

# BLACK HORSE

— Find the Bastards — Then Pile On —

Vol. I, No. 6

BLACKHORSE

November 1969



**BLACKHORSE TURNOVER**—The U.S. flag is lowered from the position it occupied for three years. In formal ceremonies held on Oct. 24 the 11th Armored Cavalry Regi-

ment transferred the command of Blackhorse Base Camp to the 18th ARVN Division. (Photo by Smith)

## Workhorse Opens Roads

Since moving from Blackhorse Base Camp in early September, the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment's 3rd Squadron has been carrying out the "most successful and persistent road clearing operation yet accomplished by the Blackhorse," said Major John Sloan, 3rd Squadron S-3 Officer.

From Sept. 7 until Oct. 20, 3rd Squadron troopers discovered 58 mines. Twenty of those were found the hard way. The remaining 38 mines were uncovered by the slow, diligent, sweep and reconnaissance efforts the squadron has used to "open the rubber" which abounds in vast tracts west of An Loc.

"The tremendous value of keeping the roads through the rubber clear cannot be over-emphasized. The Vietnamese must traverse these roads to make their living. The mine sweeping effort has contributed greatly to their welfare and economy," Sloan said.

The NVA use the rubber areas to stage their attacks on U.S. bases as well as on ARVN and RF/PP outposts and civilian

population centers. For this reason, the 11th Cav must be free to maneuver through these areas on reconnaissance missions. This is possible only when the area has been cleared of mines.

The Regiment's 919th Engineer Company (Armored) has been holding periodic mine sweep and demolition classes at Quan Loi to insure that their personnel attached to the squadrons maintain a high degree of proficiency. Third Squadron crewmen who perform many of the clearing operations also attend these refresher courses.

This training has greatly increased the success of the Regiment in electronic detection. Only 10 per cent of all mines dis-

covered in the 11th ACR AO were found by this method in June. By September, the Regiment could boast of detecting over 55 per cent of the mines encountered.

Vietnamese cooperation has aided the squadron's operations. Near the village of Minh Duc, the 255 Regional Forces Company assisted M Company on a sweep. "Civilians even pointed out suspected mine locations," Sloan said.

The entire road clearing operation is a fine example of U.S.-Vietnamese cooperation. Through this joint effort more road is now open in the area than there has been for some time.

## Troopers Kill 32

Blackhorse activities this month have been characterized by an increased effort in training the Vietnamese soldier and a decrease in enemy activities.

The regiment has instituted a program of "Allons—Dong Tien," "Let's Go—Forward Together." This is a program designed to train the ARVN and local Vietnamese forces through formal classes and combined Vietnamese-U.S. operations. First Squadron has begun a five-day training program designed to familiarize the local RF companies with armor-infantry tactics. Third Squadron has been training with the 15th Cavalry Regiment (ARVN) in armored cavalry tactics. This has included training with organic weapons

and a Track Crew Proficiency Course (TCPC) designed to improve crew reactions to simulated enemy targets.

The largest single enemy contact occurred three miles southwest of Loc Ninh when a "sniffer" helicopter received small arms fire from a platoon-sized enemy force. F Troop reacted, and in the ensuing battle 13 enemy soldiers were killed by F Troop and supporting artillery, helicopter gunships, and airstrikes.

Scattered action in the Blackhorse area of operations also accounted for 19 more enemy soldiers; five of these by K Troop in the Blackhorse base camp area.

# Chopper Crew Saves Flyers

A nerve-racking blind hover for 15 minutes in enemy-infested territory and acrobatic rescue work by a gusty Blackhorse helicopter crew recently saved the lives of two downed flyers and won valor medals for members of the 11th Cav chopper team.

Colonel James H. Leach, Regimental commander, awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross to Warrant Officer Clarence P. Burkett of Daleville, Ala., the pilot, and the Air Medal with "V" to Warrant Officer Peter A. Weigand of South Bend, Ind., the copilot.

The gunners, Specialists Four Steve C. Shuffler of Morgantown, N.C. and Daniel I. Hobbs of Madison, Ind. received the Bronze Star with "V". A passenger, Captain Martin D. Lowrey of the 37th Medical Company, also received the Bronze Star with "V".

The Huey chopper of the Regimental Aviation Platoon was completing a routine courier run from Blackhorse Base Camp to Bien Hoa on Oct. 8 when a Mayday call crackled over the "guard" international emergency frequency, reporting a light observation helicopter downed by enemy fire about 15 miles southeast of Bien Hoa.

"I diverted and found a fixed-wing circling in the area, a LOH hovering directly over the wreckage and a couple of Hueys and Cobras working security," said Mr. Burkett. "Nobody could get on the ground. The area was covered with something like bullrushes or reeds but it was as dense as jungle bamboo, about 12 feet high.

"The only possible landing spot was about 150 meters from the crash — too far for my men to go through that growth," he continued. "I finally spotted a clear area about five feet by five feet, room enough for the tail ro-

tor only. I backed the Huey down and put the tail into the spot."

Crew chief Hobbs then moved forward through the dense growth toward one of the downed crewmen. "I couldn't see him until I nearly ran into him," he said. "His leg was torn up and bleeding. I helped the guy to the chopper but couldn't get him up inside, so the captain gave me a hand and the copilot crawled out of his seat and lay on the floor to haul the guy inside."

The door gunner, Shuffler, meanwhile located the other downed flyer, the pilot. "He was waving a .45 in the air," Shuffler said. "After I took the gun away the guy passed out."

Hobbs had returned by that time, so the two men carried the injured pilot to the still-hovering Huey and hoisted him inside. Cobras rolling into the areas as the Huey lifted out received enemy ground fire.

Captain Donald E. Eaton of Woodstock, Vt., Aviation Platoon leader, later explained the exceptional skill of Mr. Burkett's maneuver. "It takes an exceptional pilot to hold a ship steady in a hover under the best of conditions, but Mr. Burkett had no observers to tell him the position of his tail rotor. The men climbing in and out continually changed the ship's center of gravity."

Had the tail rotor touched any of the vegetation the Huey would also have crashed, and the pilot knew it at the time, Eaton said.

Mr. Burkett admitted that the flight was a strain but dwelt on the crew's actions. "Wearing only their side arms, Shuffler and Hobbs moved without hesitation into enemy territory where their visibility was less than four feet," he said.



**CORDUROY ROAD**—Blackhorse Troopers from 2nd Squadron's G Troop encountered an old enemy, mud, while returning to FSB Marge. They reached back into history for a solution to the problem and constructed a log road. (Photo by Smith)

The 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment has been awarded the Award of Honor for Safety in the USARV 1969 safety competition among brigade-sized units.

The Regiment will soon be presented a trophy symbolic of the honor.

Allons; Keep up the good record, and armor yourself with safety.

Colonel James H. Leach



## Commander's Column

# 'Forward Together' Is Key to Victory



The joint U.S.-Vietnamese program of Dong Tien (Go Forward Together) saw an important milestone passed recently with the turnover of Blackhorse Base Camp to the 18th ARVN Infantry Division. Here was but one of a series of progressive actions which gladden the hearts of Americans and Vietnamese as it brings closer the successful end to this long and savage war.

Although the change of residents at Blackhorse marks a realization of the effectiveness of South Vietnamese fighting troops, it also is the symbol of an important change in our operational concepts of how the war should be fought. We of the Blackhorse have applied our motto "Allons" to "Dong Tien," thereby adding a new dimension to the program—"Let's Go Forward Together!"

Under this program, the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment like every other U.S. fighting unit in this country is pursuing the war on two fronts. On the one hand, we are continuing our mission of defense of the people and installations in our respective areas of operations and striving to prevent a buildup of enemy strength which might endanger them.

