying intervals during the year. It is a time for refresher training, reorientation and review of the basic skills and tools of the combat infantryman. It is an essential part of the division's continued success against enemy forces in northern Military Region 1.

"LET'S GO!" The alarm goes out to break camp. Poncho-tents come down with a series of snaps. Men start lighting heat tabs and packing ammunition and chow. It is dawn. In one hour, the platoon is going to combat assault (CA) onto a landing zone (LZ) several miles away.

Two men go out to take in the trip flares and claymore mines set up on the perimeter the night before. The smell of coffee and C-rations floats through the air as the warm sun breaks the chill of the clammy night.

Rucksacks are ready to go. Empty C-ration boxes feed a fire that leaps to a sky swarming with helicopters that are relocating and resupplying troops, and reconnoitering the area.

The radio-telephone operator (RTO) relays the mission from the "old man" to the platoon sergeant who writes the message, then decodes it on a C-ration box. The sergeant memorizes the message, throws the box into the fire and calls his squad leaders together. He unruffles his map.

"All right, here's the mission. We'll be following this blue line," he says, pointing to a spot on the map. "We'll CA onto this LZ. It was 'hot' when Bravo hit it yesterday and there are still plenty of little men (NVA/VC) in the area and it is probably boobytrapped. The 2nd and 3rd Platoons have the LZ secured now and when we hit we'll circle east along this draw and join Bravo at this point."

For airborne infantrymen of the 101st, talk of "hot" and "cold" is not about the chow or weather, but about LZs that may either be under enemy fire or boobytrapped. Under the burden of the 60 to 100+ pound rucksacks, the platoon moves out to the pickup area. The lift ships float in, the flap of the blades mixing with the sound of a Cobra's miniguns, and bursting artillery rounds.

As the last helicopter lifts off, a trooper throws a red smoke grenade. Cobra gunships move in for the attack to catch any enemy possibly following the infantry off the hill.

The helicopter lands and soldiers scramble out into the brush. As the last bird clears the new LZ, door gunners open up, flushing out enemy soldiers who may be lurking in the woodland off the LZ.

When the dust clears and the debris settles, the infantrymen move off the hill, back into the jungle for another patrol, miles from the last LZ. Boobytraps have to be considered again so travel is slow. Every trail, bush, foot of ground, has to be searched for signs of other the traps or ambushes.

While a combat assault is an everyday experience for Screaming Eagles in the jungles of northern Military Region 1, it is never boring, never dull. Though landing zones are usually secure, there is always the chance that one may not be. The best approach is "STAY ALERT, STAY ALIVE."

JUNGLE PATROL - Forging streams and overcoming other natural obstacles are all in a day's patrolling in northern Military Region 1 for Infantrymen of the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile). (U.S. Army Photo)

The company had not seen the rear area in months of living, working and fighting in the mountainous, triple-canopy jungles southwest of Hue.

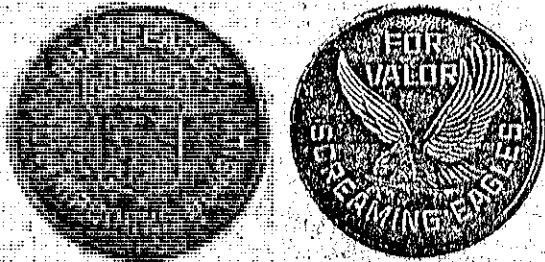
The Vietnamese sun was high and hot. Shade was scarce-makeshift shelters sprang up among the men. Canteens were emptied. Suddenly...

"Hey Man! Here they come-beaucoup trucks!"

A cloud of smoke moved slowly along the road toward the pickup area. Men stirred, shelters came down, packs were shouldered and canteens were replaced. Each man slumped forward slightly, hunched back from the weight upon his shoulders. They were going "home" to Phu Bat for a few days.

(Con't on page 9)

For Giving That Little Bit More

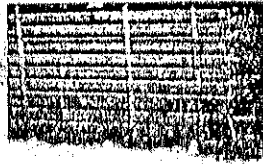


The "Brave Eagle" coin, approximately the size of a half-dollar and cast in both bronze and silver, was initiated in 1969 as a memento for 101st troopers who are awarded medals for valor on the battlefield.

On one side of the coin is a Bald Eagle in flight clutching symbolic arrows in his talons. The words "For Valor" are centered between the spread wings of the eagle and "Screaming Eagles" is emblazoned beneath.

The other side of the coin has a reproduction of the famed Screaming Eagle shoulder patch. Above the patch are the words "Brave Eagle" and the 101st Airborne Division is identified below the patch.

Those "Brave Eagles" who have been awarded the coin can be justly proud of it and for having done "that little bit more" when the going was "a little bit rougher."



ENEMY ARSENAL—Troopers of the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) examine a cache of weapons captured by Screaming Eagles in operations about 12 miles west of Hue. (U.S. Army Photo)

Eagle Aviators Make 101st Airmobile

In the modern army, mobility is essential. In an airmobile division it is the helicopters which provide quick, effective movement of everything from the infantryman to heavy road construction equipment. The "birds" in the 101st range from the huge Skyraider, which can deliver the division's heaviest organic artillery piece, to the tiny light observation helicopter (LOH), which can maneuver like a bumble bee.

The men who fly the helicopters for the 101st vary as much as (or maybe more) than the crafts themselves. The division's aviator is a young warrant officer fresh out of flight school, obtaining combat flight experience and his "baptism under fire" at one time by flying reconnaissance "on the deck" to locate the enemy and his caches. Or, he is a three-Vietnam tour Huey pilot

who picks the infantry up at a basecamp and combat-assaults them onto a "hot" landing zone (LZ) in the midst of the jungle. Or he is the aircraft commander who controls a CH-47 Chinook when the "hook" picks up a sling-load of artillery rounds and, with that "big bang" sitting under him, carries and delivers the load wherever it's needed, even when one enemy round could explode it.

The 101st aviator is an "Eagle of Mercy" who flies the "Dustoff" medical evacuation helicopters. These men sometimes fly in adverse weather and combat conditions to get a wounded or injured soldier out of the jungle. Many have themselves been wounded while getting a wounded comrade back to medical aid.

The division's aviator is also the Cobra gunship pilot who "preps" the LZ and who engages

the enemy which his "pink team" teammate in the LOH finds in the jungle and valleys. Or he is the aerial rocket artillery Cobra pilot who comes screaming out of the sky in a 150-mile-per-hour dive firing rockets at an enemy force in close contact with our troops—an enemy which is firing at him also.

The aviator is a non-pilot as well. He is the exposed door gunner blasting away to make the infantryman's landing a little less risky. Or he is the aerial observer whose trained eyes are often no more than 50 feet from the enemy's eyes—and the enemy's guns. Or he is the crew-chief on whose judgment sometimes rests the entire success of the aircraft's mission.

He's also the member of the ground crew that keeps the rest up in the air with his mechanical prowess and the realization that

on his work rests the safety of the entire crew.

Yes, the Screaming Eagle aviator is all these things—aircraft commander, copilot, door gunner, crew-chief, observer, mechanic. He is also a very

special and very brave eagle who is proud of the fact that he makes the 101st Airborne Division airmobile.



LIFT OFF—Aviators take off in their "Slicks" for another mission in northern Military Region I. (U.S. Army Photo)

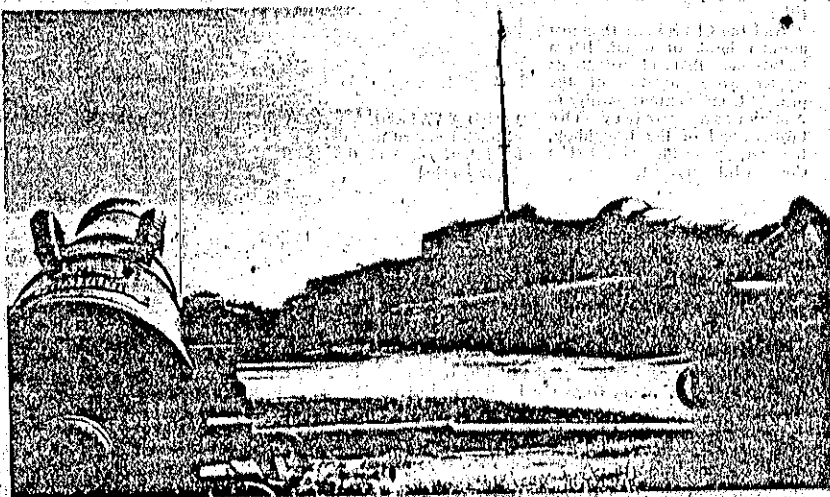
Centuries Of Conflict, Culture In Hue's Past

She has known other turbulent times. The ruins of the high stone walls and moats and watchtowers and sturdy gates that encircle her ancient heart all bear witness to the fact that the people of Hue have lived with danger for many generations.

The ancient imperial capital of Vietnam and long a center of Vietnamese culture and arts, Hue, with its current population of about 2,000,000, is the major city within the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) area of operations.

Roads into the city bridge the wide Perfume River and lead to a bustling downtown of crowds, traffic, high pastel-colored buildings and colorful shops—all a testimony to a resurgent Vietnamese economy. With its sampans and fishermen's huts lining its banks, the river teems with the commerce of Thua Thien Province, and folklore has it that its waters carry the promise of future blessings to all who live near it.

For miles throughout the Hue area stand the tombs of past rulers of Vietnam and ancient pagodas, shrines, and monuments.



RELICS—Artillery of another era remain at Hue's Citadel, where centuries old walls surround Vietnam's former imperial palace grounds. (U.S. Army Photo)



INFANTRY REFRESHER -- Standdown includes a review of infantry squad tactics. (U.S. Army Photo)

Eagle Lingo--Check It Out

Arriving in a foreign country presents many problems to a soldier. One way to feel a part of a new unit is to make friends and try to learn your way around. However, during those talks with the 'old men' (those who have been around one day longer than you), you may be confronted by a number of terms and phrases which leave you confused.

To help you gain confidence and make you feel a little less like the new guy that you are, here are some of those strange words and idiomatic expressions you'll hear. So... Check it out.

"Airborne" -- Common greeting among Screaming Eagles based on the heritage of the division.

"AO" -- area of operation.
"Band-aid" -- the medic.
"Beausoup" -- many, much, a lot.

"Bird" -- helicopter.
"Blues" -- infantry troops.
"Bush" or "Boonies" -- unsecure areas of operations like the jungle.

"CA" -- combat assault.
"Cannon-cocker" -- an artilleryman.

"Charlie-Charlie birds" -- command and control helicopters.

"Crane" -- a CH-54 'Skycrane' helicopter.

"Crash" -- sleep, go to bed.

"DEBROS" -- date of return from overseas.

"Dime-nickel business" -- a 105mm-artillery battery.

"Dust-off" -- helicopter evacuation of wounded from the field.

"Duster" -- M42A1 twin 40mm self-propelled guns.

"ETS" -- estimated termination of service.

"Grunt" -- the infantry soldier.

"Gun bunny" -- a cannon cocker.

"Higher-higher" -- the commander.

"Hook" -- a CH-47 'Chinook' helicopter.

"Hootch" -- sleeping area, quarters.

"Horn" -- a radio-telephone.

"Little Man" -- NVA/VC.

