A painting depicting a man in a trench, looking upwards. A large, dark log is suspended in the air by a pulley system of ropes and cables. The scene is set in a rocky, outdoor environment. The style is expressive and somewhat somber.

Rendezvous With Destiny

A Publication of 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile)



Proud Reflections



HEADQUARTERS 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION (AIRMOBILE)
Office of the Commanding General
APO 96383

When I assumed command of the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) last May, I was filled with a deep sense of pride, knowing I would be leading the finest combat force in the world.

Reflecting on these first several months, it is a pleasure to report that my pride in the division and particularly in each of you—as individual soldiers—has continued to grow.

As a Screaming Eagle you can be justifiably proud of your contributions to the division's accomplishments, and you can now find yourself in the pages of our history, a part of the valiant traditions which have continued since the division embarked on its "Rendezvous With Destiny" in 1942.

As 1971 approaches, all of us must reflect on the heritage of earlier Screaming Eagles and rededicate ourselves to our goal of helping the Vietnamese people in their fight for freedom, peace, and stability.

As progress continues in the Vietnamization Program, we must intensify our efforts to assist these courageous people as they strive to attain their goals and aspirations

My thanks go to each of you for a job exceptionally well done. I am confident that you will continue to expand the proud "All The Way" tradition of the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile).

JOHN J. HENNESSEY
Major General, USA
Commanding

Rendezvous With Destiny

FALL 1970

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Commanding General

MG John J. Hennessey

Information Officer

MAJ Edward L. Smith

Editor

SP4 Daniel A. Suderman, Jr.

Staff Artist

SP4 Wilson Spottedbird, Jr.

Cover:

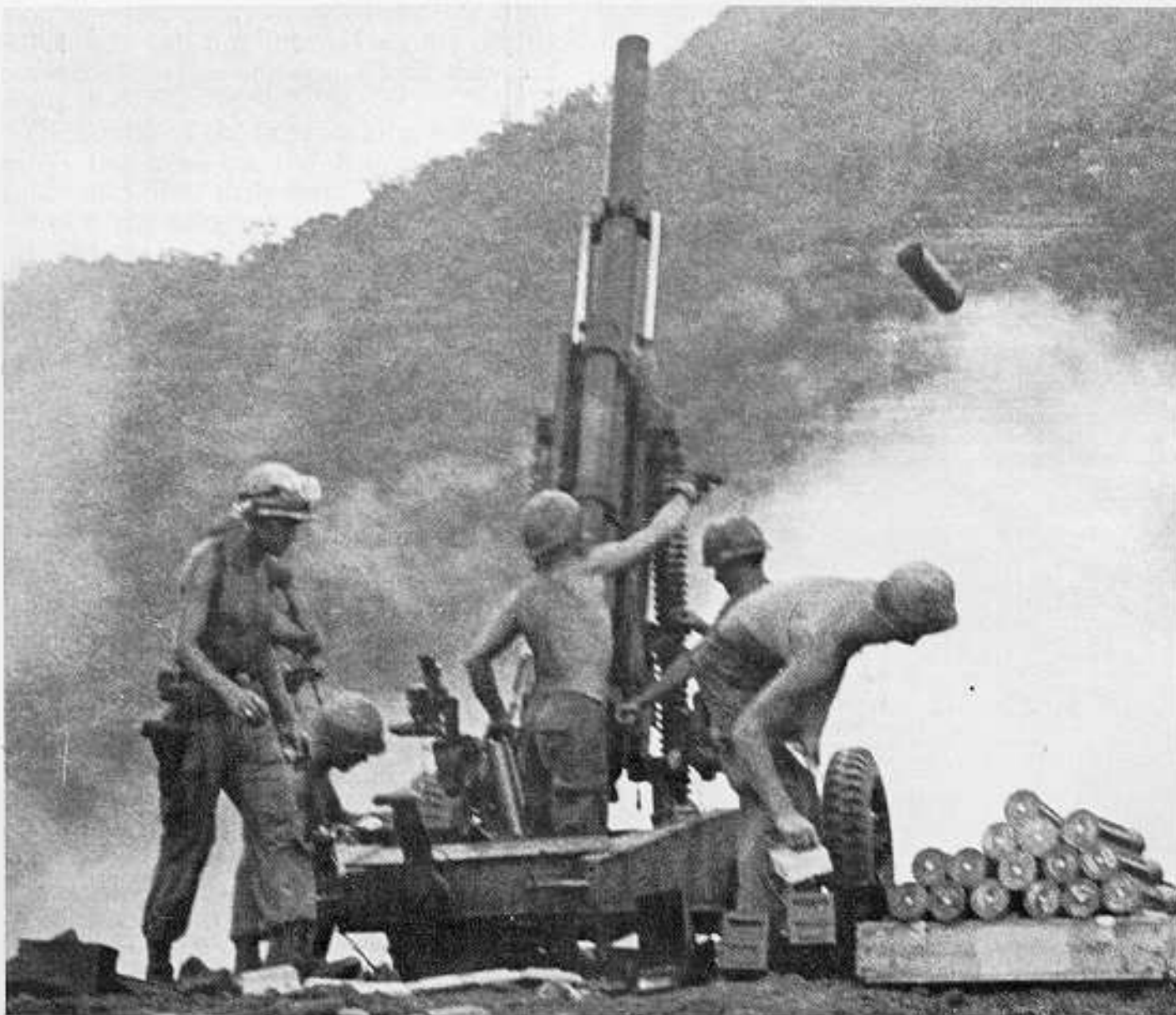
SP4 David Graves



Laden with a sling-load of supplies, a CH-47 Chinook helicopter eases onto FSB Maureen.