On the other hand, perhaps more quietly but with equal vigor and determination, we are sharing our best knowledge and experience with the Vietnamese civic leaders and troops in order that they may benefit from modern technology and tactics in developing their own military security force and civic management.

There are at present several concrete applications of this program underway. In the 1st and 2nd Squadrons our troopers are helping to train Regional Force Companies in the An Loc and Loc Ninh area, while members of the 3rd Squadron are sharing their armor training and combat experience with the 15th ARVN Cavalry Regiment. These two formal training programs are only a small part of the overall effort being put forth by all elements of the Blackhorse. Improved U.S.-RVN combined operations with Regional Forces and Popular Force elements go on at an ever increasing rate. Cooperative ventures with the Civilian Indigenous Defense Group (CIDG) and increased Medical Civic Action programs add to the security of the area and assist in raising the general standards of public health in the region.

In these ways, the Troopers of the Blackhorse are doing their part to help bring closer the day when, having "gone forward together," both we and our Vietnamese allies can see in this country true peace and triumph over the Communist aggressors.

**JAMES H. LEACH**  
Colonel, Armor  
40th Commander, The Blackhorse Regiment

## Sheridan Team Visits

The Department of Defense Sheridan Team, a group of experts evaluating the Sheridan Combat vehicle, visited the Regiment on Oct. 19.

Following the initial briefing presented by Major Donald H. Volta of the Regimental S-4 section, the team, headed by Mr. Edward Burke, retired Vice President of Caterpillar Corporation, went to the field to record the comments and impressions of the members of B, C and I Troops regarding the Sheridan.

The crews generally praised the vehicle's suspension system and commented favorably on the protection the armored vehicle afforded them. They rated

the firepower and mobility of the Sheridan superior to that of the M-48.

The Troopers did, however, express concern over the frequent failure of the main gun recoil seals and turret electrical system. They almost unanimously called for the removal of the grenade launchers which are easily damaged by the thick foliage because of their vulnerable position on the vehicle.

Mr. Burke said his visit to the Blackhorse Regiment was very worthwhile and that the impressions and information gained from the men of the Regiment would be of significant value to the team in formulating their report upon their return to Washington.



"Say, Buddy, do you smell fish and rice in here?"

## Chaplain's Corner

### Thoughts on Short-Timers

By Chaplain (LTC)  
William P. Trobaugh

Getting short is one of the things that happens to all of us sooner or later on this tour. And for those of us with much time left to do, these short-timers can really become a nuisance, mainly because they bring attention to the fact that we aren't short. Several things characterize most of the short-timers I've seen.

First, the last part of the tour is longest. Many have told me, "Since I've gotten under a hundred days, the days just drag by. Time seems to have stopped." The reason for this is obvious, of course. The whole focus of attention is on time itself and, when watched, clocks move very slowly. As long the job or some other object is the center of concern, time moves right along. But let time be the concern, it just seems to stop.

Secondly, the short-timer becomes very worried about his

personal safety. "Bunker complex" develops so that a man wants to stay underground "just in case." A short-timer ordered into the field if he has been in a base camp suddenly feels put upon and treated unfairly. With some, this fear hampers their ability to respond properly when the chips are down. "I'm too short for this" is often heard if anything dangerous comes up. The reason for this is also obvious: There is something worth living for and I don't want to miss it.

Third, the future becomes important. Education, work, family, or fun plans are made, and what preparation can be taken care of from here is done, when a man gets short. Anticipation is the key feeling with a making-up-for-lost-time element thrown in. Excitement runs high with thoughts of the good things to be done upon arrival back in the States.

Fourth, it hits the short-timer how much this experience has meant. In spite of all the joy of returning home, a sadness over leaving creeps in. No matter how bad it's been, saying goodbye to good friends and

familiar surroundings bring a sense of loss. All of a sudden the tour doesn't seem as bad as it seemed before and the good times and good things that happened here are remembered.

Fifth, there is a sense of accomplishment, a feeling of "I did it," at the end of this tour. And that is probably the best feeling of all. Success is a great experience for any of us, and completing this tour gives us this great feeling.

There are other emotions associated with being a short-timer, too, but these are the ones this chaplain wanted to highlight because they are also the basic feelings one who is religious experiences. Look back at the list, the importance of time, the concern for personnel safety, the hope for the future, the gratitude for the past, and the sense of accomplishment. These are what those who live in the knowledge of God have all the time. For others this experience comes only at the end of a tour like this. So if you want to have the same sense of joyous anticipation all the time that the short-timer has, try your choice of religions and practice it seriously.



## Cooks Happy if Troops Are

At 6'4" and 250 pounds, Sergeant First Class Walter Page definitely doesn't look like anyone's mother, but he uses a lot of mom's special touches to put out good chow for Blackhorse Troopers.

Sgt. Page, of San Bernardino, Calif., is the Regimental Headquarters Troop mess steward at Quan Loi. Under his leadership and with the aid of talented cooks, the Headquarters Troop mess hall has become known as the place to eat at Quan Loi.

"The Army's recipes are very good, and we get fine food to work with. But sometimes I add my own personal touch to make sure the food turns out just right," Sgt. Page said in explanation of his success.

"Take spaghetti, that's one of the troops' favorites," he added. I make it by the book and then I

taste it and add a little bit of this and a little bit of that until I'm satisfied."

Sgt. Page admits that it takes good cooks to run his mess hall right. "My cooks know their job involves a lot more than just getting the food into the troops," he said. "Good chow is also an important morale booster. A lot of these guys will end up eating with their plates on the hood of a jeep and their feet ankle-deep in mud. We make the food as attractive as we can to take their minds off their surroundings."

One of the cooks, Specialist Four Arnold Mitchell of Atlantic City, N.J., mentioned burns from field stoves as one problem cooks face in the rustic surroundings at Blackhorse Forward. "They're inevitable if you work around these things all the time. In the dry season the mess

tent will get hot from the sun and the open burners and boiling pots make it worse."

His colleague, Specialist Four Joseph M. Sadowski of Somerville, N.J., said that he knows the troops appreciate the food despite their griping. "I guess maybe it's just tradition to gripe about the chow."

What appears on the table at Quan Loi is controlled by a 28-day master menu which specifies meals for Army units worldwide. This causes problems when actions prevent the delivery of the needed ingredients.

Sergeant First Class Manfred D. Sington described the process of improvising in such emergencies. "If the master menu on the 28-day plan calls for hamburgers and french fries tonight, and there's only ham available,

(Continued on Page 3)

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|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Commanding Officer  | COL James H. Leach                                 |
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| Press Officer       | 2LT David N. Greenlee                              |
| Information NCO     | SGT Raymond A. Waldrep                             |
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## ACT Flies Under New Commander

The Thunderhorse is flying under a new leader this month. Major James W. Bradin has left the Air Cavalry Troop command position to take over as regimental staff aviation officer.

Major Charles W. Abbey, a veteran Blackhorse Trooper, took over as Air Cav Troop commander on Oct. 13. He previously served with the Cav in 1961 at Augsburg, Germany, was with the Regiment when it deployed in Vietnam three years ago, and served a tour here in the 2nd Squadron aviation section.

The new Air Cav commander comes to the Regiment directly from the 14th Armored Cavalry Regiment in Germany, where he held the same post.

Maj. Abbey, a pilot for nine of his 10 years in the Army, is qualified to fly the OH 13 (Sioux), the OH 23 (Raven), the CH 34 (Choctaw), and the entire Huey series of aircraft.

Raised in Buffalo, N.Y., Maj. Abbey now makes his home in Bangor, Penn., where his wife and two children reside.