"LOH" -- an OH-6 light observation helicopter.

"LZ" -- landing zone.

"PZ" -- pickup zone.

"RF/RF" -- regional forces - popular forces.

"Short" -- what everyone wants to be soon and those who yell it are.

"Ships" -- helicopters.

"Sky-up" -- to take a trip on a plane or helicopter.

"Slick" -- a UH-1 series helicopter or Huey.

"Snake" -- an AH-1 series assault helicopter or Cobra.

"T.T." -- meaning short, little or tiny.

"Turkie" -- individual's replacement.

"Two-digit midget" -- one who has less than 99 but more

than nine days left in country, or "Double-digit midget".

"The World" -- The U.S.A.; Home; Mom; and whatever else you forgot to bring to Vietnam.

"ARVN" -- the Army of the Republic of Vietnam.

FABULOUS PHRASES

"Check it out."

"You owe it to yourself."

"There it is."

"What's happening?"

"Wow! How you gonna act, Dude?"

"You stepped on it that time."

"It's a bummer."

"Back on the block."

"Over."

"That's a rogo."

"Cut me some slack."

"Roger that."

Now you've got it. Slip a few of these choice phrases into your conversation and no one will ever know you just stepped off the plane. That is, "unless you step on it!"

Beach Popular With Troopers

Even in the midst of war, there must be occasional time for rest and relaxation. To provide the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) soldier with this needed break in his daily routine, there is Eagle Beach.

Located on the South China Sea six miles from Hue, Eagle Beach was opened on May 1,

1969. Here, the jungle trooper can trade the mud and rough terrain of Military Region I for cool tropical waters and a white sand beach. Complete recreational facilities include miniature golf, movies, USO shows, a massage parlor, pool

tables and basketball courts. He can also relax in the comfort of the modern enlisted men's club and enjoy all choice of refreshment.

Eagle Beach continues to grow and improve since its beginning and provides only the best for the best--the 101st trooper.



SEASIDE FROLIC -- Eagle Beach provides rest, relaxation and recreation for the men of the 101st. (U.S. Army Photo)

Standdown (Con't from page 7)

Hot chow, a warm shower, clean clothes, cold beer, iced sodas, PX runs, outdoor movies, a tin-roofed hootch, a cot and sleep--the first real sound sleep in months.

Early the next morning the Screaming Eagles found themselves outside the perimeter wires of Phu Bai Combat Base--this time on a weapons range. Each man zeroed his weapon. During an instruction period the men were familiarized with their buddy's weapon. More firing -- machinegunners used M-79s, grenadiers fired M-60 machineguns, riflemen fired both. Everyone fired someone else's weapon. Later, M-72 Light Antitank Weapons (LAW) and the 20mm recoilless rifle were brought out.

"Man, this M-79 is the weapon for me. It sure is a lot lighter than that M-60--easier to handle. But I think I'll pass on the LAW and the 90... too loud," commented one machinegunner as he handled the M-79.

After all the firing, an aerial rocket artillery (ARA) pilot gave a talk and demonstration on the use and effectiveness of ARA. Many troopers got their first close look at an ARA Cobra helicopter.

Supper was served on the range that night. The men of the company were scheduled to attend a class on night firing techniques, but their company commander had assured them that the USO Show slated to perform for the battalion that night would be held until they returned from the range.

The show was great. Beer and soda cans were emptied. The men relaxed. Sleep came more naturally that second night in the rear area.

"Up and at 'em." It was dawn again, another day of refresher training--classroom work was on the schedule for the morning. It was hot and muggy. It was difficult to stay awake, but the men managed. They listened, learned and relearned--map reading, first aid and Medevac procedures.

Finally it was lunch time--hot meat, steaming potatoes, green beans, bread, butter, ice cream and iced tea or milk.

After lunch there was a short class in stream-crossing techniques. Then there was a demonstration on the construction and use of the single-rope bridge and the Australian poncho raft. The sun made the afternoon almost unbearable. Now the Screaming Eagles were ready to cross the "bug" using field expedient devices.

The company commander was the first man to attempt crossing the stream on the single-rope bridge.

"This is what standdown should be like all the time," yelled a Pfc as he plunged into the stream for another try at crossing on the poncho raft.

Another day came and went with more classroom work.

Suddenly it was Sunday. The men were out of the rack in record time and headed for Eagle Beach, the 101st Recreation Area on the coast of the South China Sea, for a day in the sun and surf.

"Eagle Beach really makes it."

The sandy beach, the bright sun and salty surf were a break in the routine of the infantrymen.

"Surf's up."

"Beer anyone?"

The men returned to the standdown area early the next day for their final round of classes. The day was bound to be "thrill packed," with rappelling from a UH-1 helicopter as the feature event for the day.

"It's a little frightening at first, thinking about climbing out of that chopper on a little 'ole rope, but after you get over the initial shock, it's just great," noted one veteran sergeant.

Most of the men had rappelled before, but everyone took part in the day's practical exercise. The Screaming Eagles were learning their lessons well.

During the afternoon, the battalion operations officer talked with the men about the coming mission. The men listened intently as he explained the enemy and friendly situations, the terrain, and outlined the scheduled operation.

By the time the men returned to their billets, they were all aware that for them standdown was over. The next morning they would head for the field. By mid-afternoon they would be back in the jungles searching for the enemy. Standdown would be just another memory of life in the Republic of Vietnam.

A specialist four commented, "This sort of training is good for refreshing your memory on some of the little details that may have slipped your mind, but which are very important."

"What they get during standdown training is important. If they get just one thing out of it, they have accomplished something," added one of the officers.

The last night of standdown was quiet in the billeting area. Snoring could be heard. The Screaming Eagles were resting up for the next day--retrained and ready for combat in the mountains and lowlands of northern Military Region I.

The Screaming Eagle



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Pacification, Security In Eagle Country

Unlike previous years which were characterized by violence and terror, the populated lowlands of Thua Thien Province are considered relatively secure. While the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) and the 1st Infantry Division (ARVN) conduct military operations primarily directed in the "uninhabited" canopy region, the responsibility for security in the lowlands has been taken over by the people through Regional Force/Popular Force and People's Self Defense Force units. This takeover has reduced the requirement for U.S. civil military operations to a minimum.

The PF platoons, under the command of the District Chief, are responsible for defending the hamlets and villages and are backed up by the RFs commanded by the Province Chief. The PSDF is a civilian militia for local defense originated in 1966. However, it was not until post-Tet 1968 that the concept became a reality.

Civil military operations are currently utilized to supplement Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces (RVNAF) forces and are usually conducted in conjunction with psychological operations to counter suspected enemy influence in a given area. The success of civil military operations continue to improve the security of the lowlands while promoting the reduction of such operational requirements.

Pacification and development have evolved out of the security provided in the lowland area. Inherent in these programs is the division's participation in community relations and civic action projects. In direct contrast to previous years which were characterized by turmoil and struggle for existence, maximum South Vietnamese participation in all aspects of civic action has shifted from doing things for the people to the people doing things for themselves. Projects are initiated at the hamlet/village level and processed through district to province officials where they are screened and consolidated.

After all the resources of the Republic of Vietnam Government (GVN) have been sought and proven unavailable, the division will offer assistance. Materials, if available, are provided and technical advice is made available to supplement the GVN resources. All labor is provided by the South Vietnamese people. During the past year, 397 civic action projects were completed with the assistance of the division. Projects covered a wide spectrum: schools, markets, dispensaries, wells, police stations and village/hamlet headquarters. Vietnamese participation has been instrumental in their successful completion and has clearly demonstrated the ability and desire of the people to help

themselves.

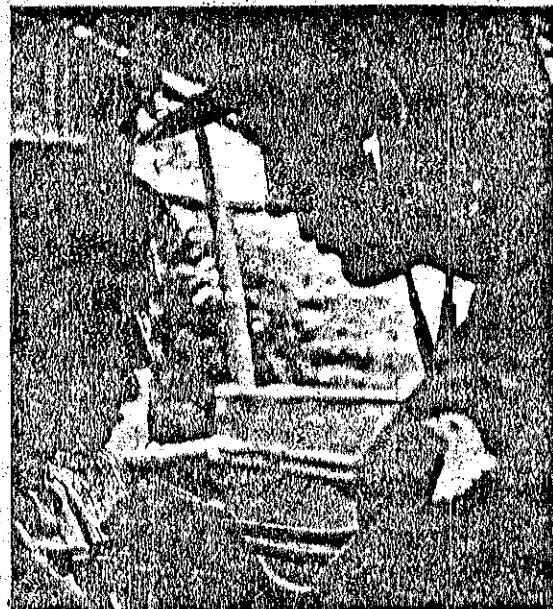
An integral part of Vietnamization is the Medical Civic Assistance Program (MEDCAP). The primary objective of the program is instruction and technical advice directed toward training the Vietnamese healthworkers to be self-sufficient and better prepared to meet local health requirements in their respective areas. During the past year more than 59,000 persons were treated under MEDCAPs. Significant results have been achieved utilizing these MEDCAPs as teaching vehicles. Vietnamese health workers are now executing the majority of duties and conducting their own MEDCAPs with division personnel assuming the role of technical advisors.

Civic action has not been limited to the development of projects directed toward upgrading the standards of living. The division has also taken preventive measures to react against natural disasters and emergencies with the establishment of a Disaster Relief Coordination Center (DRCC). The DRCC acts as a nerve center and coordinates all available division resources to assist the local government in saving the lives and property of people threatened by natural disasters such as floods and typhoons. Once the DRCC is activated, assistance is provided upon request by GVN officials. The division activated its DRCC on four occasions within the past year during which aircraft and boats evacuated thousands of civilians and delivered more than 150 tons of medical supplies and food to disaster victims. These operations have been instrumental in not only saving lives but also in demonstrating the close relationship that has developed between U.S. and GVN officials, and its effectiveness in supporting the local populace.

Community relation programs have been instrumental in promoting harmony and understanding with the people and have significantly contributed to the success we are now enjoying in what can be considered a relatively pacified province. Much of this success can be attributed to the reciprocal recognition of history, culture and tradition between our soldiers and the Vietnamese people. Noteworthy community relations programs include donor funds established by the division in support of the Mid-Autumn Festival and Tet. Screaming Eagles donated more than \$7,400 in support of the local populace during these two important holidays.

It is not unusual to find the division band presenting concerts in the city of Hue. Members also provide music instruction on a weekly basis at Hue University and have recently included instruction on the maintenance and upkeep of the various instruments. Division personnel also voluntarily teach classes in English weekly during their off duty hours in conjunction with the Hue Cultural Center.

The Vietnamese have reciprocated by presenting gifts and well wishes to our soldiers during the Christmas period and a Vietnamese traditional variety show was presented by the Hue Cultural Center on all the major 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) basecamps as a



TAKE A DEEP BREATH -- A 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) battalion surgeon examines an elderly patient during a Medical Civic Assistance Program (MEDCAP) visit to Phong Dien District, northwest of Hue. (U.S. Army Photo)

gesture of goodwill.

The importance of maintaining the best of community relations has been reflected on numerous occasions by the local populace contributing to the US/RVNAF combat success. Vietnamese citizens give valuable information on enemy activities if they feel they can trust the friendly forces with whom they

come in contact. The significance of maintaining relations has been further illustrated by the increasing reports of people frustrating the enemy by denying them food and information. Thus, our civic action and community relations efforts directed toward the theme of "helping people help themselves" has in reality helped us.

