

## Thua Thien Province Now 'Eagle Country'

# Operation Nevada Eagle Terminates

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The Division's Operation Nevada Eagle drew to a close Feb. 28. Final figures were still being prepared at press time. The following story is the first of two parts on the operation. A second part, in the March 31 Screaming Eagle, will have further details of the operation.

By **SPEC. 5 ALAN MAGARY**  
**CAMP EAGLE** — After 288 days as a sustained combat operation, Nevada Eagle has ended, and Operation Kentucky Jumper has begun.

Nevada Eagle started May 17, 1968, with the 1st and 2nd Brigades of the Division, and the 3rd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division, participating in a concerted effort of broad scope.

The mission was, first, to keep the enemy from operating in the heavily-populated coastal plains around Hue and along Highway 1, and second, to provide security for the people of Thua Thien Province. Success would — and did — further the pacification

program and as a result would — and did — deprive the enemy of badly needed food supplies.

The Screaming Eagles' 3rd Brigade near Saigon and the 82nd Airborne brigade changed places in October, and thereafter Nevada Eagle was entirely a 101st operation.

On Feb. 28, Nevada Eagle ended with impressive results. The statistics tell part of the story: Screaming Eagles with the All Americans of the 82nd killed 3,297 enemy, captured 798 Viet Cong and 55 North Vietnamese soldiers, and seized 3,379 individual weapons and 322 crew-served weapons, along with enormous quantities of enemy munitions and rice.

But there is more than statistics. The 101st, in cooperation with the 1st Division, Army of the Republic of Vietnam, and other South Vietnamese forces,

prevented the enemy from organizing any major attack on Hue or other centers of population near the coast. Thua Thien Province became "Eagle Country."

In the enemy's recent post-Tet offensive, the Screaming Eagle area of operations was untouched by rocket and mortar attacks or ground assaults.

In early 1968, before the 101st's arrival in the I Corps Tactical Zone, the enemy was able to penetrate the Imperial City of Hue and hold it for 22 days before they were cleared out by allied troops. A Viet Cong flag flew freely from the flagpole of the Citadel.

A yellow and red Government flag was subsequently hoisted in the enemy flag's place — and has whipped in the breeze ever since. Due to severe limitation of the enemy's activities and de-

struction of the Viet Cong infrastructure, Hue can no longer be an enemy target.

Through successful cordon operations, the 101st has also helped to root out a large portion of the Viet Cong's "shadow government" in the villages and hamlets of the province. Lightning thrusts deep into enemy base areas in the mountainous, triple canopy jungle area in the western part of Thua Thien knocked the enemy off balance and kept him running.

Through Nevada Eagle combat operations, an environment was created and maintained for the continuation of the Government of Vietnam's pacification program.

Maj. Gen. Melvin Zais, Division commander, pointed out that the people of Thua Thien Province, especially around Hue, have reacted positively to

the continued action against the enemy threat — and are pitching in more than ever before in the allied effort to defeat the communists.

"I consider it tremendously significant," said Gen. Zais, "that the Regional Forces and Popular Forces are stronger than ever, that the people of Hue have rallied to such an extent that a 'home guard' nightly patrols the streets of Vietnam's Imperial City.

"This — the emergence of the people as strong defenders of their homeland — is extremely heartening."

For the enemy, Operation Kentucky Jumper, initiated March 1, means more of the same: the VC and NVA are not welcome in the Screaming Eagle AO.

Take the three-month period from Nov. 1 to Jan. 31 as an example of how fighting improved the climate for pacification efforts. (A final summary of Nevada Eagle is in preparation.)

As the period started, a combined forces cordon operation continued in Phu Vang District. "Soft" cordons had proved their success previously — the Vinh Loc Island cordon a notable example — and Phu Vang III was no different. Allies killed 55 VC, captured 67 — of whom 28 were members of the infrastructure — and took 60 individual weapons.

A Phu Loc cordon early in November resulted in 1,300 suspects being interrogated. Seventy proved to be infrastructure members. In the Truoi Bridge cordon, 23 VC were captured.

Intelligence showed that the 5th NVA Regiment shifted its operational area from the Nui Khe rocket belt area to two valleys southwest of Leech Island. In response, combined forces launched Operation Nam Hoa I. The enemy lost heavily — 78 were killed, 65 individual weapons and 13 crew-served weapons were captured.

Shortly afterward, another soft cordon in Phu Vang District was established. In three weeks, 75 enemy were killed, 99 suspects detained — 35 were infrastructure members — and 60 weapons captured.

A Division operation, launched Dec. 16, was aimed at the 6th NVA Regiment base area. Enemy casualties were small — the communists avoided contact — but allies forced the NVA to withdraw deeper into the mountains.

Another operation took combined forces back into Nam Hoa District, and still another was aimed at the enemy's rear supply and base areas in the Ruong Ruong Valley, near the A Shau, where 57 enemy were killed and their weapons captured.

Other allied thrusts cut off enemy movement out of the A Shau Valley and again forced the 6th NVA Regiment to keep running.

The three-month total: 675 enemy killed, 123 detained, 449 individual weapons and 42 crew-served weapons captured, 63,900 small arms rounds and 19,900 automatic weapons rounds seized. Four hundred and thirty-two members of the infrastructure were rooted out — their influence over the people destroyed entirely. The Division hit hard at the enemy's stomach by capturing 131.8 tons of rice.

In the same short period, the Civic Action Program was rapidly expanded as combat operations created the necessary favorable atmosphere. At the start

(Continued on Back Page)

## Sporadic Contact Goes On

**CAMP EAGLE** — Screaming Eagles continued to encounter light and scattered contact with enemy forces in their areas of operations during the period from Feb. 21 to Mar. 7. Operation Nevada Eagle, one of the longest sustained operations of the war, terminated during the time.

Division Paratroopers accounted for 47 enemy killed and 44 individual and crew-served weapons captured. Two detainees were taken during the period.

In the largest contacts of the period, extensive reconnaissance-in-force operations by the 1st Bn., 506th Abn. Inf. netted nine enemy killed and five individual weapons captured. Patrols deep into enemy base areas south of Fire Base Sword resulted in the frequent fire-fights. One-half ton of enemy rice was captured in a cache.