**THUNDERHORSE COMMANDER**—Maj. Charles W. Abbey, new Air Cavalry Troop Commander, receives the unit's colors from Col. James H. Leach, Regimental Commander. (Photo by Smith)

## Armor Role Changes, But S-3 Keeps Up

Lieutenant Colonel James B. Reed, new Regimental operations officer, is a native of Waco, Tex. and a veteran of armor operations. He comes to the Blackhorse directly from the Army Operations Center at the Pentagon.

Lt. Col. Reed received his commission as a second lieutenant after graduating from New Mexico Military Institute in 1951. He then served in armor with the 1st Armored Division at Fort Hood, Tex. and with the 7th Regimental Tank Company, 3rd Infantry Division during the Korean War.

He has also served with the 1st Armored Division for a second time and has commanded a troop of the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment in Germany.

Contrasting the 11th Cav's role with what he had learned in Europe and Korea, Lt. Col. Reed observed that the use of armor here differs greatly from its traditional use.

"Armor in Vietnam has molded and changed the traditional concepts to fit the war and terrain. The tactics employed are different, but they work," he added.



LT. COL. REED

## Tanks are His Cup o' Tea

British tanks have one overwhelming advantage to our M-48s. They're equipped with a gas stove and electric kettle so crews can make tea or coffee even while they're moving on a thunder run.

This minor difference was pointed out on a recent visit to 3rd Squadron by the Assistant British Defense Attache to Saigon, Major Patrick Cable-Alexander.

The major is a member of the Prince of Wales' 3rd Dragoon Guards. As Attache he reports to his superiors his assessment of the Vietnam conflict and any impact it may have on the British Nation. He also studies the conflict for lessons learned about military operations under conditions imposed by the enemy and terrain in Vietnam.

The major outlined a few conclusions he has drawn after 18 months in-country.

First, he said, there is no country that is not armor country. There may be certain patches of swamp or jungle that will require armor detours, but AVLBs and airlift capabilities permit armor to navigate terrain formerly considered off-limits to the heavy tracks.

Armor has proven itself an in-

dispensable morale factor in combined operations with infantrymen whether punching through the jungle or backing up the ground troops with its massive direct fire capability.

Maj. Cable-Alexander said the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment has shown itself to be the unit best designed to exploit the value of different armored vehicle configurations. The M-48s lead where a jungle-smashing force is needed. The Sheridans can run the roads for fast convoy escort and reconnaissance. And he said the move to Bo Duc and back exemplified the Regiment's ability to airlift, permitting quick long range relocation of heavy firepower under tactical conditions.

Another lesson learned is the value of choppers in combined operations with armor. Not only do they act as eyes for armor in the jungle and on convoy escort, but also the birds can often fix and pin down an enemy unit until the big guns arrive.

Lastly, Maj. Cable-Alexander

spoke of the flexibility which massive air support gives the armor unit. The tracks can move anywhere within air range of supply dumps and always be assured of sufficient ammo, food, fuel and medical support to continue the mission.

The major is originally from Eastbourne, the County of Sussex in England. After high school, he attended the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst, the British equivalent of West Point.

He now lives in Saigon with his wife, Diana, and two daughters.

Maj. Cable-Alexander pointed out that there is less formality between officers in the British Army than in the American. A first lieutenant will often address a major by his first name. At the same time there is more formality between the officers and the NCOs and EM. Other than a visit to the officers' mess on New Year's Day, there is almost no social contact between officers and EM. But in the British Armed Forces as in the American, much of the formality disappears on the front lines.

He noted that the British Military enjoys high social status (Continued on Page 6)



# Valorous Deeds Cited

## DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS

Platoon Sergeant Donald W. Kelly, B Troop.

## DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

Major John C. Gilbreath, 2nd Squadron Headquarters.

Captains Theodore A. Duck, Air Cavalry Troop, Tom W. Mitchell, Air Cavalry Troop.

First Lieutenants Thomas A. Ceres, Air Cavalry Troop, Thomas D. Mott, Air Cavalry Troop, Jerry W. Thurman, 2nd Squadron Headquarters, Fred J. Van Orden, Air Cavalry Troop.

Warrant Officers Vito Bubell, Air Cavalry Troop, Paul D. Madsen, Air Cavalry Troop.

## SILVER STAR

Captain Malcolm S. Gilchrist, Regimental HHT.

First Lieutenant George A. Greene, M Company.

First Sergeant Russell R. Crowley, H Company.

Staff Sergeant Clinton C. Adkins, M Company.

Specialists Four Thomas P. Landman, H Company, Billy R. Maywether, A Troop, L. V. Tyler Jr., G Troop.

Private First Class Rothie Brackins, Jr., Air Cavalry Troop.

## BRONZE STAR FOR VALOR

Lieutenant Colonel David K. Doyle, 3d Squadron Commander.

Major Robert D. Foley, former Regimental S-2.

Captain Paul L. Benchwick, 3d Squadron Headquarters.

First Lieutenant Michael F. Kehoe, A Troop.

First Sergeants Horace L. Baxley, A Troop, Robert F. Madsen, C Troop.

Platoon Sergeant Dalton M. Gordon, G Troop.

Sergeants First Class John W. Corder, M Company, Frederick X. Ravin, 919th Engineers, Carlos A. Sanders, 919th Engineers.

Staff Sergeants Aron Hernandez, G Troop, Homer Hungerford, Air Cavalry Troop.

Sergeants Jimmie E. Buss, M Company, Richard M. Hunter, F Troop, Harvey L. Lowe Jr., C Troop.

Specialists Five William R. Butler, 1st Squadron Headquarters, Roger D. Smith, D Company, Donald Van Boekel, F Troop.

Specialists Four Keith J. Bach, B Troop, Barry J. Beaven, C Troop, Robert G. Burgoyne, Air Cavalry Troop, Jose A. Hernandez-Ortiz, 919th Engineers, Stanley J. Lanno, G Troop, Paul R. MacMillan, A Troop, William McFarlane, G Troop, John Priadka, G Troop, John C. Rodgers, C Troop, Jimmy D. Tarver, Air Cavalry Troop.

Privates First Class Elmer A. Amen Jr., A Troop, Daniel C. Castro, A Troop, Kenneth R. Craig, 919th Engineers, Larry J. Jones, 919th Engineers, David J. Shapiro, A Troop.

## ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL FOR VALOR

Major John C. Gilbreath, 2nd Squadron Headquarters.

First Lieutenants Peter L. Born, 409th Radio Research Det., James C. Crowley, H Company, Gary G. Callaway, A Troop.

Staff Sergeants Charles O. Diamond, A Troop, Glenn W. Jackson, 1st Squadron Headquarters, David E. Wright, M Company, William J. Emanuel, Regimental HHT.

Sergeant John T. Scott, Air Cavalry Troop.

Specialist Five Robert C. Foster, 2nd Squadron Headquarters.

Specialists Four Gregory English, 919th Engineers, Herbert H. Fabian, 1st Squadron Headquarters, Glenn E. Francis, C Troop, Raymond C. Harold, F Troop, Bernard L. Reid, F Troop, Rudolph B. Rojas, A Troop, Kenneth W. Webb, L Troop.

Privates First Class Lawrence Jaros, D Company, Darrel R. Smith, D Company.

## AIR MEDAL FOR VALOR

Warrant Officer George M. Korycinski, Air Cavalry Troop.

## Cooks Make Extra Effort

(Continued From Page 2)  
Fryer, Regimental food service advisor, discussed some of the problems of feeding the Blackhorse. "We feed a total of 4,000 persons in 28 mess halls stretched over 150 miles from Bien Hoa to Loc Ninh to Bo Duc. Four thousand men need a lot of food. For steak, that means that we've got to distribute and prepare a total of 2,200 pounds of meat and make sure it gets out to every troop area."