Advisors' Role Vital

American advisors have played a most important role in the Vietnam War. Advisors work with the Vietnamese farmers to help improve their crops and production techniques. Other advisors help government officials toward providing for the needs of their citizens or hospitals toward improving their medical techniques.

Probably the most commonly noticed advisors here in Thua Thien and Quang Tri Provinces, however, are the American and Australian Military Advisors who assist the Vietnamese military units. Most of these military advisors serve their tour of duty living, working and fighting alongside their Vietnamese comrades-in-arms. Many of them assist regional and popular force military units which are roughly comparable to our United States National Guard.

Less apparent but performing an equally important job and contributing significantly to the advisor effort are the U.S. personnel at province and district levels.

The senior district advisor, with his team, works with the Vietnamese district chief in all aspects of pacification and rural development, including security, economics, agriculture, fishing and road building.

The province advisor assists the province chief and province council in government matters.

There is also an advisor to the mayor of Hue who assists him in the day-to-day activities of the city. And there are advisors located with the National Police, refugees, displaced persons, and disabled veterans.

The 1st Infantry Division (ARVN), which operates in Thua Thien and Quang Tri Provinces, along with the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile), is assisted by MACV Advisory Team III, headquartered in Hue City. The team's members are assigned to various elements of the division throughout the two provinces. In addition to advising the division staff and its various special and support units, the advisory personnel are further broken down into regimental and battalion advisory teams.

A typical battalion advisory unit consists of two officers and two NCOs. The NCOs are light and heavy weapons men and when the battalion is on the move, each of them is with an officer making two smaller teams from the four-man unit in order to operate with the split command posts of the battalion. Operations usually last about 30 days and then the unit returns to a firebase for a seven-day standdown.

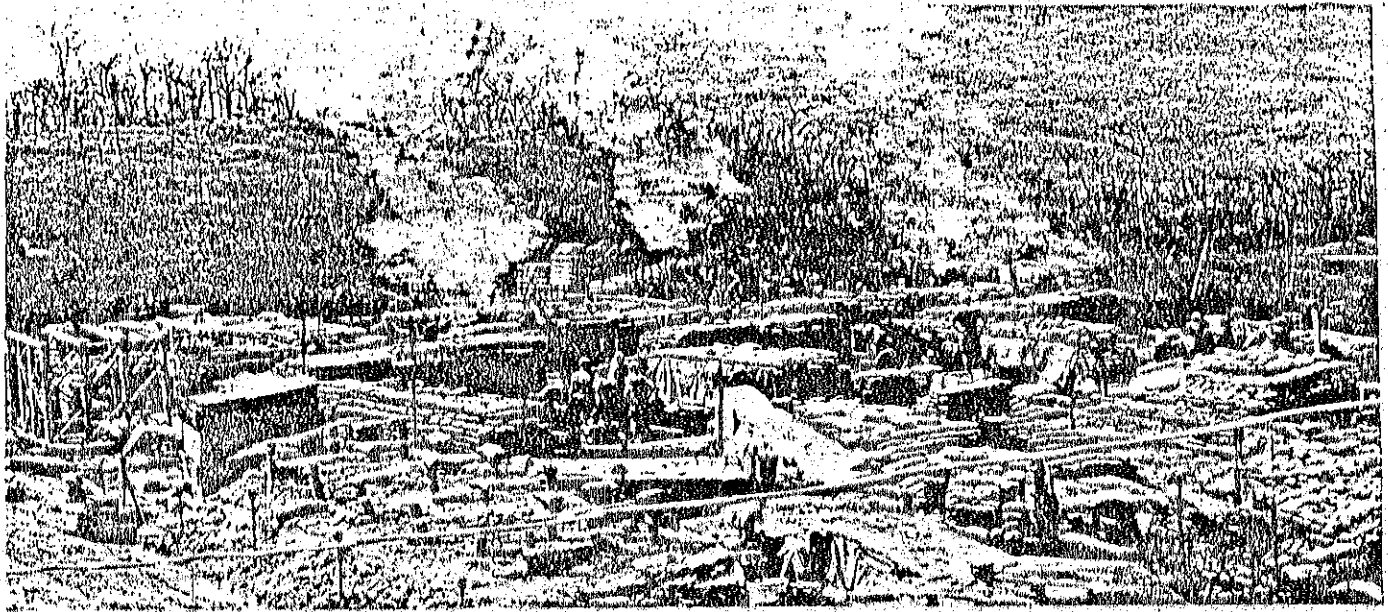
Contrary to the normal working goal, the advisors feel their real mission is to work themselves out of a job by assisting the Vietnamese military forces toward complete self-sufficiency.



MAKING FRIENDS -- To the delight of Vietnamese youngsters, a trooper of the Screaming Eagle division band offers a message in the international language of music. (U.S. Army Photo)



DISPENSARY PROJECT -- A 326th Engineer Battalion officer talks with two Vietnamese monks about the progress of the Thien An Monastery's new dispensary. The Screaming Eagles of the 326th were helping the Catholic monks with technical advice and supplies for their dispensary project. (U.S. Army Photo)



SMOKY SKIES - Smoke billows skyward as 105mm Howitzers fire in support of 101st troopers in northern Military Region I. (U. S. Army Photo)

Vietnamese Culture Centuries Old

For a century the Vietnamese have experienced the impacts of colonialism and nationalism and now a severe period of communist insurgency. Like their forebears for more than 1,000 years, most of the 17 million ethnic Vietnamese are villagers, skilled in rice farming and in fishing. A minority of some 10 per cent lives in urban areas such as Saigon and Hue. Some 750,000 people live in the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) area of operations, 200,000 of them in Hue.

Most of the rural inhabitants of Thua Thien Province are rice

farmers. Many fishing villages are located along the 90 miles of riverbank and coastline, and Hue has large numbers of artisans and a relatively large middle class.

The traditional family is made up of three generations, a senior couple, a married son with his wife and children, and the senior couple's unmarried children. This is regarded as the most desirable type of family in a society where most labor is manual farming, since it forms a very efficient unit of production.

The work within the family varies, depending on the growing

cycle of the rice, but all family members share in the job at hand. The day usually begins at dawn and concludes at about 7 P.M.

Their diet during certain seasons shows great variety, but the staple is always rice. Other dishes include vegetable soup, fish stewed in sauce, leaves or bean sprouts, fish or pork cooked in fish sauce, and salted fish. Meals are served from individual bowls with chopsticks, and the large noon meal is followed by a siesta during the hottest part of the day, when the work schedule permits.

Some 85 per cent of the people in the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) area of operations are adherents of Buddhism, one of the world's great religions. Founded about 500 B.C., Buddhism stresses the role of the so-called "middle path" of common sense and moderation in all things as the true path to spiritual salvation. The middle path tests its hope on the belief that a man can achieve deliverance by conducting his life on a middle course, avoiding extremes of all sorts and overcoming strong desires in hope of achieving a passive attitude toward worldly things.

The thoughts and behavior of all ethnic Vietnamese are also profoundly affected by Confucianism, the most pervasive, single force in the country's cultural heritage. This system of thought places emphasis on the acceptance by the individual of his place in society and his proper relationship with his fellow men. An individual is not encouraged to foster violent social change, but rather to put in order his own personal affairs and fulfill his family responsibilities.

The remaining 15 per cent largely follow the Christian faith, but are still profoundly influenced by the Confucian and Buddhist ethics.

The social values of the Vietnamese stress perpetuation of the family and execution of family responsibility, harmony in personal relationships, and mental and moral discipline.

In philosophical outlook, the residents of Hue differ but slightly from their rural countrymen, and this difference is largely due to the nature of urban life, which renders impractical the large family structure of the rural Vietnamese.

The turbulence of 25 years of war has had its greatest effect on the urban population. The massive influx of refugees has created a population imbalance.

Almost one million refugees arrived from North Vietnam soon after the Indo-China war in 1954, and since 1960 at least

another million have been displaced by military activity.

Early in the 1960s living conditions in Vietnam were better than in almost any other part of southeast Asia. The country exported foodstuffs, and population stability was a foreseeable goal. The dislocations resulting from the current conflict have drastically affected this one-time quiet society. Agriculture has been disrupted by Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army (NVA) intrusions, and the government has been strained by the social turmoil. The aftermath of Tet 1968 was a low point for Thua Thien Province.

Since that time, however, behind the shield of the 101st, reconstruction in Thua Thien proceeds steadily. The always pragmatic Vietnamese have endured a great deal these past two decades, and our efforts are providing them with the material and hope for a better future.

Province, District Government Much Like U.S. State, County

The normal civil government of the Republic of Vietnam extends from the central government in Saigon through region, province, district, village and hamlet levels.

In northern Military Region I, Thua Thien province spans most of the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) area of operations.

The province government, comparable to a U.S. state government, carries out the policies of the central government. The province chief is responsible for enforcement of laws, and general management of all province services. He reports to the national ministries on the activities of government within his province.

He is also responsible for coordination of the efforts of all territorial forces, local security forces, and police. In an emergency he may request assistance from the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces (RVNAF). He authorizes and controls the provincial budget and supervises administration of villages under his jurisdiction.

A Province Rural Development Council, a Province Council, and administrative and security sections are the basic elements of the provincial organization.

There are 10 districts and the autonomous city of Hue in Thua Thien Province. A district is comparable to a U.S. county and districts and hamlets are administrative sub-divisions of provinces and villages, respectively.

Traditionally, the district chief is the least powerful civil servant appointed by the central government. He is normally appointed by the Minister of the Interior although today's wartime district chief is usually a military man selected by the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN)

corps commander and approved by the central government.

The province chief retains all general, administrative, budgetary and fiscal powers. He normally will consult with the district chief in matters concerning villages and hamlets, but he may exercise his authority without consultations. The district chief, more than any other government official, has direct contact with the people.

Villagers are governed by a legislative Village Citizens' Council and an executive Village Administration Committee. The Citizens' Committee has five to 11 members, elected for two-year terms by secret ballot.

In principle, each hamlet is represented. The Village Citizens' Council is intended to provide representation in the local government. The committee is composed of a chairman (village chief), his assistant, and from seven to nine other members or commissioners.

They are normally the commissioners for finance and economy, administration, security, military, agriculture and land reform, legal documents, taxation and social welfare, and culture.

All members are appointed by the province chief according to the recommendation of the village chief after he has discussed the matter with the village council.

Hamlets are administered by a Hamlet Administrative Council composed of a hamlet chief and, usually, two deputies responsible for administration and security, and two assistants handling military affairs, information, and Chieu Hoi cadre.