Brief contacts south of Fire Base Brick yielded six enemy killed and four individual weapons captured for Paratroopers of the 3rd Bn., 187th Abn. Inf.

A platoon of B Co., 1st Bn., 506th Abn. Inf. killed two enemy and captured two prisoners and five individual weapons in the 3rd Brigade area of operations 15 miles northwest of Hue.

A combat assault in the 1st Brigade area of operations by the 2nd Bn., 327th Abn. Inf. resulted in one enemy killed. Other units in the area continued to impair enemy movement in the lowlands along Highway 1 between Phu Bai and Lang Co bridge. The 1st Bn., 327th Abn. Inf. killed two enemy in evening patrols south of Phu Loc and killed one enemy along the Truoi River.

A combined cordon operation by the 1st Bns. of the 501st and 502nd Abn. Inf. with forces of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam killed three enemy and captured four individual weapons. The operation restricted the enemy's use of a staging area. Also destroyed or captured during the cordon were 129 booby traps, 61 punji pits, two grenades, two anti-personnel mines, 380 pounds of enemy rice, 190 pounds of grain and 50 pounds of wheat.

## The Screaming Eagle



Vol. 2, No. 7

101st Airborne Division

March 17, 1969



**DOG TIRED**—Sgt. Jimmy E. Powrzasas, Birmingham, Ala., of the 47th Scout Dog Platoon, takes a rest break with his dog, Rebel. The soldier and

his dog had been walking point in the mountains south of Hue.

(Photo by Spec. 4 Jon Oberg)

## Moonlighting VC Surprised

**CAMP EAGLE** — Nine moonlighting Viet Cong were killed and two sampans filled with supplies were destroyed recently when Paratroopers sprang a night ambush along the Song Bo river near Hue.

The recon platoon from E Co., 1st Bn., 502nd Abn. Inf., had moved into its prearranged night ambush site atop a small hill overlooking the river. Twenty-five minutes later, Spec. 4 David B. Delucia, Wilmington, Mass., a squad leader, radioed Plt. Sgt. Jorge B. Otero, Vega-baja, P.R. He reported loud voices coming from the opposite side of the bank 50 meters up river.

"I was using a starlite scope

to locate the Viet Cong, but there was a bend in the river. They must have been around it," Delucia recalled. "I watched the bend for about 10 minutes and then I saw the first sampan shoot around and pull up on the opposite bank, just outside our kill zone."

For more than an hour the Paratroopers lay still waiting for the sampan to move into the ambush zone.

"I would have sent a squad after the one sampan, but I had a hunch there were more," said Lt. John S. Carlson, Eugene, Ore., recon platoon leader. Several minutes later, another sampan docked next to the first.

"As soon as the second sam-

pan docked, the place was covered with VC loading bags and boxes into them," Delucia said.

An hour later the heavily-laden boats pushed off the bank and headed down river and into the ambush.

"We waited until they were in our kill zone. Then we opened up with a machine gun," Otero said.

The next morning, the shattered boats lay on the opposite bank.

"We found nine bodies, but I think we got a few more, judging from the blood trails," Carlson said. "The wait was well worth our effort."



PAY DAY—Pfc. Roger D. Lalemore, Memathite, Mo., 1st Bn., 506th Abn. Inf., kneels by the Division pay officer for his monthly pay. The Division Paratrooper was, wild in the field.  
(Photo by Sgt. Jerry Ghearing)

## Division Is Praised By Old Friend

CAMP EAGLE — During the recent Tet celebrations, the Division played an important role in contributing to the success of the holiday in Thua Thien Province. The following letter to Maj. Gen. Melvin Zais, Division Commander, from Maj. Ngo Quang Truong, 1st ARVN Inf. Div. commander, commends the Division's efforts in I Corps.

Gen. Truong wrote, "On the occasion of the Tet Lunar New Year celebration, our 1st Inf. Div. visited and presented gifts to the units of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Vietnam and to their dependents in the 11th tactical area. We were assisted in this operation by the 101st Abn. Div. Air transportation for our delegation was provided in spite of unsuitable weather conditions.

"In addition to this support, the Division presented a number of cash donations for the families of the war dead and orphaned in the 11th Tactical Area.

"We think this good deed is consoling to the families who sacrificed sons, brothers and husbands in the battlefield in order to protect the national cause.

"Also, on this occasion of the New Year, the Division Band performed at Hue City, Van Thanh and Phu Bai training centers.

"Representing all the troops and citizens, I respectfully send to the Paratroopers of the 101st Abn. Div. my profound gratitude."

## 'Lucky Eagle' Sez

By MAJ. GEN. MELVIN ZAIS  
Division Commander

Early this month the 158th Assault Helicopter Battalion requested permission to join the 101st Airborne Division. The unit was drawn up in formation on the runway ramp at Camp Evans and it looked good. As I inspected those fine looking officers, warrant officers and soldiers in ranks I could not help but project in my mind's eye what they would be doing in the months to follow. I knew they were ready and eager.

They had sewn the "Screaming Eagle" patch on their left shoulder and had covered the patch with green masking tape. Having asked for permission to join the Division and permission having been granted, with one motion, each man slammed his right hand to his left shoulder to seize the tape and we could hear the whack as they struck in unison. Again, in one motion, each withdrew his right hand clutching the tape and sharply slammed it into the palm of his left hand causing a resounding report. Then quickly back to attention—"Screaming Eagle" patch revealed—proudly displaying their membership in and everlasting loyalty to the one and only one o one.

This integral membership of the flyers in the unit is significant, and although you younger members of the Division may take it for granted, we older ones can recall the day when we sorely wished that we had our own aircraft—we have them now, both pilots and aircraft. They are ours—and I am very proud of them. They fly with skill and courage. They are dedicated to the ground troops. They hang in there when the going gets tough and one thing for sure—we can count on them.

It is for that reason that I direct my words in this issue to those great flyers—to let them know that we know how good they are and that it is obvious that they are AIRBORNE—ALL THE WAY!



ZAIS

## Notes From the Div SGM

BY CSM ROBERT A. YOUNG  
Division Sergeant Major

Several reports have been received from R&R centers concerning the excellent appearance of our 101st Airborne Division personnel compared to other organizations in USARV.