Combined Operation

ARVN troops in the field receive artillery support from Btry. C, 2nd Bn. (Ambl.), 320th Arty.



Each afternoon the low, smoke-gray clouds pressed down the valley of the Rao Trang River from the northwest drenching Fire Support Base(FSB)Maureen in a cool, sometimes chilling rain.

Monday had been different. The sun was bright and pleasantly warm. Three bulldozers from the Heavy Equipment Platoon of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 326th Engineer Battalion, had leveled the two humps of the saddle-shaped ridge and dozed in the gap between the mounds to form an earthen bridge.

In less than an hour a CH-47 Chinook helicopter approached from the east followed by still more of the cargo ships with their sling loads of 155mm howitzers and ammunition. The first elements of Battery A, 10th Battalion, 3rd Artillery (ARVN) began arriving.

On the steep slopes of the fire support base "Strike Force" troopers from Company B, 2nd Battalion (Airmobile), 502nd Infantry, provided security, dug emplacements and laid concertina wire. Fields of fire were cleared and the foliage placed in the gullies.

A Pathfinder from the 101st Aviation Group popped a purple smoke grenade and with raised arms, as to signal a touchdown at a football game, guided the lumbering twin-engined chopper towards the lower



The first of 44 sorties of UH-1 Huey helicopters from the 101st departs Camp Sally to insert soldiers of the 2nd Bn., 3rd Regt. (ARVN), into an area near FSB Maureen.

cover. Simultaneously, on FSB Maureen, 155mm howitzers from Battery A, 10th Battalion (ARVN) and 105mm howitzers from Battery C, 2nd Battalion (Airmobile), 320th Artillery, pelted the area with combined artillery support.

As additional sorties began landing, sporadic AK-47 automatic rifle fire echoed through the high mountains and triple canopy jungles surrounding the landing zone. MAJ Hung Mao, battalion commander, organized immediate defensive security while CPT Michael Ryan, Gloucester, Mass., senior U.S. advisor, called for artillery and aerial support from the 101st to silence the NVA snipers. Moving 400 yards off the landing zone, the ARVN company killed two NVA soldiers and captured the 12.7mm anti-aircraft machine gun. In another location, a security patrol led by SSG Robert Zern of Philadelphia, Pa., discovered an enemy basecamp and nine enemy soldiers who had been killed.

The next morning the ARVN troopers uncovered the battalion-size NVA base-

camp atop Co Pong mountain, 20 miles west of Hue. Approximately 75 bunkers and World War I type trenches, all facing towards FSB Maureen, were destroyed.

As the battalion continued to move up Co Pong mountain two caches were found hidden deep under the triple canopy containing 82mm mortar rounds, medical supplies, various clothing items, dishes and cooking equipment.

Upon reaching the summit, a reconnaissance element sighted an NVA platoon less than 150 meters from the command post's position. The ARVN troops moved in on the enemy and completely surrounded them. A fierce firefight ensued then climaxed as the ARVN soldiers made a penetrating surge at the enemy killing 16 and capturing several weapons and items of fighting gear.

Meanwhile, back at Maureen, PFC Chris R. Gray of Seaview, Wash., had been watching the arrival of the CH-47s and the determined ARVN soldiers who had to manhandle the large-bore howitzers.

by
SP4 Nicholas G. Kobe, Jr.
and
SP4 Anthony Loiero

ground of the saddle.

A brown swirl of dust rose from the ground around the Chinook. Slowly it descended, coming to rest in the center of the cleared hilltop, and a combined U.S.-ARVN operation was physically transformed from the planning stages to the operational.

Airborne troopers from the 2/502 would be employed as a blocking force while the 3rd Regiment, 1st Infantry Division (ARVN), would initiate a search and clear operation. Vietnamization had come a long way since the days when South Vietnamese forces had filled the role of blocking forces while U.S. units assumed the aggressive roles in combined operations.

The highly-successful combined U.S.-ARVN operation around FSB Maureen resulted in the discovery of an estimated 300-bunker enemy battalion basecamp along with 16 AK-47 rifles, 2,800 rounds of AK-47 ammunition, two B-40 rocket launchers and ammunition, 222 82mm mortar rounds and one 12.7mm anti-aircraft machine gun. In addition, 44 NVA soldiers were killed.

The 2nd Battalion, 3rd Regiment (ARVN), was inserted into the operational area by 44 UH-1 helicopters from the 101st while numerous AH-1 Cobra gunships from the 101st Aviation Battalion (Airmobile) flew



The Vietnamese were dwarfed under the burden of the bullet-nosed shells and the cannisters they carried on their shoulders. Gray, as a single figure, stood out from the rest of the men in Company B as he helped an ARVN soldier with his load.