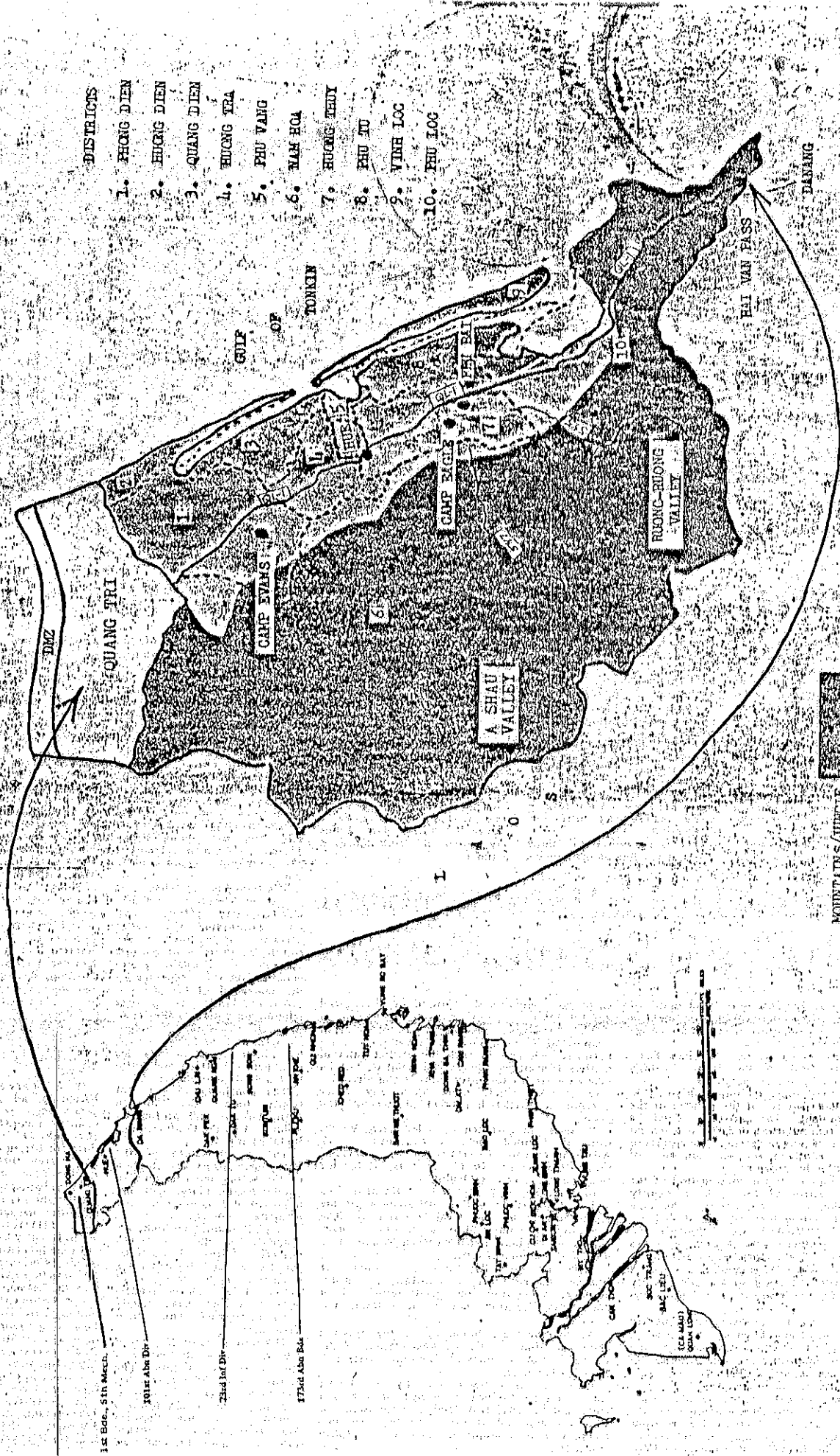
Infantry (Con't from page 1)

The Screaming Eagle battalions, all of which have proud heritages and valiant combat records, are utilized throughout the AO, with different battalions assigned to a particular brigade for a particular mission.

These battalions are:
1st Battalion (Airmobile), 506th Infantry-Currahees
2nd Battalion (Airmobile), 506th Infantry-Currahees
3rd Battalion (Airmobile), 506th Infantry-Currahees
1st Battalion (Airmobile), 501st Infantry-Geronimos
2nd Battalion (Airmobile), 501st Infantry-Drive On
1st Battalion (Airmobile), 502nd Infantry-First Strike
2nd Battalion (Airmobile), 502nd Infantry-Strike Force
1st Battalion (Airmobile), 327th Infantry-Above The Rest
2nd Battalion (Airmobile), 327th Infantry-No Slack
3rd Battalion (Airmobile), 187th Infantry-Rakkasans

Republic of Vietnam

101st Area of Operation



- DISTRICTS
- 1. PHONG DIEN
- 2. HUONG DIEN
- 3. QUANG DIEN
- 4. HUONG TRA
- 5. PHU VANG
- 6. NAM HOA
- 7. HUONG THI
- 8. PHU TU
- 9. VINH LOC
- 10. PHU LOC

MOUNTAINS/JUNGLE

PIEMONT

LOWLANDS

Welcome To The Screaming Eagles



As you begin your tour of duty with the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile), you are joining the nation's finest combat unit. Throughout its proud history, the 101st has served valiantly wherever and whenever called. For almost three decades, the division's ranks have been filled with individuals who proudly served their country and never failed to accomplish their mission. This proud heritage and tradition is your reality.

In the coming months you will be called upon to meet and defeat both North Vietnamese regular and Viet Cong forces in our area of operations. In accomplishing your mission you will encounter some of the most rugged terrain in the Republic of Vietnam - steep, rocky, forested, jungle-covered mountains in the west to the coastal lowlands on the east.

The weather in which you will be fighting will be as varied as the terrain. From the burning heat of the summer to the chilling winter monsoon rains which bring floods of mud.

In addition to fulfilling your combat role, you will be performing another, equally important job here - that of providing the "peace environment" in which the people of Northern Military Region 1 can build and rebuild their homes, their schools and their hospitals. The shield of security provided by the presence of the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) and the 101st Infantry Division (ARVN) enables the Government of Vietnam to achieve its pacification and development goals in the populated lowlands. The combat operations in which you will participate are designed to destroy the enemy forces, materiel and base areas in the western mountainous jungle and the villages. Success in these operations will permit the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) to turn over its responsibilities entirely to the Army of the Republic of Vietnam, and begin preparations to return home, with nothing but peace.

These missions, destroying the enemy, a victory and aiding the Vietnamese in their struggle for liberty and a better life, are not easy ones; preserving freedom and building the foundation for a strong nation never are. But your efforts will help launch a new era of peace and prosperity.

Take this opportunity to welcome you to the Screaming Eagle as a great unit, doing a great job - **ALIVE THE WAY!**

James M. Murphy
Major General, USA
Commanding

Vietnam Another Eagle Rendezvous

"The 101st Airborne Division has no history but it has a Rendezvous with Destiny." Those were the words of Major General William C. Lee when he assumed command of the 101st on August 18, 1942, two days after its activation.

The rendezvous forecast by Maj. Gen. Lee, which became the first book of a distinguished and gallant history, took the Screaming Eagles to Normandy, Carantan, Holland and Bastogne in World War II.

A generation later and half world away, the 101st embarked on another rendezvous. The names have changed, the parachutes have been replaced with helicopters and the enemy is different, but the proud spirit of the "Airborne" troopers continues in the Vietnam War.

The latest rendezvous began in mid-1965 when the division's 1st Brigade and supporting elements arrived in the Republic of Vietnam. During the next two years, and while under the operational control of the Americal Division, the "Nomads of Vietnam" traveled more than 2,500 miles, conducted 24 major operations and killed more than 6,000 enemy. The brigade captured enough weapons to supply eight enemy battalions and seized more than 2,000 pounds of rice during that period.

Then, on December 13, 1967, Major General Olinio M. Barsanti arrived in Vietnam with the remaining two brigades of 101st troopers - all of them ready for their "Rendezvous with Destiny."

The 101st, as always, hit the ground running. The Screaming Eagles met the enemy during the Tet Offensive of 1968, repulsed his attacks and destroyed his strongholds from Quang Tri in northernmost South Vietnam to Saigon in the south. The heroism of the division's soldiers who fought in and on the U.S. Embassy in Saigon was published in world-wide accounts of the fighting there.

(Cont'd on page 4)

Today's Screaming Eagle Shares Proud Heritage

The Screaming Eagle is everything that the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) is. He is the infantryman, the artilleryman, the aviator, the engineer, the signaller, the medic, the clerk, the supply specialist and the mechanic. He is a fighter and a provider for fighters sharing a rich history made by men of courage, initiative and dedication in the airborne tradition.

His father was the first airborne soldier and the Screaming Eagle who jumped into Normandy and Holland, and who fought the cold and the enemy at Bastogne with unfiring "Airborne Spirit."

Today, in Vietnam, he is airmobile. But, as in those other pages of our history, he is the brown, the black, the white, the businessman, the orchard worker, the rich and the poor. He comes from any and all sections of the country, from all backgrounds, and he stands together with all Screaming Eagles as a collective symbol of determination, desire and a destiny of freedom.

The Screaming Eagle

Orientation Issue

101st Airborne Division (Airmobile)

1971 Edition

101st Mission In Vietnam: Protect Vietnamese, Destroy The Enemy

The mission of the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) is to meet and destroy the enemy and to prevent him from gaining access to the populated coastal lowlands.

To accomplish this mission, the division has over 400 helicopters which carry the men and supplies of the three combat brigades, field and aerial rocket artillery battalions, the engineers and air cavalry, signal, logistical and maintenance units.

Combining forces with the 1st Infantry Division, Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN), South Vietnamese Regional and Popular Forces units, and People's Self Defense Forces, the 101st has exiled the enemy from the coastal plain to the mountainous jungles.

Operations in the 101st are conducted in and around dense jungle which often requires that landing zones (LZ) for helicopters be cut and cleared by special teams. Reconnaissance patrols frequently spend hours cutting their way through bush containing grasping "wait a minute" vines, and can cover only a few miles each day.

The weather, ranging from the continuous rain of the monsoon season which brings floods to many areas of northern Military Region 1, to the excessive heat and humidity of the summer, produces first, deep, thick mud which can stop vehicles and slow troops on foot, and then, dry clouds of dust which penetrate clothing, sticking to sweat-soaked bodies in the 100 degree temperatures.

To prepare the new trooper for these experiences, the Screaming Eagle Replacement Training School (SERTS) conducts a five-day program which includes instruction in combat assault, patrol, first aid techniques and familiarization with weapons used in the division.

At some time during the Screaming Eagle's tour in Vietnam, he can expect to go to Eagle Beach, the coastal recreation center for the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) troops, where basketball courts, shows, an enlisted man's club, and other free-time activities are available.

From the coastal regions west

to the Laotian Border and from the Hal Van Pass northward for some 90 miles, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) operations are conducted to protect the Vietnamese people, interdict and destroy the enemy, his supply routes, and his caches; and they are all conducted with success. Welcome to the Screaming Eagles...a winning team.

Infantry Units Cover AO Like Giant Net

The mission of the infantry in Eagle Country is to conduct combined offensive operations in order to locate and destroy North Vietnamese Army (NVA) and Viet Cong (VC) forces, to interdict enemy movement and to support the pacification objectives of the Government of Vietnam (GVN).

The infantry units of the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) move like a giant net over the division's area of operations (AO) in northern Military Region 1. The net is made up of men from the division's three combat brigades.

In the southern, southeastern and southwestern extremities of the 101st's AO, the "Ready to Go" 2nd Brigade defends the population centers along the coastal plain and back into the foothills.