Any soldier, regardless of grade, who wears his uniform neatly with appropriate insignia and decorations, with a neatly trimmed haircut and without unsightly mustaches and sideburns, is a distinct credit to the service and an asset to our proud Division.

There are a few things "troopers" can do to improve the appearance of the uniform on R&R: Right shoulder ropes, i.e., signal, artillery, ordnance, and engineer, are not authorized. Only the blue Infantry shoulder rope can be worn if you're an Infantryman assigned to an Infantry battalion or company.

Don't buy unauthorized "junk" to hang on your uniform—it doesn't make you any more of a hero and eventually you'll get caught and disrobed. Wear only what you are entitled.

Recently, USARV has authorized civilian clothing for wear on R&R, with the exceptions of Hong Kong and Taipei. If you wear civilian clothes in lieu of the uniform, you should wear appropriate civilian attire in good taste and always maintain high standards. This doesn't include beads, earrings and other trinkets.

WRESTLING TROPHIES for second and seventh place were carried away by two Division Paratroopers competing in the annual I Corps Wrestling Tournament at Da Nang.

Sgt. Harvey Hallum, Tulsa, Okla., powered his way past four opponents to win second place before he was subdued in the finals of the 150-pound weight class competition.

"Five matches in a single day is the most I've ever wrestled," Hallum commented after his achievement. "In high school or

college meets I seldom wrestled more than three matches a day."

Spec. 4 Charles Starnes, Keosauqua, Iowa, finished seventh in the 159-pound weight class competition. Both grapplers are Paratroopers of the 3rd Bn., 187th Abn. Inf. The annual tournament is sponsored by the American National Red Cross.

MOVIES break the darkness of lonely Division fire bases in the 3rd Brigade area of operations. Pfc. Robert J. Gillis, Sacramento, Calif., chaplain's assistant for the 3rd Bn., 187th Abn. Inf., arrives once a week with the cinema entertainment. Screaming Eagles eagerly greet the diversions to the war in I Corps.

"I pick the best movies to show the guys at the fire bases

because they don't have a chance to get into the base camp very often," Gillis said. "I always try to run the film twice to make sure everyone gets a chance to see the picture."



## Avn. Battery Is Second In Vietnam

CAMP EAGLE — A new aviation battery, the second to be formed in Vietnam, has been established in the Division.

Helicopters from A Btry. (Aviation), 377th Abn. Arty., fly in and out of Camp Eagle each day.

Until recently, A Btry. was a section of the Division Artillery. Now the unit has battery status, flying in support of Div. Arty.

The 1st Air Cav. Div. is the only other unit in Vietnam supporting a similar battery.

Flying an average of 620 missions each month, battery aircraft search out the enemy on visual reconnaissance missions.

In addition to their fire support, they also provide administrative and logistical support for firing batteries and fly command and control missions for Div. Arty.

Since the change, the aviation battery has flown 3,450 sortie missions, moved 99,000 pounds of cargo and logged more than 1,200 flying hours.

CAMP EAGLE — A Meritorious Unit Citation has been awarded to the 2nd Bn., 11th Abn. Arty., by Maj. Gen. Melvin Zais, Division commander, during special ceremonies at Camp Eagle.

Gen. Zais, accompanied by Col. Lloyd J. Picou, Division Artillery commander, awarded the "On Time" battalion the award for its activities in the Republic of Vietnam from Dec. 15, 1966, to July 31, 1967.

Lt. Col. Arthur P. Deverill Jr., 2nd Bn., 11th Abn. Arty. commander, accepted the citation and attached another streamer to the unit's colors. The streamer marks the 19th award the battalion has received for combat

actions dating back to World War I.

The main force of the 2nd Bn., 11th Abn. Arty. arrived in Vietnam Dec. 15, 1966, at Vung Tau. Working as part of Task Force Oregon, the battalion had fired almost 200,000 howitzer rounds in support of Allied troops by July 31, 1967.

The late Col. Edward B. Vogel, Maj. Charles M. Poteat, and Lt. Col. Walter V. Applegate have successfully commanded the battalion since arriving in Vietnam.

The batteries of the 2nd Bn., 11th Abn. Arty., provided fire support during the period at Phu Loi, Chu Lai, Duc Pho and Mo Duc.



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- Commanding General ..... Maj. Gen. Melvin Zais
- Information Officer ..... Lt. Col. Paul A. Timm
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- ..... Spec. 4 William Van Kirk

# Point Man Runs Into Constricting Tieup in Jungle

**CAMP EAGLE** — While walking point through the dense mountain jungle west of Hue, a Paratrooper suddenly found himself entangled in thick jungle vines with a large boa constrictor snake causing the major tieup.

The first platoon of C Co., 1st Bn., 502nd Abn. Inf., was maneuvering down a well-traveled enemy supply route and moved off the trail to avoid enemy detection. The platoon began cutting toward a distant ridge-top and the company's command post.

In three hours, the column had sliced its way more than three-quarters of the way to its objective.

"It seemed the closer we got to the top of the ridge, the thicker the jungle was," recalled Spec. 4 Sylvester Stamps, Memphis, Tenn., the platoon's point man.

"We were running into a lot of thorn bushes, and the ground was so slippery we had to use vines to pull ourselves along," he said.

"I stopped and was trying to untangle my rucksack from some vines when something brushed across my legs. The next thing I felt was something like a giant hand squeezing my left calf. I tried to kick my leg free but couldn't.

"I looked down and saw two big watery eyes looking at me. I guess I was in shock, because all I did was stare at the snake," the Paratrooper recalled.

Seconds later, Stamps, snake and rucksack tumbled backward on Spec. 4 Clarence Powers,

Hampton, Va., slack man.

"As soon as I saw Stamps slip, I spotted the snake wrapped around his leg. I was about to move when they both landed on me," Powers added.

Both Paratroopers made desperate attempts to cut the slippery body away from Stamps' leg.

"It seemed the more we hacked at it, the tighter it got. It just wouldn't let go," Stamps said.

Powers reached for his M-16 and poured a quick burst into the large head of the snake. The reptile loosened its vice-like grip and Stamps pulled his leg free.

After the excitement was over, Stamps measured the snake. Kneeling beside the reptile, he looked up with a weary look on his face and said, "This thing is six M-16s long and has a head as thick as a football."