Gray is that small personalized enactment of cooperation and understanding which foreign policy cannot replace. "I like people," he said. "Once you talk with someone you learn to understand him and he learns to understand you. This doesn't solve all the problems but it helps."

The Vietnamese from the "Tiger" regiment began digging in. Gun emplacements were prepared and ammunition pits dug. One cook sat preparing a green vegetable similar to spinach while others watched over blackened pots of boiling water and rice. Shrimp and fish heads were added to the rice.

"I like Vietnamese food," said Gray, "though it is necessary to get over pre-conceived ideas about eating such things as fish heads." His relationship with the ARVN had grown in those few days in which Bravo Company was on Maureen.

It was mid-morning Tuesday. Soon the second battery of artillery would be arriving. Charlie Battery, 2nd Battalion (Airmobile), 320th Artillery, began its arrival in much the same way as the ARVN battery. The Chinooks repeated their previous day's pattern of approach from the east and brought the accompanying dust storms.

Company E with its mortars and reconnaissance platoon had long since been emplaced on the eastern end of the hill. The mortar section had been firing illumination during the night and pelting the surrounding hills and slopes with fire.

SP4 William Johnston sat near a hooch built from a combination of ponchos and heavy branches. Nearby was a one-man foxhole with a sandbag revetment. The engineers had cut a road for the mechanical mules which ran up along the side of the hill past the ARVN artillery pieces. The ruts had filled with water from the afternoon rain leaving the area in the vicinity of the hooch a mud hole.

Johnston had seen many fire support bases since he had come to Echo Company. FSB Maureen was no more unique nor uncomfortable than the others he had seen.

"I first had a chance to know the Vietnamese at FSB Brick when I met an ARVN lieutenant who spoke English very well. He invited me over to eat on several occasions and we had the customary Vietnamese foods."

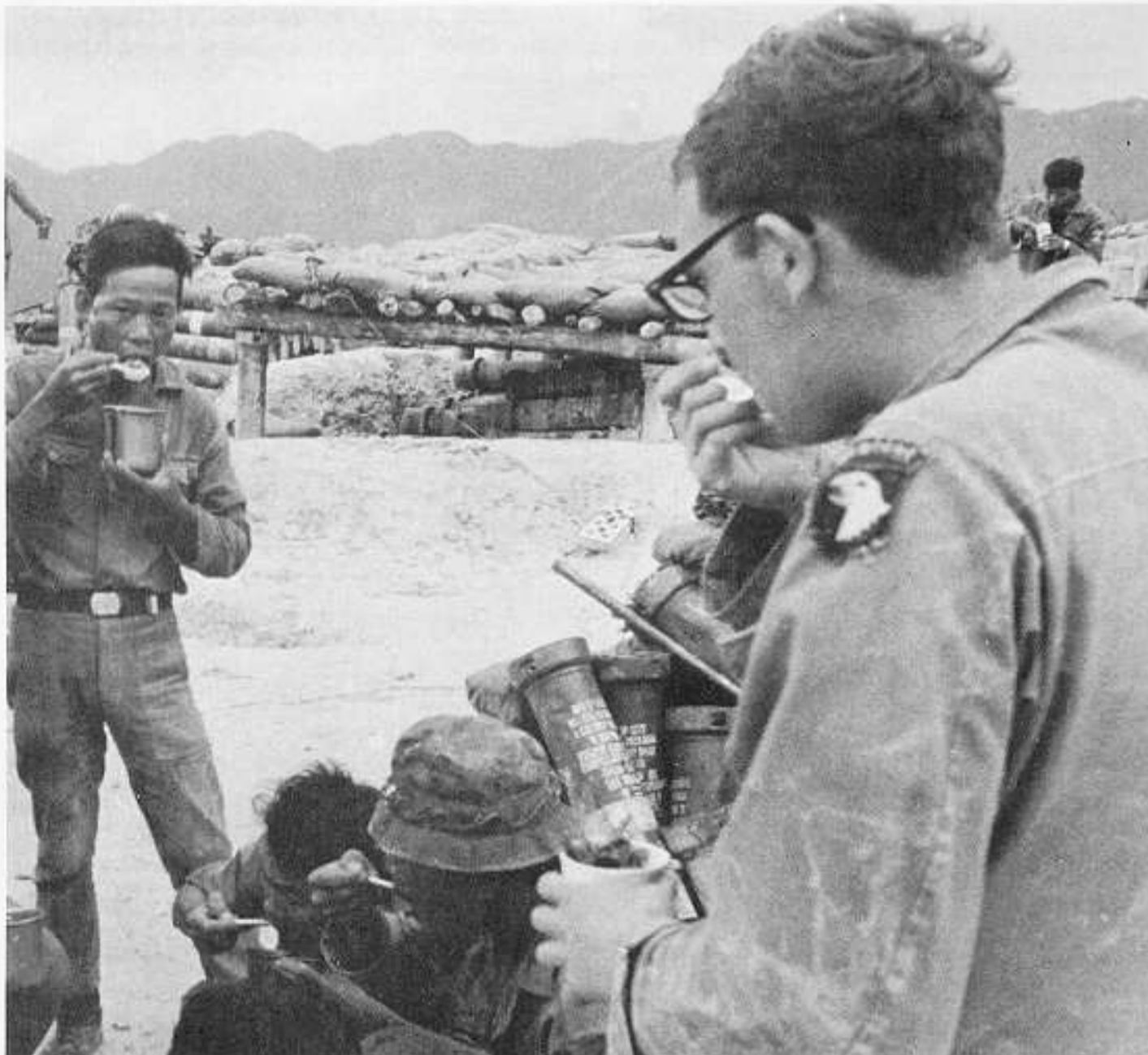
"On several occasions the ARVN soldiers have helped me with my bunker and hooch. When I first got over here I had a typical problem of staying dry. This is one of those problems which Vietnamese are masters in overcoming. They can put together a hooch in no time and clear a flat place to sleep on what seems an impossible hillside." Johnston spends most of his time on the fire support bases with his 90mm recoilless rifle perched