In the central and western areas of the division's AO, the "Always First" 1st Brigade carries out operations in the valley-gorged earth as a front-line defense for the city of Hue and its surrounding areas.

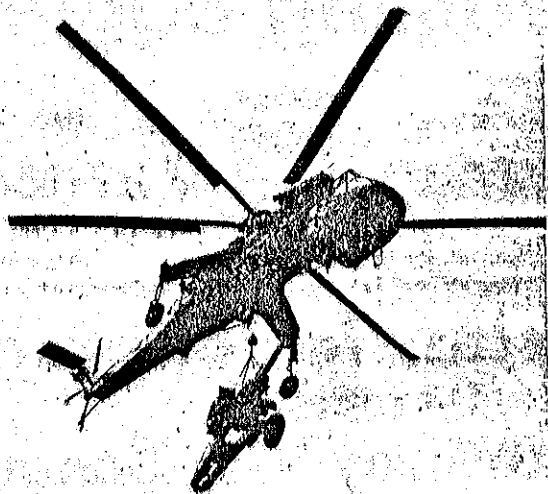
In the northern and northwestern portions of the division's area of operations, the "Triple Threat" 3rd Brigade searches out and engages the enemy in the mountainous terrain, insuring the security of the populated coastal plain and the famed "Street Without Joy" area.

(Cont'd on page 11)



EXTRACTION - A 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) trooper rushes toward one of the waiting helicopters during an extraction from a temporary firebase. (U.S. Army Photo)

'Wings Of Destiny' Support Screaming Eagles From Sky



AIRPOWER - The CH-54 Skycrane is relied upon for big jobs within the 101st. Here the giant helicopter transports a 155mm Howitzer from an airmobile artillery battalion to a forward firebase. (U.S. Army Photo)

Aviation support to an airmobile division is a massive undertaking. It consists of the airlift of personnel, equipment and supplies by the thousands. The 101st Aviation Group (Airmobile) provides this support to the Screaming Eagles.

During 1970, the "Wings of Destiny" flew more than 185,000 hours of coordinated missions while delivering hundreds of thousands of tons of supplies and over 780,000 passengers to their destinations.

About one half of the division's helicopter strength is supplied by the 101st Aviation Group and its four subordinate commands, the 158th and the 101st Assault Helicopter Battalions, the 159th Assault

Support Helicopter Battalion, and the 163rd Aviation Company, a general support unit.

Group headquarters receives missions from the division operations center. At headquarters the mission is analyzed and the requirements of the move are calculated. The group's air movements coordination element then assigns missions to the subordinate units.

The infantryman in the field is familiar with the 158th and the 101st Assault Helicopter Battalions. Every time the infantry combat assaults into a new area of operations and every time a line company is resupplied, it is the pilots and crews of these battalions who are responsible.

The 158th and 101st AHBs are composed of UH-1 Huey "slicks", the most common birds in the Screaming Eagle sky. To protect ground elements and their own helicopters, each of the battalions has a company of AH-1 Cobra gunships.

The job of building and resupplying firebases falls to the 159th Assault Support Helicopter Battalion. The 159th has the air work horses, the CH-47 Chinooks and the CH-54 Skycranes.

When artillery pieces are to be moved from the rear to a forward base, the large birds swoop down and riggers attach the howitzers to the 'hooks'. Then up and away—airmobile artillery.

The 163rd Aviation Company (General Support) is a special company designated to provide

transportation for the general staff, dignitaries, and investigation teams.

Within the group headquarters, under the control of the operations section (S-3), are the Pathfinders. This elite element of airborne troopers provides the forward ground-to-air control for the Aviation Group. The Pathfinders, known by their black hats and crest of winged torches, are an important part of the airmobile operations in the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile).

On combat assaults the Pathfinders are always among the first to be inserted. Quickly establishing contact with incoming aircraft, they coordinate air traffic by relaying landing instructions—wind velocity and direction, approach azimuths, and fire and landing pad hazards—to the pilots.

The 101st Aviation Group also has a provisional Air Traffic Controller (ATC) Platoon made up of ATC assets from Division units, consolidated into one platoon for ease of command and control. They have the mission of controlling air traffic at all Division airfields and helicopter pads, other than those controlled by Pathfinders on the firebases.

The support of the 101st Aviation Group to the Screaming Eagle is a vast, complex, beautifully coordinated and executed undertaking which requires skill and devotion to duty in the new "Airmobile" tradition. These requirements are prevalent in the 101st Aviation Group.

Tactical Marriage

Divarty Gives Queen A King

An infantry platoon inserted onto a landing zone (LZ) suddenly comes under enemy mortar and small arms fire. It is pinned down and unable to move. The artillery observer with the unit calls in his support and a marking round bursts nearby.

The observer makes his adjustments from the marking round with explosive rounds and the flashes of a secondary explosion on the position show a hit as the "battery one" screams in on the enemy mortar crews.

Helicopters of the aerial rocket artillery pound the enemy, giving the American troops the cover they need to set up a base of fire.

The scene is not unusual, but is a display of the normal coordination between the two main elements of modern warfare.

As infantry is known as the "Queen of Battle", artillery is the "King of Battle" in the giant chessboard of a war game. They go together. As a team they complement each other to get done what must be done with a minimum loss of life.

Every firebase in the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) area of operations has its artillery firepower, including, in some cases, XXIV Corps heavy 8-inch Howitzers and 175mm guns which support the 101st.

The 105mm Howitzer, with its capability of being rapidly deployed by air and quickly set up for operation, is the division's basic artillery piece. Three battalions, the 2nd Battalion (Airmobile), 320th, 1st Battalion (Airmobile), 321st and the 2nd Battalion (Airmobile), 319th Field Artillery, have the 105mm as their organic weapon.

Since the beginning of World War II when the

split-trail howitzer proved its usefulness in a direct support role, the light, fast-firing artillery piece has been ideal for covering infantry troops in the field.

In Vietnam, a new, light 105 with wishbone trail, which can be airlifted and can fire in any direction at any time, has made artillery support even more effective for 101st ground forces.

Where heavier effect is needed, the 2nd Battalion (Airmobile), 11th Artillery provides fire support with its 155mm Howitzers which can reach larger areas farther away from firebases than the 105mm can.

Aerial rocket artillery is a variation from tube artillery designed to pinpoint enemy positions from its flying platforms and apply direct air-to-ground fire on the enemy where he cannot be reached by howitzers on fixed bases.

The aerial rocket artillery works in much the same way with the troops in the field as the tube artillery does. But the pilot of the armed Cobra helicopter can see what is happening on the ground—something that the artillery battery cannot do.

Within two minutes of receiving a mission, DIVARTY's ARA helicopters of the 4th Battalion (Aerial Rocket Artillery), 77th Artillery (Airmobile), can be on their way to an enemy target.

Whether it is field or aerial artillery, Division Artillery follows the infantry in the field, providing the life-saving power which can sway the tide of battle.

This is airmobile artillery at its best, going where the action is at any time, in spite of terrain or weather, and providing the punch which makes the marriage of the "King" and "Queen" a success.

DISCOM Provides Strength By Support

"Support is Strength" is the motto of the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) Support Command (DISCOM). A record of timely and dependable service to troops throughout the division area of operations distinguishes the work of the four airmobile DISCOM battalions.

Vital services range from repair and maintenance of vehicles and weapons to supplying men of the 101st with C-rations and holiday turkey dinners. Distribution of ammunition and fuel is a DISCOM responsibility, and when medical supplies or an emergency medical "Dustoff" is needed, a DISCOM battalion answers the call.

From the time all incoming personnel arrive at the 101st until they are delivered to their respective units, they are under DISCOM control. The in-processing done at Phu Bai, the transportation to and from Camp Evans and the operation of the Screaming Eagle Replacement Training School (SERTS) are all coordinated by DISCOM.

No division functions officially without a responsive supply unit. DISCOM's 426th Supply and Service Battalion operates four stockyards at the division's Camp Eagle



DELICATE BALANCE - Maintenance in an airmobile division is a job for experts. Complex weapons systems require highly specialized technicians. The maintenance of rotor mechanisms, engines and electrical systems of choppers is a very exacting job. Here, a mechanic from Eagle Dustoff adjusts balance weights on a UH-1 Huey. (U.S. Army Photo)



FIRE MISSION - Cannoniers of the 101st fire a high angle mission with their 105mm Howitzer. (U.S. Army Photo)

(Con't on page 3)

2/17th Cav's Eyes And Guns Always Out Front

General Pershing had just pushed into Mexico in pursuit of Pancho Villa. Additional cavalry troops were needed along the border for protection and patrols. The new unit, named the 17th Cavalry Regiment, was organized from parts of five other cavalry units and activated on July 1, 1916, at Fort Bliss, Texas.

Today the 2nd Squadron, 17th Cavalry is part of the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile). It brings the timeless cavalry traditions of independent action, mobility and firepower to northern Military Region I in the form of air-mounted cavalry. Sleek, deadly Cobra gunships of the "Out Front" Squadron's three air cavalry troops deliver the Cav's violent wallop. From the jungle to the Laotian border, Delta Troop and Company L, 75th Rangers, form a maneuver element always seeking to "find and fix" the enemy.

Its Vietnam history with the 101st has been a story of continuous combat support. As the "Eyes of the Screaming

Eagles," the Cav's intelligence gathering operations have been a major factor in division operations, pinpointing enemy positions and reporting the enemy's strength.

Reconnaissance is not the Cav's only occupation, however. During the 1968 Tet offensive it fought hard and long near Bien Hoa, and it has taken an active combat role in operations "Nevada Eagle," "Montgomery Rendezvous," and "Richland Square." Today, the squadron conducts intensive "economy of force" operations deep in the A Shau, Krong Rong and Da Krong river valleys.

Especially active in combined operations with units of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) during the past year, the 2/17th was awarded Vietnam's highest medal for valor, the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm.

The Cav maintains an active psychological operations (PSYOPS) program throughout the division reconnaissance zone in addition to many specialized operations.

Associated with the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) since 1956, the 2/17th has come a long way since the days when horse-mounted soldiers charged into the pages of history. However, the 2/17th's operations in an age of airmobility typify more than ever the cavalry traditions of aggressiveness and independence.

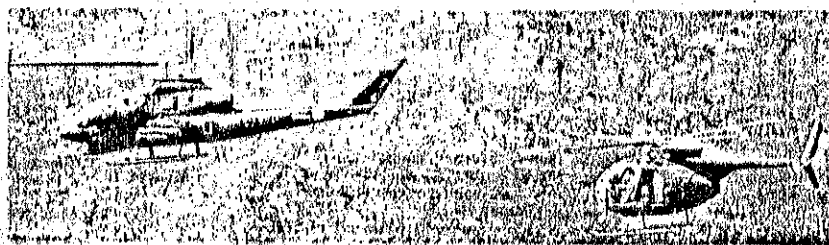
headquarters, where rations, building supplies and consumer items are stored for distribution throughout the 101st. Maintaining a division ammunition supply point and a refueling point are additional tasks for two companies of the battalion, and the other company, Company B, supplies the riggers' capability for the division. The riggers are responsible for the rigging of sling loads for movement by helicopter and also assist in the recovery of downed aircraft.

Aircraft Maintenance and supply is the specialty of the 5th Transportation Battalion where some of the Army's most skilled technicians are assigned. "Alpha" Company at Camp Eagle and "Bravo" Company at Phu Bai work long hours servicing and repairing helicopters of the airmobile division.