**FIELD SERVICES**—Chap. (Maj.) Arthur P. Craig, Staten Island, wears a camouflaged chasuble made of poncho liner material to celebrate mass for 2nd Brigade Paratroopers of A Co., 1st Bn., 502nd Abn. Inf. north of Hue. (Photo by Spec. 4 Jon Oberg)

# Redlegs Answer Quickly, Accurately

**CAMP EAGLE** — When Screaming Eagles meet the enemy, they usually need a quick, reliable and accurate solution. "Quick, reliable and accurate" describes the support the Division's artillery provides.

The reconnaissance section of the 1st Bn., 502nd Abn. Inf. was recently assaulted on all sides by rocket-propelled grenades and small arms fire during mountain operations southwest

of Hue. The muscle of artillery fire was called.

"Fire mission," was shouted and within four minutes, the first shell from B Btry., 1st Bn., 321st Abn. Arty. impacted in the target area. The recon forward observer "walked the fire" in toward the friendly positions.

The Infantry and artillery battalion commanders were consulted to obtain clearances. All

firing data was given the usual double check.

"We check all the data the Battery Fire Direction Centers (FDC) give to their guns before they fire," said Lt. Ray E. Porter, Springfield, Va., fire direction officer of the 1st Bn., 321st Abn. Arty. "When we get in really close, like on this particular mission, the individual tube crews use gunner's quadrants as a further check on the data."

Soon, rounds were falling within 100 meters of the recon platoon. Shrapnel from the exploding howitzer rounds whistled over the Infantrymen.

A total of 131 high explosive shells crashed into the ground 100 to 200 meters forward of the recon platoon. The enemy broke contact. In a sweep through the area, the Infantry found four fresh blood trails.

However, B Btry. wasn't finished for the day.

Paratroopers of B Co., 1st Bn., 502nd Abn. Inf. came under heavy fire later in the morning.

The artillery's ace was called. The Aerial Rocket Artillery

(ARA) flew to the area in a matter of minutes.

Both B Btry., 1st Bn., 321st Abn. Arty. and B Btry., 1st Bn., 40th Abn. Arty. alternated fire with the ARA. A Btry., 2nd Bn., 94th Abn. Arty., an eight-inch element, also was added to the firepower.

The enemy again was routed and contact broken.

"This day actually was not unusual for us," said Lt. Patrick J. Benton, Littleneck, N.Y., B Btry. FDO.

After the day's firing was over, two squads of North Vietnamese Army soldiers lay dead. When the ammunition totals were tallied, more than 700 rounds of high explosive ammo had been fired by B Btry. Total ammunition fired for the day was almost 1,000 rounds.

While firepower is just another day's work for the Redlegs, the Screaming Eagles of the 1st Bn., 502nd Abn. Inf. sweep the jungles with more confidence, knowing the "quick, reliable and accurate" firepower of the 1st Bn., 321st Abn. Arty. is on call any time of the day or night.

# Bn. Medic Gets Hot Welcome

**CAMP EAGLE** — Initiations to combat in Vietnam are often fast and furious leaving a soldier a little stunned.

Such was the case with Pfc. Raymond H. DuRussel, Clarkston, Mich., a medic who had just arrived for assignment with A Co., 2nd Bn., 501st Abn. Inf.

The helicopter transporting DuRussel to the company in the field had no sooner touched the ground when several Viet Cong opened fire from a small wood-line surrounding the landing zone.

The new Screaming Eagle medic hit the dirt in the open clearing. His rucksack, silhouetted against the treeline, made a perfect target for the VC.

Bullets began to kick up dust around him, so he crawled to cover and remained there until the company had driven off the attack.

After the skirmish, a fellow Paratrooper pointed to a large slash in the back of DuRussel's rucksack. His canteen had been shot completely off.

Breathless and a little stunned, DuRussel mused, "I knew they were coming pretty close, but in the excitement, I didn't notice. What an initiation!"



**READY TO GO**—Artillerymen of the 2nd Bn., 11th Abn. Arty. load a round into their 155mm howitzer, ready to add to the Eagles' firepower. (Photo by Sgt. Jerry Ghearing)

# Soldier Saves Scout In Riverbed Action

**CAMP EAGLE**—A Kit Carson Scout guided Paratroopers into an underwater operation while crossing a stream south of Hue recently.

Security men had been positioned on both sides of the river as men of C Co., 3rd Bn., 187th Abn. Inf. slipped into the waist-high shallows of a swift river and wrestled their way to the opposite bank.

Sgt. George Marshall, Honolulu, Hawaii, was climbing the bank to check the security when he heard the cry of a man behind him. Wing, a Kit Carson Scout physically smaller than his American allies, had lost a battle with the strong current and was floating down the river.

As the Screaming Eagle Paratrooper swam to the drowning man, Wing disappeared into one of the deep holes that mark the river bed. Marshall dove at the spot where Wing disappeared and surfaced moments later with the struggling scout.

"I had a little trouble with him at first because he was struggling, but once I got him under control it was no problem swimming back to the bank of the river," Marshall added.

The Paratrooper applied lifesaving skills he had learned as a lifeguard on the beaches of Ala-Mona and Waikiki.

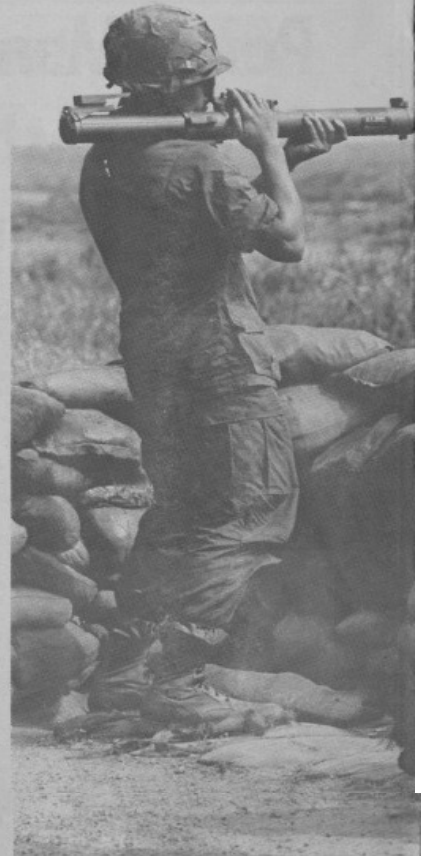
Wing quickly revived and was ready to move on. He said, "I like scouting for the 3rd Brigade, but I don't enjoy underwater operations."