Above, CPT Michael Ryan, Gloucester, Mass., artillery support.
Below, Two ARVN soldiers guard their night



PFC Chris R. Gray, Seaview, Wash., shares a meal and conversation with ARVN soldiers during the combined operation.





senior U.S. Advisor for the operation, calls for defensive position atop Co Pong mountain.



near his fighting position.

"Being on fire support bases so much gives me an opportunity to see the good points of an ARVN soldier. One thing which impresses me is his alertness on guard. He watches all avenues of approach with real intensity."

On Wednesday the fire support base began to grow more formidable as the number of rows of concertina increased. Engineers of Company A, 326th Eng. Bn., blew tree stumps and the CH-47s made flame drops to burn away the undergrowth around Maureen.

The predictable rain came during the afternoon, filling the fighting positions with water and leaving many Screaming Eagles uncomfortably wet as they tried to bail the water out of the holes.

SP4 Dan Kanke is also from Echo Company and a friend of Johnston. He was manning another 90mm recoilless rifle on the other side of the perimeter. On the previous day he and Johnston had eaten with a group of Vietnamese gunners and shared a few laughs about the rain as they slipped and struggled up and down the slopes. Kanke, from Bellevue, Iowa, shares with Gray and Johnston that open-mindedness which allows men to transcend national differences to build friendships.

Kanke is quiet, markedly calm, and understandably confident. "Too many Americans over here seem to miss what is going on. If you mistreat the Vietnamese they certainly aren't going to express any

friendship." Kanke felt at ease among the ARVN soldiers on Maureen and expressed confidence he could trust them as they trusted him.

Speaking of the combined operation, MAJ Paul L. Kite, operations officer for 2/502 said, "The 3rd Regiment (ARVN) is very smooth. The South Vietnamese command has a very good source of intelligence which makes our job a great deal easier."

"The 1st Division (ARVN) and in particular the 3rd Regiment (ARVN) is a very fine unit to work with," he continued. "Cooperation is important and is certainly at work here."

LTC Charles J. Shay, commander of 2/502, exemplified the high degree of refinement in relations established at the command level.

"The ARVN soldier is now markedly different than he was several years ago. He is no longer part of a static force which stands watch over bridges and hamlets but rather an aggressive fighter in Cambodia, the Delta, the Central Highlands, and the northern provinces," he said.

Understanding and appreciation of what the South Vietnamese soldier of today can accomplish in combined U.S.-ARVN operations, and more importantly on his own, warrant the trust and friendship that Screaming Eagles like Gray, Johnston and Kanke have made on FSB Maureen and advisors have made while working with ARVN soldiers in the field.



An ARVN soldier sights-in a recoilless rifle prior to firing on a suspected enemy target.





Scream Vietnam Diary

by PFC

August 5—Aircraft from the 2nd Sqdn. (Ambl.), 17th Cav., while on an extensive aerial reconnaissance patrol in the vicinity of FSB Tomahawk and FSB Los Banos, spotted enemy activity on the ground. Engaging the enemy, the squadron killed 11 NVA soldiers.

August 10—Helicopters of B Trp., 2nd Sqdn. (Ambl.), 17th Cav., while on a search and clear operation 20 miles southwest of Hue, spotted and engaged an estimated company-size enemy force killing 18 NVA. The cavalymen were working in support of the 1st Infantry Division (ARVN).

August 11—Again while flying support missions for the 1st Infantry Division (ARVN) near FSB O'Reilly, gunships from the 2nd Sqdn. (Ambl.), 17th Cav., engaged numerous enemy positions destroying an enemy bunker site and killing 11 NVA.

August 16—Today was the 28th anniversary of the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile). It was on this day in 1942 that Brigadier General William C. Lee assumed command and spoke of the division having a "Rendezvous with Destiny."

August 17—Colonel Paul F. Gorman took command of the 1st Brigade today in a rain-drenched ceremony attended by Lieutenant General James W. Sutherland, XXIV Corps commander; Major General John J. Hennessey, 101st commanding general; Major General Ngo Troung, commanding general of the 1st Infantry Division (ARVN); and Brigadier General Sidney B. Berry, 101st assistant division commander. COL Gorman received the brigade colors from Colonel John D. White, who had commanded the brigade since January 15, 1970.