Sgt. Wilson, of Fristoe, Mo., says the troops in Vietnam are actually getting better food than they would in the stateside Army. "We get plenty of fresh meats and vegetables, actually in greater quantity per man than back in the states," he explained.

Lack of refrigerated storage means frequent trips to the ration breakdown point. The Headquarters Troop cooks get canned goods three times a week and pick up perishable meats and vegetables daily.

Warrant Officer John P.

Sergeant First Class Bruce W. Steward, who runs the officers' mess, also gave some insights into feeding officers. "Sometimes the officers get pastries we make on the side, but other than that they eat the same food as the troops," he said.



# Blackhorse Base Camp 1st 'Vic

## 18th ARVN Division Ta



Col. Leach Bids Base Camp Farewell

By Ray Waldrep  
 With the lowering of a large U.S. flag on Oct. 24, the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment relinquished its ownership of the base camp Blackhorse Troopers carved from the jungles of Vietnam three years ago.

ARVN Brigadier General Lam Quang Tho, commanding general of the 18th Infantry Division, accepted the command of Blackhorse Base Camp from Colonel James H. Leach, Blackhorse commander, during the 45-minute ceremony.

"We are pleased to turn over these facilities to our close friends in the 18th Infantry Division, with our profound hope that the future will fill these buildings and streets with a happy, free people, void of fear," Col. Leach told the assembled Troopers and guests.

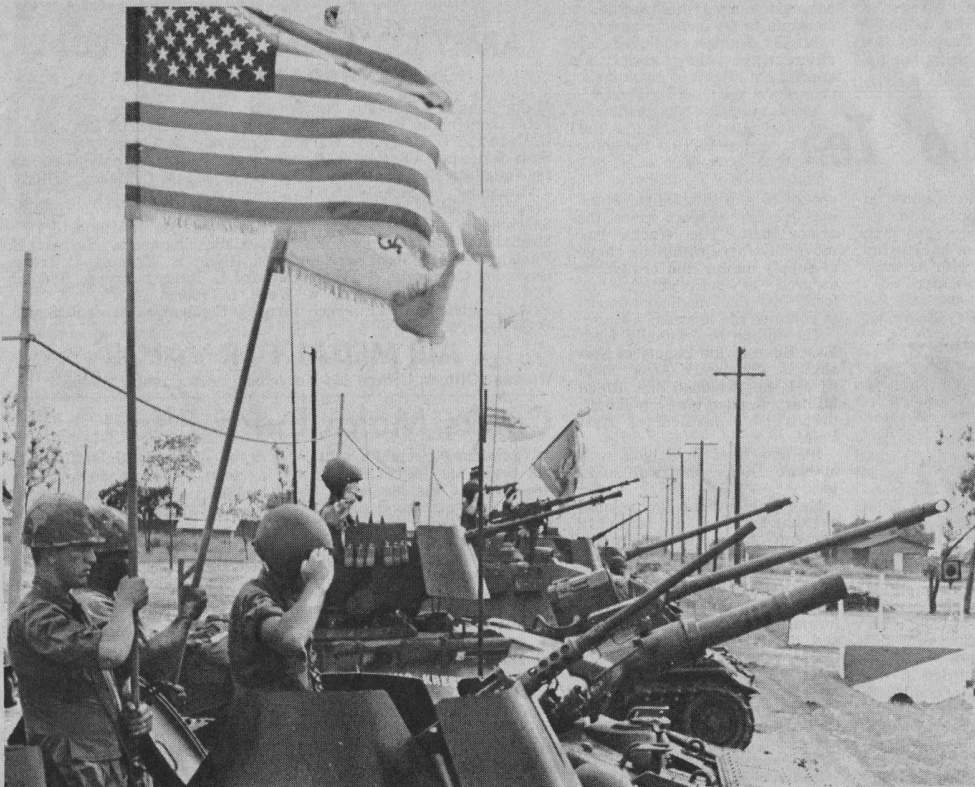
Blackhorse is the first major U.S. base in the III Corps Tactical Zone to come under ARVN control. The turnover was formalized by an agreement signed by Lieutenant General Frank T. Mildren, USARV deputy commanding general, and by ARVN Lieutenant General Nguyen Van Minh, Capital Military District commanding general.

"This occasion marks in the combined effort governments to attain goal," said Gen. Mildren. "The 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment operated alongside forces of Vietnam, principally the 18th ARVN Division, in common enemy... Throughout the past year, we have seen progress that recognized the need for U.S. forces in this area."

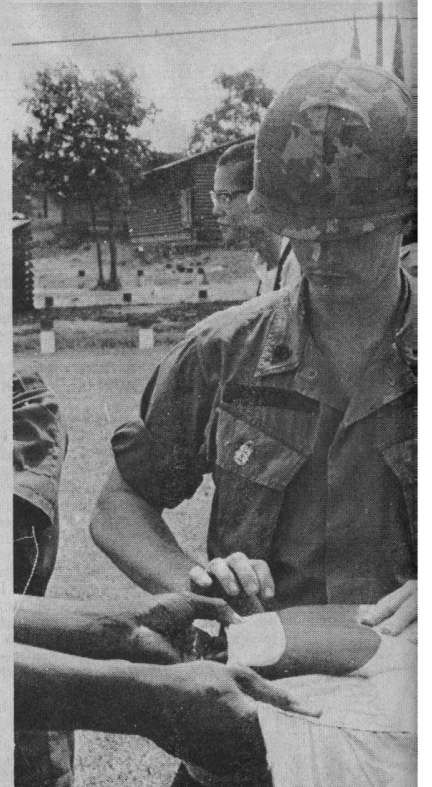
The campsite, 12 kilometers from Xuan Loc, was chosen for its easily-defensible position and good drainage. In three-year history, one time secured the camp from remaining squadrons of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment.

In June of this year, the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment moved its headquarters to the second time, the 18th Infantry Brigade assisted of the base camp. A detachment reached at USARV to turn the camp over to

Photos E  
 Mark Smith & Ra



K Troopers' Mounted Color Guard



Guards Fold



# 'Vietnamized' Facility in III Corps

## Turnover Over Cav Base

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meters south in 1966 by

William J. ded location oughout its quadron at a hile the two ducted mobi- e sectors of ne.