# ***P-Training: Battle Prelude***



New Paratroopers practice on M-60 machine gun.



A new Eagle receives train



Smoke makes P-Training more realistic.



M-79 practice is also p



ing on M-72 LAW.



A Screaming Eagle learns the proper way to throw grenades.



New Paratrooper practices the old art of low crawling.



rt of the course.



101st Information Office  
Photos by  
Spec. 5  
Terry McCauley

The proper method of setting claymore mines is also stressed during the course.

# Seaborne 'Oklahoma' Guns Support Eagles

**CAMP EAGLE** — The warm sea-blue waters of the South China Sea lazily slapped at the sides of the large ship as she turned her bow northward to assume a new firing position off the coast of Vietnam.

The light cruiser, the USS Oklahoma City, better known as the "work horse of the fleet," was once again moving into a firing position to support Division operations.

Coordinating the firing missions from inland is Lt. (jg) Bruce Bickel, Fairmont, W.V., the forward air controller.

Captain Wayne D. Surface, Des Moines, Iowa, commander of the ship, explained that once Bickel locates a target he relates the grid coordinates, target description, ammunition type, and fuse setting to the ship.

After the first round is fired,

he said, corrections are made in relation to target location.

Once corrected, the ship's gun crews are given the command "fire for effect," and the number of rounds desired is announced. "After completing a fire mission," Surface explained, "the forward air controller relays a report on the mission."

A related fire mission in which the ship participates is harassment and interdiction. Areas be-

lieved to be enemy storage or infiltration zones frequently are shelled at unscheduled intervals, thereby keeping the enemy on the move.

The ship, named for the capital of Oklahoma, has worked hand in hand with Division artillery units, adding additional fire support for operations.

Preparation for duty for a ship the size of the Oklahoma City re-

quires detailed planning. Fuel consumption alone constitutes a major factor in keeping the ship at sea. The ship's four large engines burn an average of 54,000 gallons of fuel per day.

Enough ammunition to fill an area occupied by four two-and-one-half ton trucks is taken aboard for each cruise. Also, enough food must be stored to supply an average of 5,200 meals each day.



**WATER BREAK**—Spec. 4 John L. West, Fredricksburg, Tex., takes a break during an operation. Paratroopers of the 1st Bn., 506th Abn. Inf. were searching for enemy activity in the jungle near Camp Evans. (Photo by Spec. 4 Robert Stuart)

## Define 'Patriotism'

### Students Help Noah Webster

**CAMP EAGLE** — What is patriotism? Webster defines it as love and loyal or zealous support of one's own country, especially in all matters involving other countries.

As Paratroopers discovered recently, the children of the Ridge Lawn Elementary School, Chicago Ridge, Ill., all had similar definitions. They were just stated in different terms.

The children mailed several boxes of gifts filled with books, soap and cards. Accompanying the articles were hand-drawn pictures of the U.S. flag colored with crayons and wordy defini-

tions of patriotism. One student wrote, "Patriotism is your own love for your country. I say the Pledge of Allegiance once or twice a week and sing patriotic songs. When I see other people saying the Pledge of Allegiance and singing patriotic song I feel so proud of my country."

"When I hear of people like Abraham Lincoln, George Washington, John F. Kennedy, then I feel I should be proud of my country."

For those with deep feelings toward politics, one concerned student explained, "Patriotism is serving our country, supporting our president and governor even if he is not your choice."

Obedying the law was defined as part of patriotism by another concerned student. He said, "Patriotism is to be proud of your country and obey the law if you live in a suburb or a city or a very large country you still obey the law and one good thing about America we hardly ever do anything wrong and I am proud of our country in many ways and I am proud of the men who go over to fight for our country they are loyal to their country and I am proud — the End."

Several students felt that flying the flag was an appropriate way to show patriotism. "A way I can be patriot is to fly a flag on patriot days such as Labor Day, Fourth of July, Memorial Day and Veterans Day," wrote one student.

Another thought it would be better if "On holidays you put your flag out if you have one. If

an important person died you put the flag out at half mast."

The witty remarks and colorful pictures helped to brighten the Paratroopers' spirits. It also served as a reminder that everyone — including small children — is always thinking about them.

A paragraph from one of the students' letters adequately expressed the feeling of concern relayed in all the messages. She wrote, "Everybody I ever talked to said the soldiers are doing a wonderful job of what is probably the biggest and hardest job in the world. As that old song goes 'God Bless America, my home sweet home.' God bless soldiers!"

## Will The Real J. Martinez Please Stand

**CAMP EAGLE** — Spec. 4 Jesus Martinez, Del Rio, Tex., of the 1st Bn., 506th Abn. Inf. has more trouble with names than explaining the function of the 4.2 mortar platoon.

"We've got too many Martinez's," the Paratrooper explained. Martinez was referring to the fact that in his mortar platoon, there are three of them — Jesus, John D. and John L.

"Whenever Martinez is told to do something," he said, "we all wait for the next Martinez to do it. It's not really passing the buck. . . it's passing the Martinez."

## Bearded Pat O'Brien Helps Troop Morale

**CAMP EAGLE** — One of Hollywood's most noted actors, Pat O'Brien, left a little bit of Ireland in I Corps when he visited Paratroopers throughout the Division area of operation.

The smiling Irishman stopped in the northernmost part of Vietnam as part of a five-week handshake tour of the Far East.

O'Brien won the hearts of U.S. movie-goers in 1940 when he played Knute Rockne in the memorable biography of Notre Dame's famed football coach.

Still vibrant with the charm that made him a star throughout his long career, O'Brien shook hands and posed for numerous pictures while he chatted with Division Paratroopers.

His robust handshake was often greeted with "I've seen you many times on the Late Show, Mr. O'Brien." He had been a famous actor 20 years before most of today's soldiers were born.

At 70, O'Brien is still active and keeping a rapid pace. From I Corps, he was scheduled to fly to Hollywood two days later for television guest spots and advertising commitments. Later this spring, he will entertain servicemen in Europe.