Also today, troopers of Co. B, 2nd Bn. (Ambl.), 502nd Inf., while on a search and clear operation in an area near FSB



Screaming Eagle

am

Thomas Rutledge

Barnett, which had been the target of heavy artillery and aerial rocket artillery bombardment on the previous day, discovered 34 NVA dead and captured one .30 caliber machine gun.

August 19—In continued operations around FSB Barnett, "Strike Force" troopers of Co. B, 2nd Bn. (Ambl.), 502nd Inf., engaged an estimated enemy company with small arms fire and called for artillery support, aerial rocket artillery and Air Force air strikes resulting in 25 NVA killed and one enemy soldier detained. In addition, 12 AK-47 rifles, two RPG launchers and various enemy supplies were captured.

August 22—More than 12,000 Screaming Eagles and members of commands in northern Military Region 1 were treated to 90 minutes of singing and dancing by seven American beauties as they watched the Miss America-USO Show 1970 at Eagle Entertainment Bowl, Camp Eagle. Featured in the program were Michigan's Pamela Anne Eldred, Miss America 1970; Miss Alabama, Ann Fowler; Miss North Carolina, Patsy Johnson; Miss Oregon, Margaret Huhta; Miss California, Susan Anton; Miss Colorado, Andria Easton; and Miss Tennessee, Mary Cox.

August 23—"Currahees" of the 3rd Bn. (Ambl.), 506th Inf., fresh from operations in Cambodia and the Republic of Vietnam's Military Region 2, today rejoined the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile), their parent unit. Major General John J. Hennessey, commanding general of the 101st, was on hand to greet Lieutenant Colonel John E. Martling, commander of the 3/506th, and his "Stand Alone" battalion upon their arrival at Phu Bai aerial port.

August 26—Cobra helicopters from the 4th Bn. (Ambl.), 77th Artillery (ARA), flying support missions for the 1st Infantry Regiment (ARVN), killed 26 enemy soldiers and destroyed caches and staging sites in Thua Thien Province near FSB O'Reilly.

August 31—Aircraft from B Trp., 2nd Sqdn. (Ambl.), 17th Cav., while flying support missions in an area near FSB Barnett killed 11 NVA soldiers and destroyed an enemy bunker complex.

September 8—Helicopters from Btry C., 4th Bn. (Ambl.), 77th Artillery (ARA), killed 20 enemy soldiers in action

near FSB O'Reilly. A 12.7mm machine gun was also captured as a result of the operation.

September 14—In other action involving the 4th Bn. (Ambl.), 77th Artillery (ARA), near FSB O'Reilly, helicopters from Batteries A and C killed 10 NVA soldiers.

September 19—While conducting aerial reconnaissance patrols in the vicinity of FSB O'Reilly, aircraft from the 2nd Sqdn. (Ambl.), 17th Cav., engaged an unknown-size enemy force killing 19 NVA and destroying an enemy bunker.

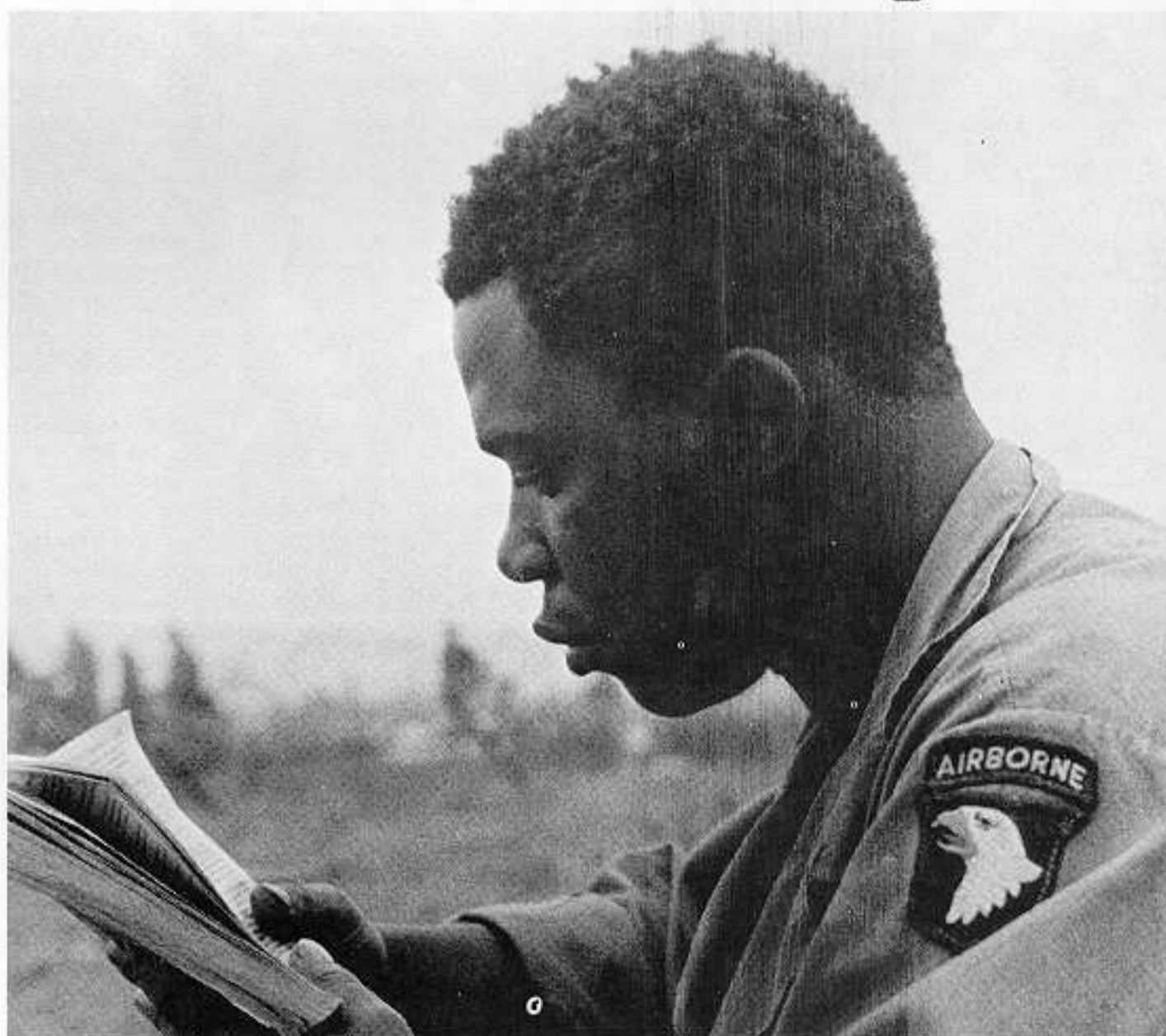
September 25—In continued aerial reconnaissance patrol activity, gunships of the 2nd Sqdn. (Ambl.), 17th Cav., engaged and killed 11 NVA in various contacts throughout the day.