Whether a 101st trooper needs a tooth pulled or minor surgery, he can go to the 326th Medical Battalion. For men in the field, the 326th comes to them. Three companies serve each of the three 101st brigades, providing dispensary services and clinical testing. In addition, a 326th air ambulance platoon answers the call for "Bagle Dust-off" when medical evacuation is required in the field.

The workshops of the 801st Maintenance Battalion are stocked with mechanical, armor, and electronic parts to meet the 801st's responsibility of insuring that all items of equipment used by the division are working. Companies of the 801st, working out of Camp Eagle, Phu Bai and Camp Evans, regularly visit the field and firebases, repairing equipment on the spot and transporting the bigger jobs to their brigade-located facilities.

The 101st is a strong, fighting division and owes much of the life-line of its strength to the supplies and services of its Support Command.



THE TADPOLE AND THE SNAKE - A Light Observation Helicopter (the tadpole) is overtaken by an AH-1 Cobra (the snake) on a firing run as a "Pink Team" of the 2/17th Cav, works a valley floor. (U.S. Army Photo)

Engrs Improve 101st AO

The seven men walked slowly, sweeping the fog-bound hilltop, searching it inch by inch. Around them, 12 infantrymen had set up a perimeter to insure that the job was not interrupted.

The task of mine-sweeping and hunting out boobytraps had fallen to the men of the 326th Engineer Battalion (Airmobile) in preparation for the movement of artillery to the hill.

Not until every inch of the landing zone had been checked did the engineers stop work. Then the howitzers were airlifted into position to begin their assault, with the infantry, on an enemy entrenched in the surrounding canopy.

Clearing minefields is not the engineer's only job. Far from it. Building roads, constructing bridges, opening firebases and laying wire are other tasks assigned to the 326th.

Improvements of existing firebases include building bunkers and artillery emplacements and clearing fields

of fire for the base defense.

Much of the work done by the engineers is done for the infantry units in each of the three brigades. And they live, while in the field, the same as the infantry, with a shovel in one hand and a rifle in the other.

The engineers clear the roadways and build the bridges and firebases alongside the infantry in the heat of summer and rain of the monsoon season. The engineers have even become "waterborne" in their support for the 101st. The "U.S.S. Screaming Eagle," a former Navy craft, armed with quad .50 caliber machine guns, protects a section of the Hue/Da Nang railroad south of Firebase Los Banos and along Cau Hai Bay.

But not all their work is done during tactical missions. Some of what they do in Thua Thien Province is in support of the division's pacification and development program.

The pacification and

development work done by the 326th involves civil affairs projects, such as rebuilding roads and bridges washed out by floods or destroyed by the enemy, to open commerce with the Vietnamese markets.

Part of their work has been helping to reopen the famed "Street Without Joy" in Quang Dien District. By rebuilding roads, replacing culverts for drainage and clearing the area of mines left by the Viet Cong, the engineers have assisted more than 25,000 Vietnamese to repurchase their ancestral homes.

Benedictine monks of Nam Hoa District received material and technical advice from the 326th Engineers and were supplied sand, gravel laterite (a rock residue rich in iron), steel-reinforced rods, and ammunition boxes for a new dispensary in the village of Cu Chan, six miles south of Hue. The original dispensary was destroyed during the Tet Offensive of 1968.

In addition, the 326th provides materials for local Vietnamese construction of schools, wells, churches, and orphanages to insure the growth of the local economy.

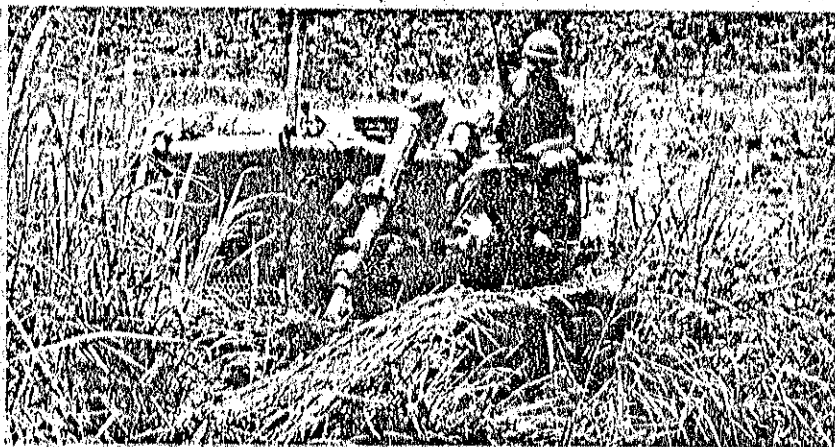
Eagle's Voice Provides Vital Link

The men of the 501st Signal Battalion are responsible for establishing and maintaining the vital lines of communication for the Screaming Eagles.

The "Voice of the Eagle" battalion provides a command communication center and switchboard at division headquarters and certain communications facilities attached to the three combat brigades. One part of their job is to connect the firebases in the forward combat areas to brigade headquarters at basecamps. The battalion also operates communication facilities for the Division Support Command (DISCOM), not control stations for the division radio nets and it directs operations of the four Military Affiliated Radio Stations (MARS) in "Eagle Country."

The Signal Battalion is divided into a Headquarters and Service Company, and Company A, an operations company. The responsibilities are then separated into four platoons: the VII Platoon, the Radio Platoon, Command Signal Center (CSC), and the Support Command Operations Platoon (SCOP).

(Cont'd on page 6)



CLEARING THE WAY - In the field, the engineer works with anything from a shovel to a bulldozer in one hand and a rifle in the other. The soldiers of the 326th Engineer Battalion (Airmobile) build roads, construct bridges, open firebases and clear fields of fire. (U.S. Army Photo)

MRI Tough From Seashore To Mountains

The terrain of Military Region I is divided into three areas: The coastal plains, the mountainous canopy, and a border region between the plains and canopy called the piedmont.

The flat coastal plains, veined by numerous canals, streams and rivers throughout a sandy vegetated area, include the lowlands. The population center is in the lowlands along the coast where the majority of the region's rice is grown. Beyond this area, going inland, the piedmont is the barren border to the mountain region and covers a six to seven-mile wide strip of land.

The steep slopes and double to triple-canopy jungle are the major areas of operations for both the NVA and the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile). Driven out of the coastal lowlands, the NVA/VC have retreated to the north-south mountain chain enclosing the A Shau, Krong

Ruong, Da Krong and Val Long Valleys.

The heavy cover provided by the mountainous jungle regions and valleys has been used by the enemy as both a shelter from Allied forces and as a hiding place for their arms and food caches. Throughout the region, enemy supply routes have been established from both Laos and Cambodia. As a result, Vietnamese/American combined military operations are regularly conducted to ferret out the enemy's supplies and interdict his movement.

Since the Tet Offensive of 1968, the Viet Cong and its infrastructure have been denied free use of the fertile lowlands. Not having fully recovered from this defeat, they have been confined to food and arms collection and small-scale terrorism. And even their efforts here are not free from Allied scrutiny as their caches and hiding places are constantly being sought and found by friendly forces.

Dustoff Pilots Fly To Save Lives

It is drizzling. Several men are playing basketball in the hangar. A pilot lies on a bunk reading in the ready room. Someone is writing a letter home. Out on the pad a helicopter sits fully equipped and ready.

Then a call comes into the flight operations room of the Air Ambulance Platoon, 326th Medical Battalion, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) — "EAGLE DUSTOFF."

A radio-telephone operator (RTO) monitors the call. An infantry unit in the canopied mountains to the west has a man suffering from a severe wound in the thigh. The field medic classifies the patient as "urgent."

The buzzer alarm sounds and the quiet building comes to life. The aircraft pilot for the medical evacuation (MEDEVAC) helicopter runs to flight operations, picks up the mission spot report and runs down to the waiting ship. The medic and copilot come running across the helipad from their billets and the crew chief comes up from the basketball court.

The crew chief unhooks the tied-down rotor. The aircraft commander and copilot strap themselves in and make a

communications check. The medic quickly checks the oxygen, bandages, and other medical supplies.

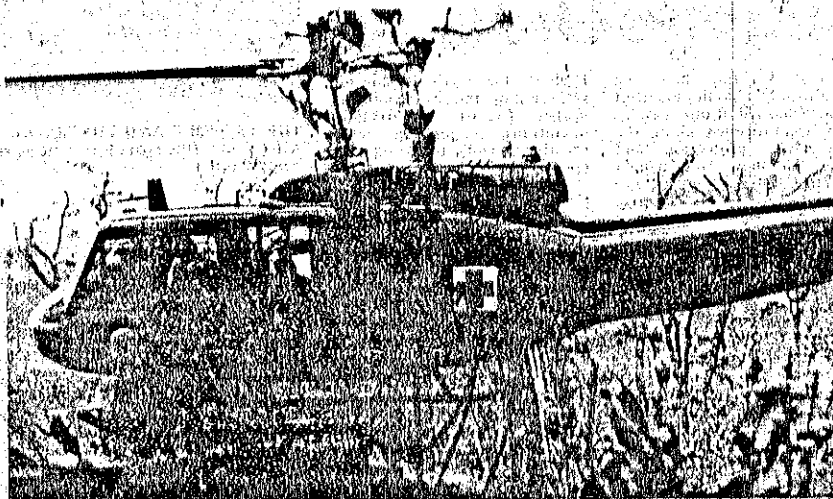
The red-crossed bird lifts off and is on its way, following the river north of Hue, then banking left. The infantry RTO gives the bird approach directions and the unit's tactical situation.

The copilot identifies the ground element by a smoke signal. The ship makes a pass over the small hilltop landing zone (LZ), then comes in. The crew chief sits ready on one side of the helicopter, the medic on the other. Both are looking down, helping guide the aircraft commander in. "Slide right. Okay, set it down light, this LZ isn't level. That's it."

The crew chief and the medic jump from the helicopter and meet several soldiers bringing the patient forward. They quickly place the man on the stretcher on board the aircraft.

"Sir, you're going to have to slide left 'getting out,'" reports the crew chief.

The ship pulls up, slides down parallel to the mountain to pick up speed, then turns east and speeds toward the 85th Evacuation Hospital at Phu Bai.



A HELPING HAND — A Screaming Eagle, wounded during a reconnaissance-in-force mission, gets a helping hand aboard a "Dustoff" helicopter. (U.S. Army Photo)

Medical treatment continues on board. The MEDEVAC corpsman determines the condition of the patient and relays it to the pilot. The pilot calls the patient's status to the evacuation hospital. Soon the bird sits down and a waiting ground crew takes the patient inside. The "Dustoff" chopper refuels and returns to its home pad.

The "Eagle Dustoff" crew's territory extends from the rugged mountains surrounding the Hoi Van Pass just above Da Nang, north to the DMZ, and from the blue waters of the South China Sea west across Military Region I and the jungle to the Laotian border.

Nonetheless, the average time from call-in to the time the patient is at the hospital is less than 30 minutes.

When the helicopter cannot land, a jungle penetrator, designed to penetrate jungle canopy, is dropped to the ground element if the man is capable of sitting on the fold-out seat. If the patient must be kept still or in a prone position, a rigid litter is lowered.