"Don't let the Irish bit fool you," he said. "I'm as American as apple pie." O'Brien was born in Watertown, N.Y., where he grew up with a boyhood pal, the late Spencer Tracy.

"Yes, it was 52 years ago this month that Spence and I enlisted and went off to the big war," he said.

## Tiger Cub 'Charger' Is Ranger

**CAMP EAGLE** — A member of the 2nd Bn., 327th Abn. Inf. named "Charger" climbs along the inside ledges of buildings and plays happily on the floor all day and night.

Charger is a tiger cat that was given to the battalion by Marines last October.

SFC Charles Romero, Landover, Md., the orphaned cat's "father," admits, "Charger is treated like a king by members of the battalion S-1 shop. He eats just about everything set in front of him, especially tuna fish. When it's time for bed, he curls up in a blanket or poncho liner beside one of the Paratroopers."

The Paratroopers' cat is also an honorary Airborne Ranger, complete with a Ranger tab around his neck.



**HELICOPTER 'PAD'**—A chopper mechanic used his field expedient training to construct his own helipad under the tail of a UH-1 Huey. (Photo by Spec. 4 Jon Oberg)

## Gourmet Chef Using Talents To Fix Rations

**CAMP EAGLE** — The aroma of a tender filet mignon sizzling over a charcoal grill has been replaced by the smell of burnt gunpowder from an M-60 machine gun for Pfc. David M. Spencer of Kansas City, Kan.

A gourmet chef at a restaurant in Kansas City, Mo., before entering the service, Spencer now finds himself a machine gunner with the 1st Bn., 506th Abn. Inf.

Sometimes he can be seen sitting on a hillside at Fire Base Jack, mournfully staring down into the helmet between his feet, tears in his eyes. Another one of war's tragedies? No, he's just peeling onions for some gourmet C-rations.



In Pacification Program

# Disney Duo Aids Psyops



**AIRBORNE LITERATURE**—Citizens of Hung Tra village gather leaflets explaining the rewards of turning in communist weapons. The leaflets were dropped by the Division's detachment from the 7th Psyops Bn. (Photo by Spec. 4 Doug Smith)

**CAMP EAGLE** — The late Walt Disney may have had the Civic Action motto — "Win the hearts and minds of the people" — in mind when he gave Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck to the American public, but it is doubtful he could have imagined his cartoons would ever be part of a vital mission in Southeast Asia.

Army Psychological Operations teams make extensive use of animated films in their programs. In vans equipped with projector, screen and their own source of power, these teams roam the length of Vietnam, introducing youngsters to the antics of cartoon characters long familiar to children in the United States.

Although the films are directed primarily toward children, the sounds of young laughter invariably bring their parents. Once their attention has been secured, more serious films are shown — films designed to instill personal and national pride in the Vietnamese citizen.

Typical of this kind of mission was one undertaken by a team from Detachment 4, 7th Psyops

Bn. in support of the 3rd Brigade.

The team members, whose activities range from broadcasting and dropping leaflets over the countryside to presenting programs for school children, journeyed to the Chieu Hoi center inside the Citadel at Hue. They were to show their films to the Hoi Chanhs — former Viet Cong who have rallied to the side of the South Vietnamese government.

Lt. Elliot W. Lee, Long Beach, Calif., is the Psyops program officer in charge of the area between Hue and Quang Tri.

"A few short months, or even weeks ago these people were confirmed Viet Cong," Lee said. "In showing these films, we convince and reassure the man that he made the right choice by coming into the Chieu Hoi program."

When the team arrived at the center, it found that word of the presentation already was beginning to spread. The small room where the films were to be shown was rapidly filling.

Pfc. William A. Bedford, Pikeville, N.C., the team's projectionist, explained, "We find that people are not only eager for us to begin, but also disappointed when the show is over."

People came in increasing numbers until the room was

crowded, and many were standing against the walls. When the cartoons were over, the people watched the serious part of the program with equal attentiveness.

The Chieu Hoi center was the focal point of action during the Tet holiday offensive of 1968. Viet Cong occupied the Citadel for more than a month and forced the closing of the center. Some of the Hoi Chanhs were captured by the enemy, but many more escaped with their families. The center was rebuilt after the Viet Cong had been driven from the Citadel.

There are usually around 80 Hoi Chanhs at the center, although in the last months of 1968, the number at times climbed to 400. The center also provides living quarters and facilities for the families of former VC.

Following their surrender, the Hoi Chanhs go through a course of government indoctrination and training, sometimes leading to jobs as Kit Carson scouts for the U.S. Army. The time a man remains in the course depends upon the individual. When training is completed, he goes through additional courses designed to make him a productive citizen in the Vietnamese society.

## Self-Help Encouraged by S-5

**CAMP EAGLE** — Lt. Lawrence Kelley, Houston, 1st Bn., 327th Abn. Inf., civil affairs (S-5) officer, says he is becoming a pro with a swab and hydrogen peroxide.

"Everybody pitches in with MEDCAPs now," explained Sgt. Jack Steward, Birmingham, Ala. "They've got to. A lot of people come to these things, and the doctor stays busy treating the serious cases."

The battalion performs MEDCAPs three times a week throughout its area of operation. However, its efforts include much more activity.

"MEDCAP is the most visible thing we do," Kelley said. "We make a lot of contacts that way. But the point of the program is not just treating the Vietnamese, it's getting them to help themselves."

One recent day, Kelley scheduled a MEDCAP by asking the village health worker to set it up. Then he started on his other rounds.

He left the battalion headquarters at Fire Base Anzio and headed for the Xuan Hoi school. There, he gave the teacher, a 23-

year-old Buddhist priest named Khac Ngoc Phu, some pencils, crayons and paper for the 70 students.

The interpreter unloaded empty ammunition cases to be made into desks for the children, who now sit on planks and lean forward to their work resting on other planks.

After that, the group of Screaming Eagles traveled to a small government high school. Some of the students qualified for United States scholarships, and Kelley was taking them their stipends for February and March.

The school staff invited every-

one in for tea. Kelley was an old friend. He had been teaching English at the school for several weeks.

After tea, the students came in, the girls blushing, and with appropriate ceremony received their grants, ranging from 350 to 500 piasters.

"It goes for books and school supplies," the Screaming Eagle officer said. "Most of them don't have parents, or their parents can't work."