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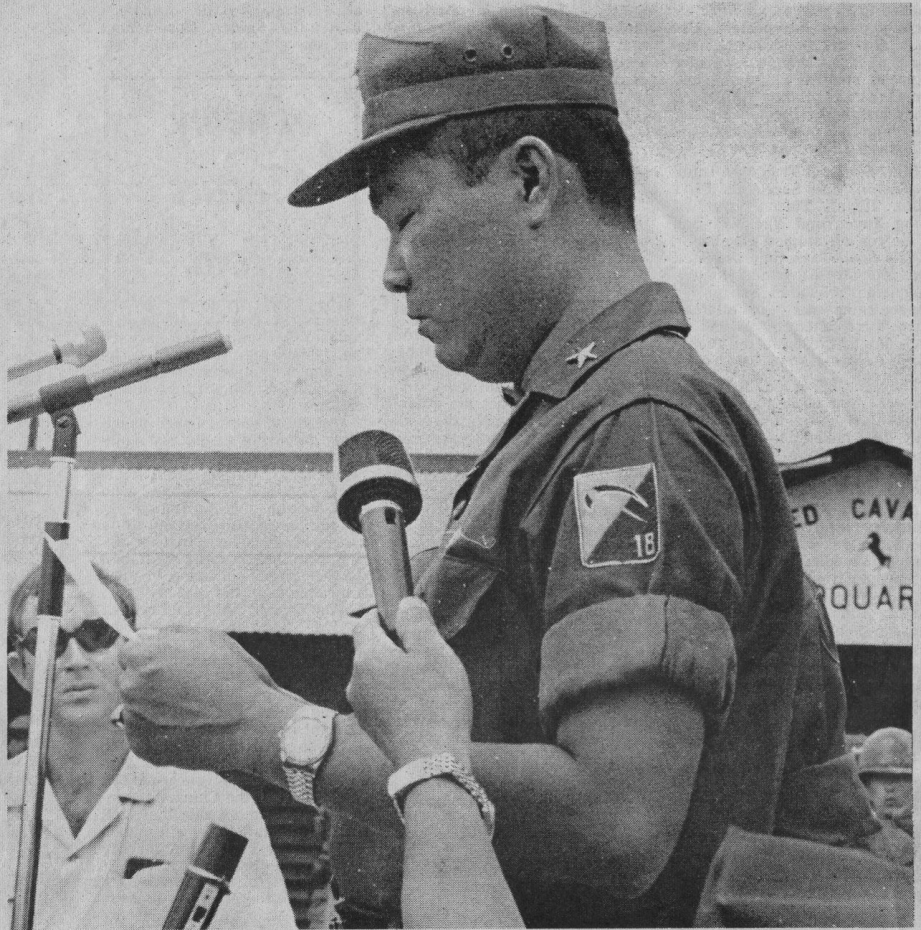
In anticipation of the move from Blackhorse, the Regiment had already established separate base camp areas for its elements at Bien Hoa Army Base, Camp Frenzell-Jones and Di An.

The 18th Division, formed in 1965, has often worked with the Blackhorse Regiment in operations in the Xuan Loc and Bien Hoa areas. The division will maintain one full regiment at the camp.

Some members of the Blackhorse were saddened at leaving the Regiment's home in Vietnam, even if it was a home that many Troopers seldom saw, Col. Leach said in his address.

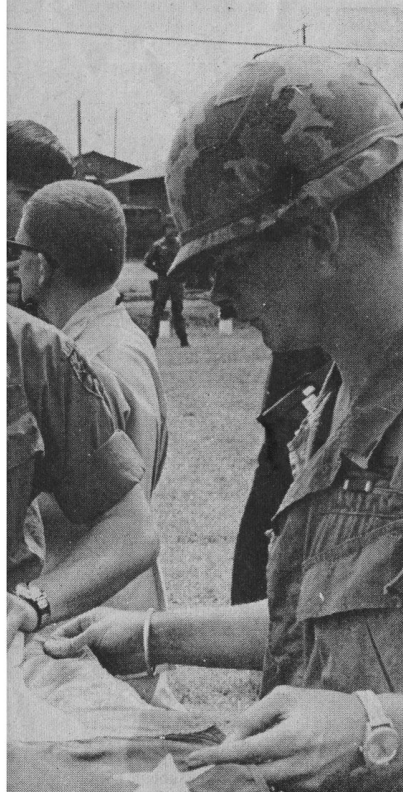
"As you welcomed the Troopers of the Blackhorse Regiment to Long Khanh Province three years ago, we now humbly return to you this small piece of Vietnam which we have called our Blackhorse home—Allons!" he added.

With the conclusion of the ceremony, Blackhorse armored vehicles in the honor guard turned and rumbled off toward their new home while armored vehicles of the 18th Division pulled in to take their place.



Brig. Gen. Tho Accepts Command of Base Camp

Valdrep



S. Colors



Lt. Gens. Minh And Mildren Sign Turnover Agreement



# S-5 NCOs Bridge the Gap

The three ARVN NCOs attached to Regimental S-5 are officially called interpreters. But they also act as protocol, customs and psychological warfare experts, medical assistants and unofficial claims adjusters. They are the bridge between the Vietnamese people and the Blackhorse Regiment.

Staff Sergeant Tran Duc Think of Saigon, and Sergeants First Class Huynh Thien Duyen of Long Xuyen and Ngo Van Bao of Saigon all studied English in high school. Then they attended the four-month Armed Forces Language School in Saigon for concentrated study of military terms and tactics needed in their job as liaison to the Blackhorse Regiment.

They first served as interpreters in the intelligence sections of the squadrons. There they determined the location of enemy units and talked NVA and VC troops into rallying to the government.

As S-5 interpreters they accompany medcaps to translate the villagers' problems so doctors and medics can administer the proper treatment. They also fly psyops missions broadcasting Chieu Hoi speeches in areas possibly inhabited by enemy units.

Sgt. Bao maintains that the hardest part of his job is visiting the scene of an accident where an armored vehicle has collided with an auto or killed some live-

stock. He explains the situation to the Vietnamese involved and makes sure they understand that it was an accident. He also assures the civilians that compensation will be made for their loss.

Sgt. Think frequently accompanies civic action teams. He said the civic action programs are profitable only after the people understand the purpose. The villagers are suspicious of medics at first because the VC have said the medicines they receive are harmful. But after two or three visits the people see the effect of the treatment and the VC propaganda loses its effect.

Children gain the most from the plays, movies and songs presented by the cultural drama teams which are the most common form of contact the official government has with the individual villages. They are constant reminders to the children that there is an official government interested in their welfare.

The interpreters say that the behavior and attitude of the individual GI toward the people is as important as any medcap mission. The people greatly appreciate any attempts to learn a few words of their language. A hostile gesture of intentional damage to someone's property will reinforce anti-American VC propaganda and wipe out the good-will promoted by civil affairs projects. Hostility will nullify the sacrifices and efforts

made by other 11th Cav Troopers to strengthen the bonds between the Saigon Government and the citizens of South Vietnam.

## Enemy Tactics Told

The 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment recently adopted a technique common to Harvard and Cambridge Universities by holding a symposium — with a few changes from the ordinary routine.

Instead of distinguished physicists gathering to discuss quantum mechanics, the participants were 22 Kit Carson Scouts, former NVA and VC soldiers, who met in the "White House" at Quan Loi and filled out questionnaires which covered topics ranging from the reasons they rallied to the government side to their impressions of the B-52 strikes.

The former NVA soldiers all stated that they had been drafted while the VC said they joined either because they feared for their families or because propaganda had convinced them they were needed to fight imperialism.

Propaganda plays a large role in NVA VC operations. The enemy command is concerned by the effects of the Chieu Hoi program. To combat this they tell the troops that they will either be tortured, imprisoned for life or will have their heads cut off if they rally to the government side. When the propaganda fails, however, they rely on rules demanding severe punishment for anyone caught reading a Chieu Hoi pamphlet.