In short, the dustoff team is dedicated to saving lives and they do it every day.



Weather Plays Important Role

With few exceptions, new Screaming Eagles who come to Vietnam have one great adjustment to make. Not many Americans live in a tropical or sub-tropical climate like that in Vietnam where the wet and dry monsoon seasons alternately beset the inhabitants with heat and rain.

Weather has always played an important part in military operations, as many armies have found, to their dismay, as they marched either into severe winters or oceans of mud that oozed and sloshed tactical and logistical vehicles to a halt.

Vietnam has been called the land of mud by some who have completed tours of duty here. The wet Northeast Monsoon in the northern Military Region I lasts from the beginning of November through most of March. Mud has been deep enough at times to be unfavorably compared to quicksand. And the rains are a constant companion to the soldier in the field, on fire bases and in combat support bases.

Even some of the people from cold climates are heard to complain about the chill that descends during the middle of the wet monsoon.

What is not usually referred to as a monsoon season, is the dry, hot, dusty summer of the northern provinces, known to meteorologists as the Southwest Monsoon. Partly cloudy skies, late afternoon thundershowers and temperatures usually reaching above 100 degrees characterize this season in Military Region I.

Humidity is a major factor in both the cold and hot seasons. Both extremes of temperature are less tolerable with the dampness that encourages mildew and various skin diseases such as "jungle rot."

Equipment is likely to suffer the effects of the climate in Vietnam and requires greater care than in drier areas.

The climate can be tolerated with the use of good, common sense and precautions against deterioration of equipment. Many other Screaming Eagles have completed tours of duty with the 101st and say that they not only enjoyed their tours but would not mind living in a place like Military Region I. Of course, they've all gone home!

In MRI Skies

A.F. Adds Air Power To Airmobility

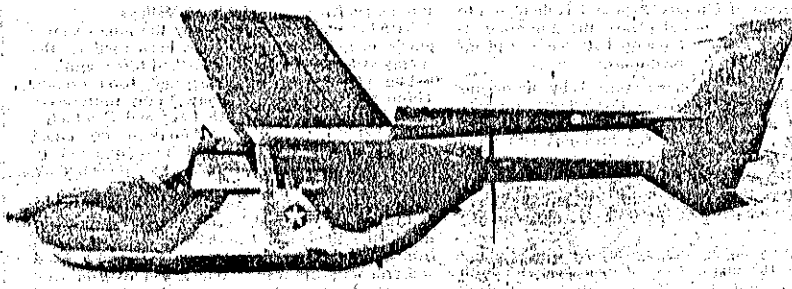
The screech of jet engines may be unnerving to the folks back home, but to troops in contact with the enemy it is strictly sweet music to their ears. In the 101st area of operations, the screeching, devastating, close air support is provided by the 20th Tactical Support Squadron (TASS) of the U.S. Air Force.

A Tactical Air Control Party (TACP) is assigned to each of the brigades of the division. Flying in the "Oscar Deuce" (0-2) aircraft and maintaining liaison with the ground troops, these Air Force pilots provide visual reconnaissance and air strike coordination for the brigades.

The Air Liaison Officer (ALO) and Forward Air Controllers (FAC) working with the 101st are all ex-fighter pilots or recent graduates of fighter pilot

training schools. At their disposal are long and short range communications systems with specialist operators. Upon receiving a call for a tactical air strike, the ALO starts the chain reaction that sends U.S. Air Force F-4 or F-100 fighter bombers streaking to the target. The ALO also has Marine A-4 and Navy A-7 fighter bombers under his control for air strikes in the 101st area of operations.

Armed with weaponry ranging from 20mm cannons, rockets, and general purpose 500 and 750 pound bombs to 15,000 pound "Commando Vault" bombs used for clearing Landing Zones (LZs), U.S. Air Force bomber and fighter-bomber aircraft wreak a veritable death in support of the Screaming Eagles.



AIR ASSIST — The "Oscar Deuce" (O-2) forward air control pilots establish liaison with ground troops while providing visual reconnaissance and coordination for air strikes. (USAF Photo)

Rendezvous With Destiny

(Con't from page 1)

After Tet, elements of the division continued to hunt the enemy, operating in all four military regions of South Vietnam and in Cambodia. It traded its 15,000 parachutes for 400 helicopters and joined the 1st Cavalry Division in pioneering the airmobile concept. On July 1, 1968, the 101st Airborne Division was redesignated the 101st Air Cavalry Division and became an airmobile division. Eleven weeks later, it was again renamed, this time as the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile).

From December 1967, when the entire division began its rendezvous in Vietnam, through December 1970, the 101st has conducted 36 major operations. During these operations Screaming Eagles have killed over 14,800 enemy, captured over 8,800 individual and crew-served weapons and more than 1,020 tons of enemy rice, grain and food stores.

However, the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) has not been just fighting and defeating the enemy in the Republic of Vietnam. It has also been helping people with Medical Civil Assistance programs, with resettlement and with material and technical assistance.

Today, under the command of Major General Thomas M. Tarpley, the 101st continues to fight the enemy and to assist the Vietnamese people in Thua Thien and Quang Tri Provinces and moves toward the division's next rendezvous—peace in Vietnam. And when that time arrives, history will again record that the Screaming Eagles did their part "All the Way."

Pay Problems?
Call HOT LINE
956-4444

Ranger Teamwork Equals Recon Success

The "Huey" helicopter inches down onto the small landing zone (LZ) and from their concealment along the tree line, a small group of men make a running break for the chopper. This has got to be fast.

As the last figure scrambles aboard the bird, a shout of "get the hell outta here" rings over the pilot's headset and in an instant the chopper is airborne. Once aloft, the men sit and relax—the first chance they've had in five long days. Another mission has been completed.

Hopefully, it will also be a time to catch up on those letters which should have been answered over a week ago—and a time to just relax. Perhaps there will even be time to rest and collect one's thoughts of loved ones.

These are not ordinary soldiers and the war they fight is not a war known to most infantrymen in the Republic of Vietnam. Theirs is a lonely war and hopefully a quiet one.

As the long range reconnaissance patrol (LRRP) unit for the division, the Rangers supplement the aerial and ground reconnaissance of the 2nd Squadron, (Airmobile) 17th Cavalry, and boast a heritage from World War II. Rangers fought behind the Japanese lines in the jungles of northern Burma as part of the 75th Infantry Division, which won fame as "Merrill's Marauders" under the command of Major General Frank D. Merrill.

A Ranger is a member of a small reconnaissance team in which endless hours of training and the trust of his buddies

dominate his environment. When a team is inserted into the triple-canopy jungle far removed from any Allied support, a Ranger is totally dependent on his own abilities to remain undetected and complete his mission. His best weapon is concealment and the tools of his trade: stealth, silence, and an alert eye for the enemy.

The five days these Rangers have just spent in the jungle were trying. But by correctly implementing their special training and through careful planning and advance work, the mission was successfully

completed.

Days prior to the mission, division intelligence begins to sort and classify data which has been gathered on suspected enemy movement and activity. It will then be the job of the Rangers to go out to the specified area and try to confirm or deny what is only suspected in the rear.

There is also much to be done by a Ranger himself. His equipment must be in top shape and ready to go. The rucksack alone that a Ranger carries takes up to four hours to pack. Everything must be precisely

planned and executed. In an area where he is always out-numbered and a long distance from reinforcements, the slightest mistake could be disastrous.

In addition, Rangers like their work. Becoming a Ranger is strictly voluntary and there is no commitment to stay.

Members of Company L express a wide variety of reasons for volunteering to become a Ranger. One of the most common reasons conveyed is the personal satisfaction a Ranger gets out of his job.

To Rangers, the first two hours after insertion are the most dangerous and mentally straining. Because they are brought in by helicopter, the enemy will know there is activity in the area. The chopper pilots stay as close to the ground as possible to lessen the chances of enemy detection and the Ranger employs different techniques when he hits the ground to throw the enemy off.

Once inserted into suspected enemy territory, the Ranger team's primary mission is to perform reconnaissance of the area and watch the enemy. By close observation of an enemy force, valuable information can be obtained pertaining to a unit's size, movement and capabilities.

Usually its mission is not to make physical contact with the enemy. However, sometimes it cannot be avoided. More than one unsuspecting enemy soldier has had his day ruined by the deafening blast of a Ranger's claymore mine.

Although a Ranger has disadvantages operating far from friendly basecamps and firebases, he also has many things going for him. A sophisticated relay system provides a Ranger with good communications with the rear areas despite his remote location. Another distinct advantage expressed by many Rangers is the close-in support of the 2nd Squadron,

(Airmobile), 17th Cavalry.

"Our support is instantaneous from the 2/17th Cav," said a Ranger officer, "and there is no such thing as bad weather to the Cav. If we have people who need to get out in a hurry, the Cav is there with the birds. There have been times when Cobras have spotted one of our ambushes and remained in the area waiting for us to call if we needed help. It's a great feeling when you're way-the-hell out there with a strong possibility of enemy troops all around and you look up and see a couple of Cobras flying overhead."

As the helicopter carrying the extracted Ranger team approaches its helipad at Camp Eagle, another group of fully-equipped Rangers comes into view waiting and resting on the edge of the pad.

They are also relaxing and thinking, much the same as the men on the incoming chopper—but their thoughts are far from better days and hot chow. They are deeply involved with the mission which they are about to begin.

The sound of the approaching helicopter brings the men on the helipad back to reality and onto their feet.

Inside the chopper the small group of men in tiger fatigues and camouflage stick-blackened faces are joking and enjoying their first cigarette in five days.

As the bird sets down, the returning Rangers disembark while the men of the team on the pad begin getting their rucksacks ready for the take-off. As the two groups pass, there are "thumbs-up" signals and wishes of good luck.

As the returnees hurry for the mess hall or the showers, the team about to be inserted boards the helicopter to leave on its next mission.

Although there is a slight air of uncertainty as to what the outcome of the mission will be, Rangers of Company L, 75th Infantry, wouldn't have it any other way.



SILENCE AND AN ALERT EYE — A Ranger from Company L (Ranger), 75th Infantry, moves cautiously through the jungles of northern Military Region I. The Screaming Eagle is part of a Ranger Team searching for enemy locations and caches. (U.S. Army Photo)

Pathfinders First, Foremost

The sun, rising, setting to steam the rain that had collected in puddles during the night, glinted on the windows and off the roofs of buildings surrounding the pad as the first sorties, lead ships in a flight of "Slicks" laden with infantrymen, lifted swiftly away from the pad at Phu Bai, dipped, turned, then headed south-southwest toward a 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) firebase.

While escorts of Cobras drifting overhead "prepped" the area surrounding the landing zone with rockets and mini-guns, artillery opened up in the distance, the exploding shells sending billows of white smoke rising from the jungle in thick clouds. A deserted firebase, closed recently as part of a tactical redeployment, was to be reopened with the insertion of an infantry company whose mission would be to establish and maintain operations in and around the firebase.

Accompanying the unit, to be inserted with the lead aircraft, were three Pathfinders, an elite team of specially trained airborne infantrymen, a distinctly different breed of combat soldier whose mission, on this and every combat assault, is perhaps the most critical of all.

Pathfinders, known by their black hats and crest of winged torches, are an important part of airmobile operations in the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile). Schooled in both air and ground tactics, the Pathfinder Platoon, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 101st Aviation Group, plays an integral role in the Airmobile concept by providing the necessary link between ground and aviation units.