"The money allows them to go to school if they want to. We can encourage and give them what they need, but they've got to help themselves," he said.

## Interpreter Assists MEDCAP Program

**CAMP EAGLE** — The Vietnamese interpreter had potential, everyone agreed.

He could approach a mother bringing her baby for treatment at a MEDCAP, and with a glance at the medic for approval, reel off the correct formula: "Wash it with soap, apply this ointment, and give the child these antibiotic tablets."

But, this time, the interpreter had the team worried. His patient was 13 years older than usual, and for once, its sex was determinable without close examination.

Her problem was a toothache, somewhat infected. With a firm grasp of medical procedure, the interpreter followed up his diagnosis with the prescription and got out a tube of penicillin for an intramuscular.

"I think I'd better take over now," said the medic. "She might get the wrong idea about Army medicine if he has to look too long for a place to put the shot."

The interpreter may have gotten carried away, but he had caught the spirit of a MEDCAP team as it is run in the 1st Bn., 327th Abn. Inf.

The battalion surgeon, Capt. Marc Englis, Provo, Utah, has "souvenired" some tools from a sympathetic dental colleague and now performs simple tooth extractions with the other medical chores.



**CAREFUL, DOC**—A doctor from the 326th Med. Bn. treats a Vietnamese patient during a recent MEDCAP operation in Thua Thien Province. (Photo by Spec. 4 Louis Mastrarrigo)

## Redleg Gifts Bring Smiles From Kids

**CAMP EAGLE** — A bright smile of happiness greeted Division artillerymen when they visited two orphanages in Hue during the Tet new year celebration.

Armed with gift packets containing articles for all children, the Screaming Eagles visited the Tin Lam Protestant Orphanage and the Vien Hoa Anh Catholic Orphanage.

The gifts were donated by Lt. Col. Lewis J. Henderson, commander of the 4th Bn., 77th Abn. Arty. They were collected, packaged and sent to Vietnam by members of Henderson's hometown church, the Calgary Baptist Church, Dothan, Ala.

## AWARDS and DECORATIONS

- SILVER STAR**  
Col. Lawrence L. Rowley, HHC (3rd O.L.C.); Capt. Joseph A. Westbrook, 1/327 Inf.
- DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS**  
Lt. Col. James A. Heiter, 2/301 Inf.; Lt. Col. Paul B. Snyder, 101st Avn. Bn.; CWO George F. Ellis, 478th Avn. Co.; Spec. 4 Charles D. Bartlett, 101st Asst. Hel. Bn.
- BRONZE STAR WITH "V"**  
Lt. Col. Charles J. Bauer, 1/326 Inf. (2nd O.L.C.); Lt. Col. Ben L. Walton, 1/321 Arty. (1st O.L.C.); Maj. John C. Tompkins, 2/229 Arty. (2nd O.L.C.); Lt. Howard Campbell, 2/17 Cav.; Lt. Arthur Herbert, 3/219 Arty.; Lt. Olin Hudson, 2/230 Arty.; Lt. Lawrence L. 1220, 228th Eng. Bn.; Lt. Edward J. Wiloschek, 3/219 Arty.; 1st Sgt. Guy L. Tomlinson, Hqs. 1st Bde.; Sgt. Edward H. Bryant, 3/17 Cav.; Spec. 4 Robert Cochran Jr., 3/17 Cav.; Pfc. William K. Kirby, Co. L (ranger) 75th Inf.; Pvt. Henry J. St. John, 2/17 Cav.
- 1st Bn., 327th Abn. Inf.**  
SFC Kenneth E. Johnson.
- 2nd Bn., 327th Abn. Inf.**  
Lt. Steven A. Sherlock, Sgt. Raymond F. Dowden, Sgt. Ronnie D. James, Cpl. John L. Walstrom, Spec. 4 Clarence C. Chavez, Spec. 4 Richard L. Helm, Spec. 4 William H. Keampfer, Spec. 4 Stuart L. Rhodes, Spec. 4 Benjamin R. Soicedo, Spec. 4 David W. Storms, Pfc. Merlo Mendoza, Pfc. Allan F. Poschke.
- 2nd Bn., 327th Abn. Inf.**  
Sgt. Robert L. Airwyke, Spec. 5 Richard L. McLaughlin (1st O.L.C.), Spec. 4 Ralph R. Harb, Spec. 4 Morris N. Hill, Spec. 4 Richard A. Smith.
- 3rd Bn., 327th Abn. Inf.**  
Pfc. Sgt. Robert E. Cunningham, Spec. 4 Jimmy R. Penny.
- 1st Bn., 301st Abn. Inf.**  
Sgt. Donald V. Burns, Spec. 5 Paul Sudano Jr. (2nd O.L.C.), Spec. 4 Harvey Clayton, Spec. 4 Charlton Harris (1st O.L.C.), Spec. 4 David Rollif.
- 2nd Bn., 301st Abn. Inf.**  
Spec. 4 Land T. Burke (1st O.L.C.), Spec. 4 William L. Hall, Pfc. Robert Arvid, Pfc. George F. MacDonald, Pfc. Randy K. Mace, Pfc. Ira Shurgon.
- 2nd Bn., 304th Abn. Inf.**  
Pfc. Joseph M. Francis.
- 3rd Bn., 301st Abn. Inf.**  
Lt. Reed Costello, SFC Donald G. Carson, Pfc. Sgt. Gabriel Digesuolito (1st O.L.C.), Sgt. Richard E. Bobineau, Spec. 4 Norman Miller, Spec. 4 Thomas Pope, Spec. 4 Anthony Soliva (2nd O.L.C.), Spec. 4 Leonard P. Sergeant, Pfc. Joseph D. Ages, Pfc. Alfred Colabrese, Pfc. Westly W. Hood, Pfc. Ernesto Yaguire.

# Troopers' Fire Scorches Enemy's Midnight Snack

**CAMP EAGLE** — A midnight snack for three Viet Cong was upset recently when Division Paratroopers triggered a night ambush during an operation northeast of Hue.

The reconnaissance platoon of E Co., 1st Bn., 502nd Abn. Inf. had just moved into a thick woodland to establish an observation post. All morning, watch teams scanned nearby hedgerows and deserted villages trying to catch a glimpse of enemy movement.