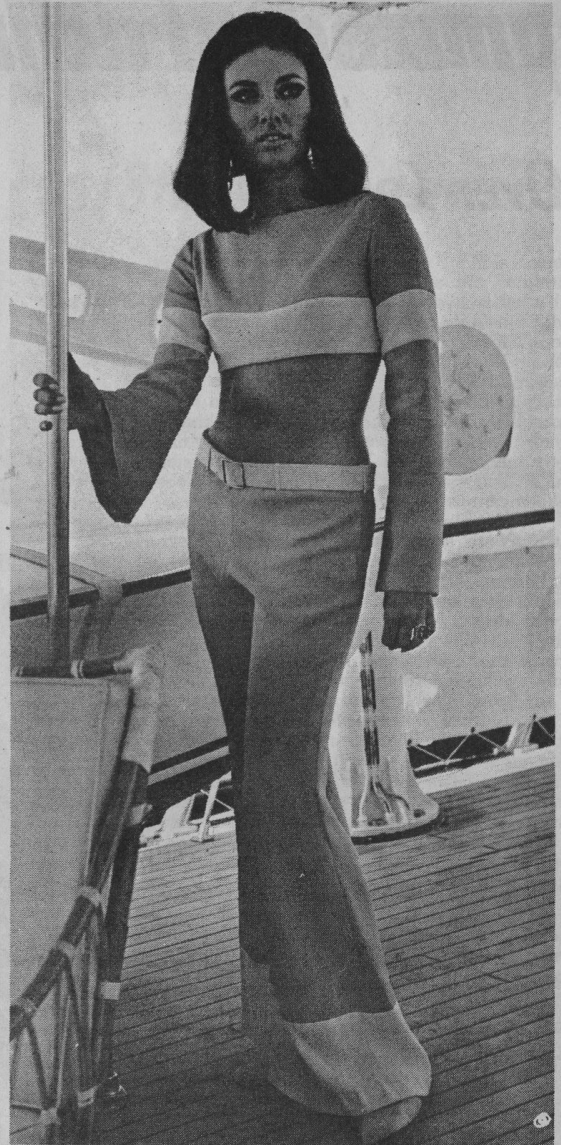
The scouts gave three main reasons for rallying to the RVN. Some were tired of the hardships of war. Others were disillusioned with Communism after seeing the effects of war on the people. The greatest number indicated they were simply homesick and tired of fighting.

Compared to the United States or ARVN soldier, the NVA and VC soldiers are poorly equipped. They are given a basic issue of equipment only once a year. In addition to equipment, food can be a problem. The NVA soldier is given a seven day supply of rice and dried fish before leaving on an operation. After this supply is depleted he receives a liter of rice and eight piasters per day to sustain himself.

The VC are supplied by members of the Viet Cong Infrastructure in the individual villages. The hard-core VC units, however, rely heavily on supply dumps hidden throughout their area of operations.

The enemy forces also lack the sophisticated medical support which is an indispensable part of our operations. Each platoon or company size unit has one medic or nurse who is equipped to give first aid. Doctors, who maintain actual field dispensaries, are found only at battalion level. Severely wounded troops are generally evacuated to a regimental hospital in a secure area either in or near Cambodia.

Finally the Kit Carson Scouts termed the B-52 strikes "devastating." They explained that an intense watch is maintained for spotter aircraft which they feel may be reconning the area for possible B-52 strike targets. When such an aircraft is sighted the unit immediately moves out to avoid possible disaster.



A LOH was returning to Quan Loi from Bien Hoa when the pilot spotted a large vessel on the Saigon River. He dropped down to get a closer look. He landed in Quan Loi muttering something like "If I only had pontoons on this thing."

## Muscle Moves Cav

Mud is a hazard which can be overcome with the proper application of muscle and wit, as 2nd Squadron's G Troop proved a few weeks ago.

The troop was moving north to FSB Marge after operations to seek out enemy base camps in the Quan Loi area. Three Armored Vehicle Launched Bridges used to cross streams during the operations were accompanying the ACAVs and Sheridans.

While returning to the fire base, one of the AVLBs stopped being the solution to hazards in the terrain and became a hazard itself. Moving over the slush in a jungle clearing proved no prob-

lem for the lighter fighting vehicles, but the 60-ton AVLB just couldn't cut it.

A quick-thinking member of G Troop reached back into the history books and came up with the idea of a corduroy road. Such roads were used more than 100 years ago in the U.S., before macadam advanced the art of road building. Grant also used them in the wilderness campaigns of the Civil War.

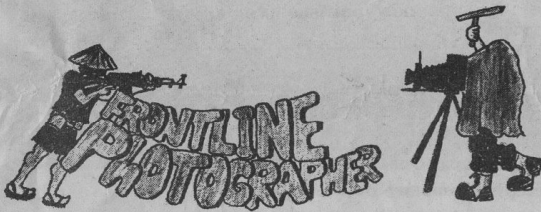
The Troopers were soon hauling timbers out of the surrounding woods and making a straight path across the clearing. Raw muscle and sweat did the job where mechanical power couldn't.

## His Cup of Tea

(Continued From Page 3) during wartime but says the status drops off during peace. To combat this, and also give the troops some respite from the boredom of garrison life, the British Army has developed the Military Assistance to the Civilian Community (MACC) program under which the army moves to remote parts of the British Isles to build roads, erect schools and render emer-

gency aid during storm and disaster situations.

Membership in the British Army apparently deprives the enlisted men of one major source of conversation. Maj. Cable-Alexander pointed out that all soldiers are volunteers, so the troops seldom regale their buddies with stories about how "short" they are since the usual ETS date is a long time away.



By John P. Giannini

Many of you who own single lens reflex cameras are probably considering the purchase of one or more additional lenses. Before you make a decision on what to buy, let us talk about the popular telephoto as compared to the wide angle.

The telephoto lens is invaluable in reaching out for pictures a long distance from the photographer, but in most situations and particularly here in Vietnam, there are at least as many pictures very close to you as there are far away.

One of the first things I learned as a photographer in Vietnam was that the majority of the time I was working close to my subject. In order to tell a complete picture story, you have to get the whole subject into the picture. To do this requires a lens which will cover a sufficient area, and a telephoto often doesn't cut it. A wide angle, on the other hand, not only allows you to include all essential elements but also provides you more latitude in composing the picture in the viewfinder.

Recently I was riding on the rear security track during a road march, with the platoon leader on one side of me and a gunner on the other. Both of these men posed interesting subjects for a camera, but I discovered my telephoto and even my regular 58mm lens were use-

less. As I wasn't carrying a wide angle, I maneuvered around trying to get enough distance, but it just didn't work. With a 28mm I'd have had no problem.

A wide angle lens also enables the photographer to let the picture compose itself in the viewfinder. The subject can move without leaving the frame, so you can wait for the right moment when the picture conveys what you have in mind. You can do it without moving your position, which would prevent a lot of ruined pictures.

Another advantage of the wide angle does not become evident until the photographer gets his film into the darkroom. When you enlarge a picture from the negative some of the picture gets lost. If the subject is crammed into the frame the purpose of the picture may be destroyed. The wide angle gives you a certain built-in margin for error.

The wide angle lens gives greater depth of field and overall sharpness, which may or may not be an advantage. Selective focus can often be used to emphasize the subject of a picture by blurring everything else, and your capability to do this are less with a wide angle.

Wide angle lenses range in focal length from 35mm to the 21mm fisheye. Each step to a smaller lens increases the width and depth of your camera image. The fisheye is designed to produce a distorted effect and unless you are professionally oriented, it would not be of much use to you.



## K-9 Warriors

# Noble Hounds of the 11th

By Ned Stuppy

"Man's best friend" follows him wherever he goes and faithfully stands by his side through thick and thin. Sometimes.

My curiosity was aroused by tales of Sam, so I headed for FSB Gwyn in search of the canine warrior. Upon arriving I asked where I could find Sam and received several replies in the form of "are you kidding" type stares.

It seems that Sam has been a chronic AWOL ever since joining the 1st Squadron. On this particular day his absence was vaguely explained by Master Sergeant David L. Wolff, S-3 operations NCO, of Terrant, Texas. "He got on a chopper headed for Quan Loi yesterday. The chopper came back several hours later but Sam wasn't aboard. Your guess is as good as mine as to where he is now," he said.

Maybe Sam just can't adjust to life in the US army. You see, Sam is a Hoi Chanh. It seems that elements of the 1st Squadron come upon an enemy bunker complex several months ago and in the middle of the ensuing fire fight Sam braved the heavy fire to hook up with the squadron rather than remain with the NVA. He ran up to Major Donald F. Snow, the former S-3 officer, with his tail wagging and declaring himself a Hoi Chanh.