September 28—Helicopters of the 2nd

Sqdn. (Ambl.), 17th Cav., and Air Force aircraft engaged an estimated enemy company killing 29 NVA soldiers and destroying an enemy hut south of FSB Fist.

September 29—Elements of the 2nd Sqdn. (Ambl.), 17th Cav., and the 4th Bn. (Ambl.), 77th Artillery (ARA), and Air Force jets engaged an unknown-size enemy force, killing 14 NVA soldiers.

October 1—Brigadier General Olin E. Smith, assistant division commander, was promoted to his present rank during ceremonies at Camp Eagle. Major General John J. Hennessey, commanding general of the 101st and Brigadier General Pham Van Phu, commanding general of the 1st Infantry Division (ARVN), pinned the stars on BG Smith before a gathering of fellow officers and guests.



L Company, 75th Infantry... RANGERS

by SP4 David L. Volk

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

As the last figure scrambles aboard the bird a shout of "get the hell outta' here" rings over the pilot's headset and in an instant the chopper is airborne. Once aloft, the men sit and relax—the first chance they've had in five long days. Another mission has been completed and to members of a Ranger team from Company L, 75th Infantry, that means a shower and hot chow.

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

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

Theirs is a lonely war and hopefully a quiet one.

A Ranger is a member of a small reconnaissance team where his endless hours of training and the trust of his buddies dominate his environment. When a team is inserted into the triple canopy jungle far removed from any Allied support, a Ranger is totally dependent on his own abilities to remain undetected and complete his mission. His best weapon is concealment and the tools of his trade are stealth, silence and an alert eye for the enemy.

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

Days prior to a mission, division intelligence begins to sort and classify data which has been gathered on suspected enemy movement and activity. It will then be the job of the Rangers to go out to the specified