Late in the afternoon, a reconnaissance security element detected a small white column of smoke and movement in a deserted hamlet approximately 800 meters away.

As night settled in, accompanied by a thick fog, the 3rd squad left the woodland to establish a defensive ambush site at the edge of the suspected hamlet.

## Bird Dog Detects Fighters' Targets

**CAMP EAGLE** — Circling high above the thick jungle underbrush and tall elephant grass is an O-1 Bird Dog.

The single-engine spotter plane is on a visual reconnaissance mission, searching for an elusive enemy. It belongs to the Air Force Tactical Air Control, attached to the Division.

Supporting ground troops, the spotter planes serve as forward observers, pointing out the enemy and directing fighter jets in on targets. The crew, a pilot and observer, insure that friendly troops are no closer than 200 to 300 meters from the target area.

Before the jets are directed into the area, the spotter pilot arranges for a rendezvous and

## Nevada Eagle Ends After Nine Months

(Continued From Page 1) of the period, Nov. 1, there were about 15 major projects; at the end, Jan. 31, there were about 50.

Some 37,000 people, driven from their homes during the 1968 Tet offensive, were able to return to their homes and rebuild. Major projects completed in the three months were the Tay Loc Orphanage, Gia Le Chapel and schools at Phu Cam and Dong Mong. Thirteen schools and six hospitals or dispensaries were among the projects begun.

Three hundred and thirteen MEDCAPs were run, with 36,531 patients treated. And, in the same period, 97 Hoi Chanh returned to government control through the Chieu Hoi (open arms) program.

Tons of construction material and commodities were distributed. Issued by the Division during the period were 661 sheets of tin for roofs, 1,108 bags of cement, nearly 10,000 board feet of construction lumber and 125,000 feet of scrap lumber. Nearly 144,000 pounds of food and 8,000 pounds of clothing were distributed to the people, and 11,000 toys were given to the children at Christmas parties.

"As soon as we got to the hamlet, we searched around and discovered the smoldering embers of the fire," recalled Sgt. Kenneth Reed, Coventry, Conn., 1st squad leader. "I was almost certain the Viet Cong had no idea we were in the area. I figured they would probably come back to the spot later."

The Paratroopers quickly and silently set to work preparing the trap.

"I was hoping we would have to only use claymores and possibly grenades. In this weather, muzzle flashes show up real good," Reed said.

"I was searching for a place to put my claymore when I spotted some cooking pots. I set the claymore up and put a pot over it. We used the pot as the center of the ambush and placed two more claymores about 20 feet apart on each side, making

a half circle," Reed continued.

With the ambush ready, the Paratroopers slipped back into their positions.

"It was almost midnight when we heard a rifle shot from the far left, then two rifle shots from the far right. We were sure two VC elements were exchanging information letting each know there were no American units in the area," Reed said.

"The shots lasted for about a half hour, and then we began to hear voices. The voices stopped for about five minutes. Shortly after that, we spotted two VC.

"One of them lit a cigarette. I would have sprung the ambush then, but I had the feeling a few more might show up."

For 10 minutes, the Paratroopers watched as the two VC built a small fire. Suddenly, another figure was silhouetted by the flames.

"Those 10 minutes were the longest I've ever spent," Reed added. "I was hoping to wait a little longer, but, unfortunately, one of them picked up the wrong pot and we detonated the claymore."

## Makes Double Effort

# 'Vicious' RPG Explodes

**CAMP EAGLE**—One of the most temperamental weapons the enemy uses in Vietnam is a rocket-propelled grenade, according to Lt. Michael A. Sapp, Angola, Ind.

Sapp has also discovered the RPG is the only weapon in the enemy arsenal that is hard core enough to make an extra effort to nab its victim.

The officer was heading a



**A THOROUGH SEARCH**—Pfc. Robert Burgey, Cliffwood Beach, N.J., searches a haystack for signs of Viet Cong during a Division sweep through a coastal village north of Hue. The 1st Bn., 501st Abn. Inf. combined with Vietnamese National Police to execute the operation.

five man-one dog team from the 557th Combat Trackers from the 1st Brigade, under operational control of B Co., 2nd Bn., 501st Abn. Inf.

The Trackers were leading when the unit moved out early one morning. Fifteen meters outside the night perimeter, the point man thought he saw movement. Sapp moved forward to his position.

An RPG round came from 20

meters down the trail. One of its fins caught Sapp's left forearm and cut it. The round spun and somewhere in that fraction of a second decided to explode.

Its murderous shrapnel ripped Sapp's sleeping roll from his back and shredded his rucksack.

A short time later, Sapp replied, "It's the first time I've ever seen a weapon take it personally enough to try twice."

The round's explosion initiated action that cost the North Vietnamese Army two dead and an AK-47 assault rifle.

## Chopper Risks Bullets; Rescues Downed Pilot

**CAMP EAGLE**—In a tense rescue operation, a helicopter pilot from A Btry., 377th Abn. Arty., airlifted an Air Force pilot to safety after his F-100F jet fighter was downed south of Phu Bai.

Lt. Robert Bramble of Hayward, Calif., was adjusting a registration for the 2nd Bn., 320th Abn. Arty., when he picked up a "mayday" call on his radio frequency.

Realizing he was less than 10 kilometers from the downed flier, the Division soldier contacted the forward air controller, flying over the downed fighter, and offered his assistance.

Another jet circled overhead observing .50 caliber and automatic weapon fire directed dangerously close to the downed jet.

Because of the density of the jungle canopy, Bramble was forced to hover his helicopter precariously above the treetops for almost 10 minutes while leading the downed pilot to a clearing for pickup.

Col. Leroy J. Manor, commander of the jet fighter team, commended Bramble's heroic actions and said, "It was through the courage of Bramble that a valuable crew member was rescued from imminent capture and possible death."



**CAPTURED FLAG**—Spec. 4 Phillip L. Sweet, South Bend, Ind., (left) and Spec. 4 Roland Jensen, Volga, S.D., both Paratroopers of C Co., 2nd Bn., 506th Abn. Inf., display a communist flag they captured north of Hue. The official flag of North Vietnam has a large star (barely visible above; it's sewed on the other side) but no hammer and sickle. (Photo by Spec. 4 Wayne C. Krieger)