Since then, when he's not AWOL, he is in the care of Sgt. Wolff. "Sam really doesn't do anything exceptional around here," he said, "and keeping track of him is next to impossible. He always manages to come back just as we're moving out, though, and he never gets left behind. He's nice to have around, when he's here, that is."

We really can't condemn Sam for his repeated absences. He's certainly not the only dog who's

hit the road. Dufas was the faithful companion of First Lieutenant James C. Hampton of Los Angeles, F troop platoon leader, until the early days of October. That's when Lt. Hampton left for R&R. Later the same day Dufas decided it was his turn for R&R. As the troop headed north from Thunder IV he jumped off a truck and "headed out." You really can't blame him for taking an R&R. After all, everyone else gets one. The only problem is that while Lt. Hampton came back Dufas didn't.

Dufas is one of the eight offspring of Bill, the real old timer of F troop. "Bill has seen more combat than any other F troop GI," said Sergeant Joe Thurston, motor sergeant, from Oswego, N.Y.

Bill has served with the troop for the past year and a half and is certainly a member in good standing. She follows orders. Peewee didn't and he's gone now.

It seems that Peewee violated just about every rule in the book one night when he sneaked out of the NDP and headed for a nearby village to indulge in a little night life. He made his escape in a truly professional manner but on the return trip, his senses undoubtedly dulled by alcohol, he set off a trip flare. Need we say more?

Mitzi, who came over with the Cav, is semi-retired. She's content to sit around the hooch of the aviation section of the 1st Squadron.

Nobody has ever bothered to fill out the paper work for her basic air medal and nobody even wants to venture a guess as to how many oak leaf clusters she's earned. She still finds time to take an occasional chopper ride, but claims she's getting too old to do any more combat flying. I guess we all have to call it quits sometime.

Combat, on the other hand, may just be an exception. If I'm still around when the years run out on him, I'm going to keep my distance from the mortar box because he just may jump up and try for that one last bite.

Combat, who now spends most of his time, with the S-4 section

of Regimental Headquarters Troop, was born on a ship headed for Vietnam which also carried elements of the Cav. Since then he's moved around the Regiment but his hostile disposition hasn't changed.

One morning during a formation the first sergeant gave him a hard time and Combat promptly responded in his customary unfriendly manner. Luckily for him, the first sergeant was in a good mood because even a dog can't afford a court martial.

It seems that Combat wants to get back to the world and give life on the block a try. Every time someone in the section gets short Combat follows him around, possibly hoping there might be a little extra room in his hold baggage. Someday, maybe.

How can you pick one mascot and say he's the best in the Regiment? Every unit has the best. Just ask them.

## Don't Call, Send Note

Communications between Blackhorse Forward and rear areas in the Regiment have been improved by the addition of a radio-teletype system recently introduced to Vietnam.

The system is used to transmit both classified and unclassified matter, and is expected to take some pressure off the overloaded telephone switchboards, according to Regimental Headquarters Troop Communications Platoon Sergeant Joseph R. Willey.

The teletype units comprising the system are small enough to be mounted on a ¾-ton truck and light enough to be airlifted to forward areas.

Messages to be sent on the system must be submitted on a printed form available through the comms section.



COMBAT CANINE—Mitzi, mascot of 1st Squadron's Aviation Section, is a veteran of numerous combat missions. Her age prevents her from participating in any combat flights now but she still enjoys an occasional chopper ride. (Photo by Giannini)

## 6/27 Artillery: Fast Delivery, Low Rates

By Mike Mang

"With nine Artillery batteries to coordinate, our job requires constant diligence and I can tell you, sometimes it gets hairy."

With those words, Lieutenant Colonel Leonard B. Reed, Commander, 6/27 Artillery, described the complicated job of his battalion based at Quan Loi. The 6/27, II Field Force Artillery, provides and coordinates all that good artillery support so welcomed by the 11th Cav troops when they need it fast and accurate.

The artillery battalion headquarters and a battery of two eight-inchers and two 175s is at Quan Loi. The battalion has two other firing batteries, B Battery in the Song Be area, and C Battery at Phuoc Vinh.

In addition to the firing Batteries, Headquarters Battery is at Quan Loi, and Service Battery is at Long Binh. But there is more to the story, as the long arm of artillery reaches out to cover all grids in the 11th Armored Cavalry AO.

The 6/27 has one 105mm battery and one 155mm battery under its control. These batteries are positioned in strategic locations from south of An Loc to Loc Ninh. Charlie is apt to find himself right in the middle of three, four, or perhaps five gun positions, all firing from different directions.

Lt. Col. Reed said, "In August, Eagle I called for artillery when they came under attack. We zeroed in on the enemy with artillery fire from FSB Aspen, Allons, and two batteries here at Quan Loi. The attacking forces at Eagle were very confused and shaken with all those shells raining in on them from four different positions.

"But," Reed said, "artillery is not only big, heavy fire. Artillery can do many things. For instance, recently, a friendly patrol was moving through an area south of An Loc when they were hit by the enemy from both sides. Armor support arrived as we dropped shells in on both sides creating a protected corridor."

This type of accuracy begins at Quan Loi where at Battalion Headquarters, 11 radios cackle 24 hours a day to coordinate incoming requests and information. Missions must be coordinated, evaluated, and checked before orders to fire can be given.

"One of the biggest problems is making sure friendlies are not in the area where we intend to fire," said Reed. "This means we must constantly plot the position of not only 11th Cav units, but all other U.S. troops, Special Forces, and ARVN elements."

Friendlies in the area include aircraft. To avoid the possibility of shooting down airships with an artillery round each one of the artillery batteries in the Quan Loi area checks in with the Air Warning Control Center. The AWCC plots the mission coordinates, range, and trajectory to ensure that all aircraft know where the artillery is firing.

We also watched a 175 crew from A Battery conclude a firing mission, working out hard with shells weighing 150 pounds apiece. Later at the battery's Fire Direction Center the men told us with justifiable pride that, "The first round hit within 100 meters and the subsequent rounds were much closer."



ALLIED EXCHANGE — Regimental S-2 Maj. George J. Telenko discusses enemy tactics with two soldiers who should know: Nguyen Van Plat and Vung Vo Hoa, both

former NVA soldiers now serving as Kit Carson Scouts with the Blackhorse Regiment. (Photo by Davis)





**SAPPER DEMONSTRATION**—A former enemy soldier parts the wire around the Quan Loi perimeter to demonstrate enemy tactics used to infiltrate U.S. bases. (Photo by Mang)

## Berm Guard Full-Time Job

After a recent remodeling and rebuilding program the officers and NCOs of Quan Loi's Red Sector perimeter defense have upgraded their living quarters and command post (CP) to the extent that they should make next month's **Better Homes and Gardens**. But then, these people are old hands at bunker improvement.

Captain William Scott Bowen of Little Rock, Ark., is responsible for Red Sector defense with the able assistance of Sergeants James Smith, Chicago; James Strickland, Houston, Tex.; and Richard Gary, Cooperstown, Pa. Add one radio telephone operator (RTC), Private First Class Thomas Dellapents, of Buffalo, N.Y., and you have "Red 104," the people you talk to at night when you're sitting out on that bunker struggling to stay alert.

Moving the CP from a poorly lighted, drippy, wet, cramped RTO shack into a well lighted, dry, spacious, underground bunker with sleeping quarters is one example of the good work done by the "Red Sector Five" since their arrival three months ago. They have also improved the perimeter bunkers and in some cases rebuilt them.

Red Sector defense is responsible for bunkers 42 through 61. That means maintenance, repair and resupply for each of the 20 defensive positions.

The not-so-visible work goes on all day, every day, as Sgt. Smith sees that each bunker has the required number of M-79 and M-60 ammo, grenades and Claymores.