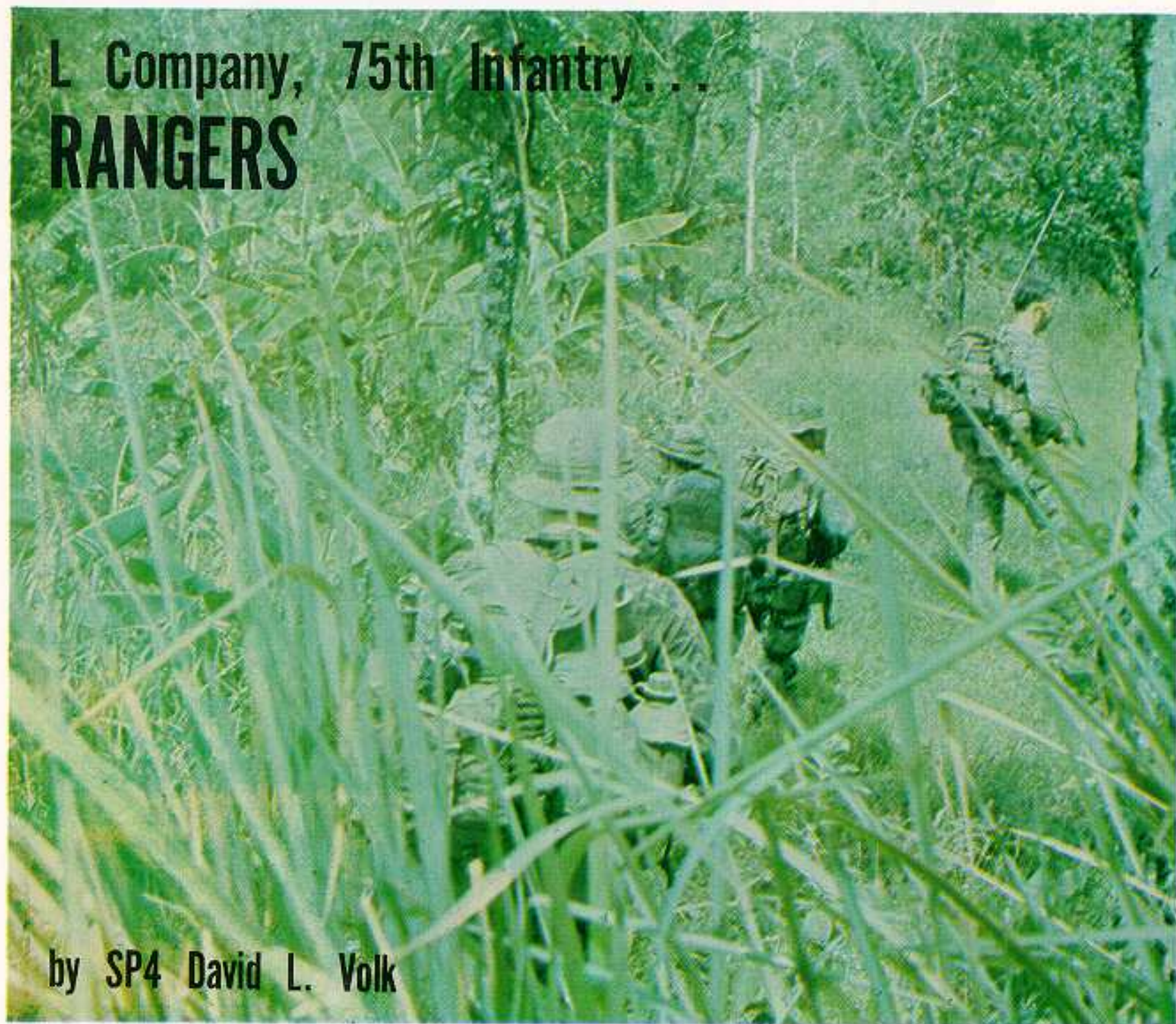
area and try to confirm or deny what is only suspected in the rear.

There is also much to be done by a Ranger himself. His equipment must be in top shape and ready to go. The rucksack alone that a Ranger carries takes approximately four hours to pack. Everything must be precisely planned and executed. In an area where he is always out-numbered and a long distance from reinforcements, the slightest mistake could be disastrous.

Rangers, however, do not make many mistakes. They have gone through rigorous training for their jobs. Many have attended the Ranger School at Fort Benning, Ga., while others have received training at the 5th Special Forces Group Recondo School located in Nha Trang, RVN.

Another thing about Rangers is that they like their work. Becoming a Ranger is strictly voluntary and there is no commitment to stay.

Members of Company L expressed a wide variety of reasons for volunteering to





become a Ranger.

"I just feel safer," said SFC Jose Mendoza, Columbus, Ga. "In a line unit there is just too much noise and I like the idea of knowing where the enemy is instead of the other way around."

One of the most common reasons conveyed was the personal satisfaction a Ranger gets out of his job.

To a Ranger, the first two hours after insertion are the most dangerous and mentally straining.

"Because we have to be brought in by helicopter," said Mendoza, "the enemy will know there is activity in the area."

"But we have different techniques when we hit the ground that can throw the enemy off," he continued. "Also, the pilots stay as close to the ground as possible when bringing us in to lessen the chances of enemy detection."

Once inserted into suspected enemy territory, the Ranger team's primary mission is to perform reconnaissance of the



area and observe the enemy. By close observation of an enemy force, valuable information can be obtained pertaining to a unit's size, movement and capabilities.

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

Although a Ranger has disadvantages operating far from friendly basecamps and firebases, he also has many things going for him. A sophisticated relay system provides a Ranger with good communications with rear areas despite his remote location. Another distinct advantage expressed by many Rangers is the close-in support of the 2nd Squadron (Airmobile), 17th Cavalry.

"Our support is instantaneous from the 2/17th Cavalry," said a Ranger lieutenant, "and there is no such thing as bad weather to the Cav. If we have people who need to get out in a hurry, the Cav is there with the birds."

"There have been times," said 1LT Kevin J. Henry of Arlington, Va., "when Cobras have spotted one of our ambushes and remained in the area waiting for us to call if we need help. It's a great feeling when you're way-the-hell out there with a strong possibility of enemy troops all around and you look up and see a couple of Cobras flying overhead."