On combat assaults, they are always among the first inserted. Quickly establishing contact with remaining flights, they coordinate air traffic by relaying landing instructions—wind velocity and direction, approach azimuths, and fire and landing pad hazards—to the pilots.

Responsible as infantrymen for on-site coordination between infantry and aviation elements, they are trained to maintain air traffic control at drop zones, landing zones and pick-up zones; to direct artillery strikes, aerial rocket artillery, and Air Force tactical air support. In addition, it is the Pathfinder's job to assist in the

recovery of downed aircraft, to assist in the opening and closing of firebases and to instruct supporting personnel in sling load operations and rigging techniques.

He must possess, as a prerequisite to successfully completing such missions, a thorough knowledge of all aircraft with which he is likely to come into contact and with the capabilities and limitations of the pilots who fly these aircraft.

Pathfinders currently control air operations at firebases scattered throughout northern Military Region I. Though normally a team of three is needed to support a firebase, Pathfinders presently operate in two-man teams, with one man the site commander, the other a radio-telephone operator. Operating the landing zone control net and directing all aircraft entering and leaving the firebase, Pathfinders provide the firebase with continuous support, assisting the base commander with any problems he may have in regard to aviation operations.

On combat assaults, Pathfinders organize and control operations at both the landing and pick-up zones.

Working within the spirit and framework of the program for Vietnamization, the Pathfinders have developed a training program for Vietnamese which closely resembles the training given at Fort Benning.

Offering instruction in radio-telephone procedures, sling-load operations and rigging techniques, the Pathfinders have trained the ARVN troops to maintain air traffic control during combat assaults and in day-to-day operations at firebases.

Who are the Pathfinders?

With a thorough knowledge of both air and ground tactics, they are an elite and separate breed of proud and professional combat-ready soldiers. Their skills in airmobile operations are nearly unlimited.

The flaming winged torch, symbolizing their mission of lighting the way for the airborne, is more than just a symbol—any Pathfinder will tell you that. It is a patch worn with pride by all Pathfinders—a pride backed by more than 25 years of outstanding service and tradition.



1st Inf Div (ARVN) Crack MRI Unit

The war in Vietnam has brought about changes in American forces' organization and their concepts of warfare. The most obvious change in the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) has been its trading 15,000 parachutes for more than 400 helicopters to combat assault troops into the heavily canopied jungle in Thua Thien Province.

One of the less obvious but immeasurably important changes has been the solid brotherhood established between the 101st and Vietnamese soldiers. Not only have the Screaming Eagles worked closely in battle and in civil affairs with the Vietnamese, but they have helped to train units of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam to be a formidable fighting force and have provided the airmobility to prove that point.

On January 1, 1971, the 1st Infantry Division of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) marked its 16th anniversary. In this relatively short but distinguished military history, the oldest and largest ARVN unit has met many crucial tests. But none of them has equalled the tremendous challenge of assuming ultimate

responsibility to provide military security for the pacification and development programs in Quang Tri and Thua Thien Province in which they are now engaged.

It was the 1st ARVN Division's dramatic victory over enemy forces who assaulted the city of Hue during the 1968 Tet offensive which more than anything else established the division as a force to be reckoned with and which won the support of the people of Hue and the surrounding countryside.

In addition, the gallant stand taken by outnumbered division units manning Firebase O'Reilly in August, 1970 during massive attacks from elements of the 304th and 324th North Vietnamese Army Divisions is a tribute to the modern, well-trained ARVN soldier and evidence of the success of the Vietnamization program.

The total number of enemy killed by the division during 1970 was more than 5,100. They also took more than 100 prisoners of war and received more than 100 ralliers ("Hol Chanhs") to the Government of the Republic of Vietnam (GVN) during the year.

The division's pacification program in both Thua Thien and Quang Tri has been a continuing task over a long period of time and now boasts remarkable results. Late last year, about 99% of Quang Tri's hamlet population supported the South Vietnamese government.

The GVN has decorated the 1st ARVN Division four times for extraordinary military achievement. The 2nd Battalion of the division's 1st Regiment is the only regular Vietnamese Army unit ever to be awarded the United States Presidential Unit Citation.

The division has been commanded by Brigadier General Pham Van Phu since August 23, 1970.

The division's mission essentially is to defeat enemy units which move into the Republic of Vietnam from Laos or across the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) in attempts to seize populated areas of the lowlands, and to provide military support to the national pacification and development programs in Thua Thien and Quang Tri Provinces.

Other division responsibilities include securing Hue against possible future attacks and protecting QL-1 and the populated lowlands to the east of this main highway.

The division is organized into four infantry regiments; the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and the 54th, which was added after the Tet offensive in 1968 to garrison the crucial Phu Tu District. The 7th and 11th Cavalry Squadrons bolster division forces along with six artillery battalions and two engineer battalions.

RF/PF Act As Home Guardsmen

The South Vietnamese Regional/Popular Forces structure in Military Region 1 is responsible for safety of local inhabitants and property in the districts and provinces where they live and operate. Although not part of the regular ARVN Divisional Forces, they are full-time soldiers and generally provide adequate measures against the enemy.

The RF receive exactly the same basic training as the regular ARVN soldier to prepare them for their duties. After their respective basic training, the RF/PF troopers receive additional training in local and rural development classes. Refresher courses are also given to insure that the RF/PF forces are kept abreast of changes in tactics and military situations within their area of responsibility.

Responsibility for command of the RFs and PFs rests with the Province Chief and District Chief, respectively. Each RF unit has a commanding officer, 5 other officers and 18 non-commissioned officers. The Popular Force platoon consists of one platoon leader and 31 to 34 platoon members of equal rank.

With the assistance of the 101st Mobile Training Teams, the RF/PF forces in Thua Thien Province have become effective operating units and have bolstered the overall friendly force structure in Military Region 1.

Also temporarily attached to the division are the 41st Regional Force Company and the 163rd Popular Force Platoon in Thua Thien Province, and the 29th Regional Force Company and the 168th Popular Force Platoon in Quang Tri Province.

On the waterways, the division is supported by three Vietnamese naval boat teams and a naval battalion.

Specialized reconnaissance is conducted by the division's own Reconnaissance Company, which deploys to detect enemy movement in a large area.

The elite Hae Bao Company of the 1st Infantry Division (ARVN) has specialized in conducting combined reconnaissance operations with the Screaming Eagles, and where contact has been made, has engaged the enemy with great success.

The all-volunteer Hae Bao (Black Panthers) are known among the people of Hue as "the Saviors of Hue" for their part in driving the North Vietnamese

Army and Viet Cong out of the imperial city during the 1968 Tet offensive. Now the Hae Bao spend their time searching out the enemy in northern Military Region 1.

Using helicopter support from the 2nd Squadron (Airmobile), 17th Cavalry, and one platoon of the Cav's "Delta" Troop to accompany the Hae Bao, the ARVN and American divisions have a complete quick reaction force and economy-of-force unit.

The 2/17 Troop does not go along as a training or supervisory unit, however. The troop is there to learn from the Hae Bao what the Americans can never teach the Vietnamese in their own land -- how to conduct Vietnamese Ranger operations in the canopied jungle of Thua Thien Province.

With the 1st Infantry Division (ARVN) and 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) as a team, learning from each other and fighting together have become synonymous with success.

Eagle Training School Preps Men For RVN

When most people think of a school, they conjure up images of thick, laboriously written textbooks, papers and exams, all within the secure walls of a stone building.

When school is mentioned among Screaming Eagles of the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile), few textbooks come to mind and even fewer secure walls, unless they are bunker walls.

Few schools are more highly praised than the Screaming Eagle Replacement Training School (SERTS) at Camp Evans. But then, few schools teach methods of survival so essential to the combat infantryman, artilleryman, or aviator.

When the "new guy" first arrives in the 101st, all he may hear is talk of assignment orders, equipment issue, NVA/VC troops in the 101st area of operation, and "P" training at SERTS. He soon finds out about the latter.

The five days he spends at the school may mean the difference between going home at the end of a 12-month tour of duty in Vietnam or an "early out" due to one or more of many mishaps an untrained trooper may fall victim to.

Refresher training in combat techniques, as applied to the situation in northern Military Region 1, and familiarization with all the weapons in the division, are followed by classes in enemy villages, mines, boobytraps, first aid, rappelling and a visit to the firing range.

To top off the five-day exercise, a combat assault and patrol outside Camp Evans' perimeter gives the new Screaming Eagle a first hand look at what he may face each day for the next year.

SERTS is guaranteed not to be a dull experience. The instruction is provided by handpicked NCOs who know combat intimately and can give the new trooper insight that only combat-experienced men possess.

When the Screaming Eagle leaves SERTS, he is prepared for anything, including that "Freedom Bird" 12 months later.



COMBINED DRIVE - A soldier of the 1st Infantry Division of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) joins a Screaming Eagle in investigating an enemy bunker discovered during combined operations in northern Military Region 1. (U.S. Army Photo)

Signal (Con't from page 3)

The Very High Frequency (VHF) Platoon is responsible for multi-channel communications at firebases and from command to command.

The Radio Platoon provides single signal channels used to transmit both radio teletype and voice messages over longer distances.

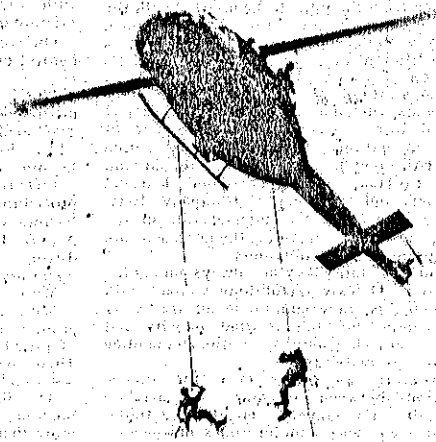
The Command Signal Center operates the Kangaroo switchboard and the Division Communications Center. The Kangaroo switchboard is the central telephone switch for the division. CSC also is responsible for the public address (PA) systems for entertainment, such as the Bob Hope and Miss America shows, and for official command ceremonies.

The SCOP Platoon supports DISCOM with a switchboard communication system, a teletype center and a logistical radio network. This platoon supports the division Forward Supply and Support element at the SCOP.

The 501st Signal Battalion also can provide special emergency reaction teams which

can be shipped anywhere in the world within a matter of hours. Recently four Screaming Eagle communication specialists were sent to Pakistan to assist in relief operations in that cyclone and flood-stricken area. Working with the United Nations contingent distributing food, clothing and medical supplies to the area of southern East Pakistan directly affected by the tidal wave and storm, the 101st soldiers were responsible for communications to and the coordination of helicopters carrying food and supplies from Dacca, in the north, to Noakhali, a southern coastal city on the edge of the disaster area. The radio and teletype operators helped coordinate the movement of over a million pounds of supplies in 27 days.

The ability of the division to respond to any tactical situation and to coordinate effectively with other units depends on the efficiency of this communications network. The division has never failed to respond to a tactical situation due to lack of communications.



GOING DOWN - Screaming Eagles rappel from a hovering UH-1 Huey helicopter during SERTS training. Each trooper participates in the practical exercise of rappelling. (U.S. Army Photo)