Then there is grass cutting. It may not seem important now but when you're out on that bunker some dark night and notice that high grass begin to rustle and sway, you begin wondering if "Chuck" is snaking his way up to your position.

After running here, there and everywhere maintaining, resupplying, stocking, sandbagging, ammo cleaning and cutting grass its about five p.m. and time for the guards to show up. Of the total number of men who man the bunkers, 75 per

cent of them are 11th Cav personnel with the remainder coming from the 1st Cav Division.

"These are the men you should write about," says Capt. Bowen. "These are the ones who actually do the job. Night after night they man those lonely bunkers."

With the arrival of the guards, another big job starts for Red 104. Night after night may be quiet and uneventful yet these guards must be psychologically "up," ready and alert.

"This psychological state of readiness is not easy to maintain," Bowen said. "Keeping the men alert and interested in the job is one of the priorities in our work."

At 6 p.m. the men of the Regiment are at the Red 104 CP. Following Capt. Bowen's briefing, Sgt. Strickland begins leading the men to their assigned bunker positions. Six of the men go to Tango Five and Tango Six, the towers. Tango Six is also known as "Big Ears" because of its radar equipment used to detect enemy movement in the valley to its front.

The work begins for the bunker guards and the men of Red 104. Sgt. Gray pulls the first shift at the CP. If the RTO is lucky that night, he has two guards assigned to him as relief.

Darkness sets in and Capt. Bowen gets geared for another night of keeping the guards alert and interested. "For six of seven nights one of the bunkers will report movement to the front and it will turn out to be nothing," Bowen said. "Nevertheless, we must maintain an attitude and state of readiness that is positive. You never know. The eighth night someone really might be out there."

Nothing has happened for days and weeks, nothing. Just a lot of negative situation reports and a lot of suspected movement reports that turned out to be negative. This makes the job difficult for Red 104. They have to keep those guards ready, convinced that something could happen that night. Who knows? It just might.

Finally, it's morning and the guards have been relieved. Capt. Bowen gets ready for a meeting at "Lightning 101,"

Base Defense Office. Sgts. Smith, Gray and Strickland prepare for their day. Some Claymore wires need repair, ammo must be checked, and the grass needs cutting — again.

Captain Patrick Ellis, formerly of 1st Squadron, has recently assumed the duties of Capt. Bowen, who will become an assistant Regimental S-3.

## A Troop Earns Wings Again

The men and tracks of 1st Squadron's A Troop returned to Loc Ninh from Bo Duc on Oct. 6 and 7 after a month spent three miles from the Cambodian border.

Airlifting to Bo Duc proved easier than returning. Engineers had to lengthen the runway by 500 feet before the C-130 cargo planes could take off safely with their 12½-ton load of ACAV.

A few minor problems cropped up. The first C-130 into Loc Ninh stopped traffic until ground crews could replace a flat tire. And planes were stacked up over Bo Duc for two hours the first afternoon until ground crews picked up speed in loading the tracks into the cargo hold.

The air crews said the mission

## 15th ARVN Regt. Works With Cav

Combined operations between U.S. and ARVN forces in the Blackhorse area of operations hit a new high in October with the initiation of cooperative programs involving the 11th Cav and the 15th Cavalry Regiment (ARVN).

The program was well demonstrated on Oct. 12 when Major Nguyen Van Dong, 15th Cav commander, and several of his troopers joined Blackhorse medics in the village of Minh Duc for a medcap mission.

Simultaneously, on a road cutting through the jungle a few miles from the village, 15th Cav troopers were conducting mine sweeping operations under the supervision of members of a 919th Engineer Company platoon working with 3rd Squadron.

Less than a week later, 15th Cav ACAV crews were working with the 3rd Squadron on a track crew proficiency course (TCPC).

The operations are all a part of a concentrated effort to bring U.S. and ARVN forces closer together in tactics and operational plans.

First Lieutenant David Galman, assistant 3rd Squadron civic affairs officer, later explained that it was one of the first times ARVN forces had participated in the medcap program in that area. "What we really want is to equip and train the ARVN unit to conduct such medical-civic action program on their own. Today is a great start," he added.

At the mine-sweeping operation, Sergeant Carlos Sanders,

919th Engineers platoon sergeant, began by presenting a class on the nomenclature, maintenance and operation of the mine detector.

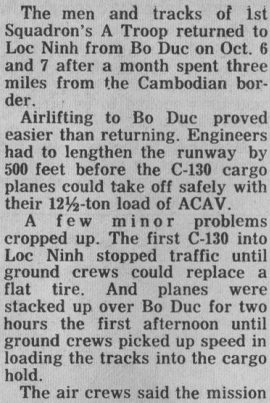
The ARVN soldiers then went through a live practice drill by finding and disarming an enemy mine, using the procedures demonstrated by Sgt. Sanders.

The next day, Sgt. Sanders, Captain Charles S. Riley, U.S. advisor to the 15th Cav, and Captain Robert S. Myers, assistant 3rd Squadron intelligence officer, accompanied the ARVN soldiers as they conducted an actual road sweep.

Capt. Riley emphasized that great skill and technical proficiency were not necessary at that phase of the training. "If they can acquire the basic tactics and a little experience, they'll build their confidence and this will lead to a belief in their ability to take up the work on their own," he said.

The purpose of the TCPC started the following week is to familiarize the ARVN soldiers with the use of armor in jungle warfare. Basically a course to test the reaction of track crews to simulated enemy targets, the course teaches the men to use the total armament available on the track and to effectively integrate the total weapons system in actual combat.

During the exercise, 3rd Squadron used its own armored vehicles to demonstrate the tactical moves and use of weapons. Capt. Riley said it was the first time the unit had received such training.



**AIRBORNE ACAV**—An armored assault vehicle of 1st Squadron's A Troop is loaded aboard a C-130 for the return trip from Bo Duc to Loc Ninh. The troop was airlifted to the area last month. (Photo by Giannini)

posed no special problems. One load master pointed out that double the normal number of 5,000 pound chains was used to lash down the ACAVs because Air Force safety regulations require loads be secured for four Gs, instead of two when passengers are aboard the aircraft.

The Air Force Mission Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Samuel N. Fisher of El Cajon, Calif., noted one minor problem for the pilots. The Loc Ninh airstrip runs uphill, then downhill past the halfway mark, obscuring the pilots' vision. This meant ground crews had to be positive all civilians and vehicles were clear of the runway before the giant birds settled to the ground.

Specialist Four Wong Yuen of Waiohinu, Hawaii, an ACAV

commander, said the operation was easier than the missions around Loc Ninh where they had been in contact almost every day. The troop took some mortar rounds at Bo Duc, but had no significant contact with the enemy. Yuen said the area was harder on the tracks; the mud was bad and the jungle was as thick as any he's seen around FSB Jon.

First Lieutenant Dennis Kelley of Flint, Mich., A Troop executive officer, praised the resupply set up. "We were high on the logistics priority list, which meant we got our food and maintenance gear just as soon as we would have back at Loc Ninh. The mission also gave us good experience in moving by air and operating as an independent unit a long way from squadron headquarters."

Regimental Commander Colonel James H. Leach pointed out that the mission combined both old and new concepts of armor warfare. "The worth of armor operating in jungle and swamps against guerrillas has been newly proven during this conflict. But the tracks have stuck mostly to the ground mobile operations. We dusted off the old airborne concepts and airlifted the ACAVs which were designed to be air transportable.

"The mission to Bo Duc and back again pointed out the versatility of the armor group. We tailored the force to the mission. We couldn't lift the Sheridans or the M-48s, so we just added on some ACAVs, supplemented them with mortar tracks and put the armor up near the border in the configuration dictated by our airlift capabilities," Col. Leach concluded.