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

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

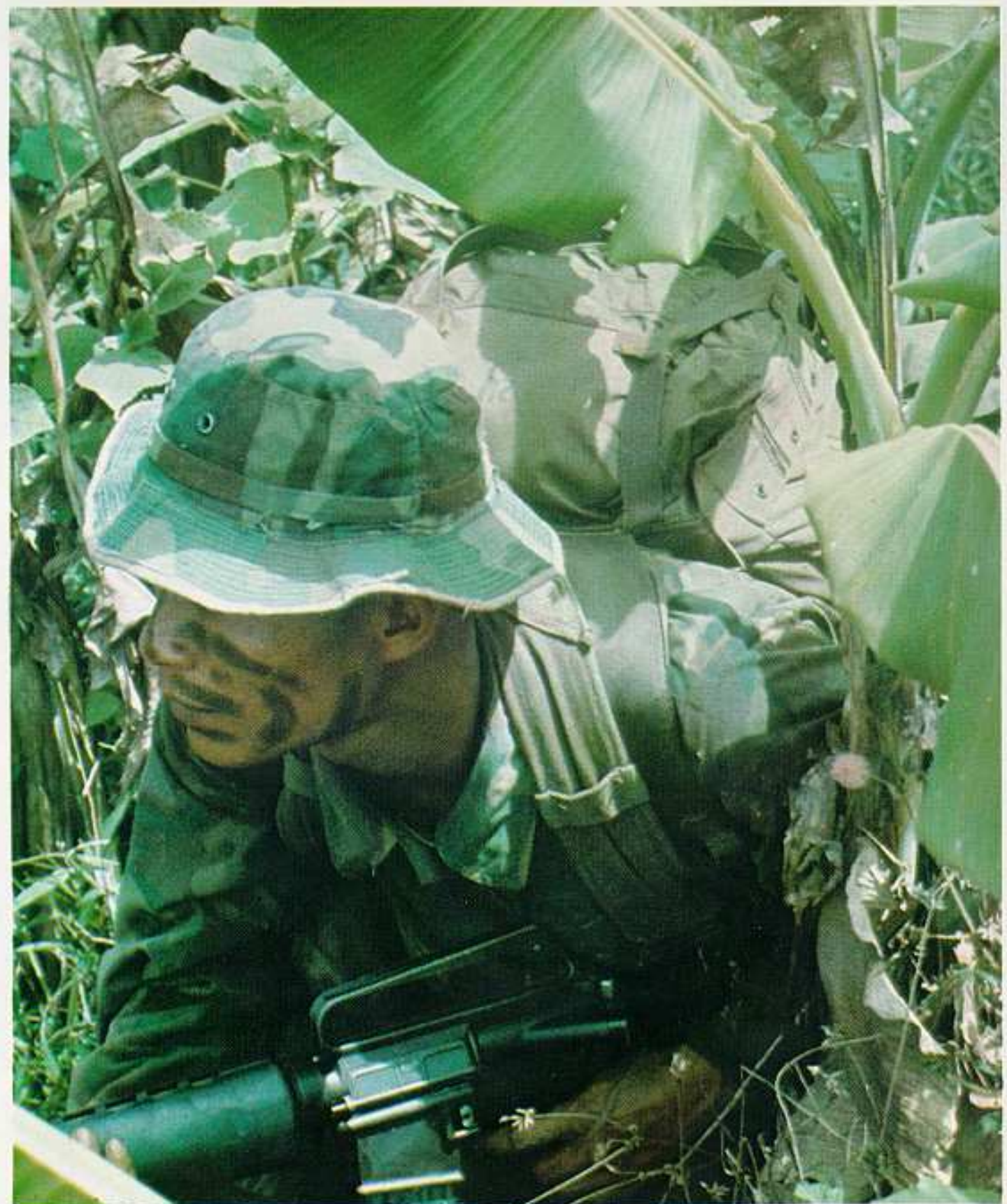
The sound of the approaching helicopter brings the men on the helipad back to reality and onto their feet.

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

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

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

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





HAC BAO

by

SP5 E. H. Buchmann, Jr.

A team of eight helicopters formed a tight circle, their twirling rotor blades slicing through the hot Vietnam air directly over Camp Evans near Hue. The first of the choppers broke the formation and descended onto the Screaming Eagle Replacement Training School (SERTS) helipad, stirring up a fine spray of dust as it made its hasty landing. Instantly a group of camouflage-clad Vietnamese soldiers scrambled from the "slick," darted across the pad and watched as the remaining aircraft dropped off their comrades.

On the right shirt pocket of each soldier's skin-tight fatigues was a triangular patch with the embroidered face of a growling panther. Below the panther were the words: Hac Bao. Hac Bao, a well respected name throughout northern Military Region 1—is the name given to an elite group of hardcore, highly-trained and spirited Vietnamese fighting men—a single, all-volunteer company of special mission ARVN soldiers.

Formed in 1964, the Panthers are commonly referred to by citizens of the northern provinces of the Republic of Vietnam as the "Saviors of Hue" for their actions against the enemy forces in the Tet Offen-

sive of 1968. The Hac Bao company is credited with striking the final blow that drove the NVA from the imperial city.

After the last helicopter dropped its load the Hac Bao secured their M-16 rifles and packs and marched back to the rows of black hooches at the SERTS training area.

The weary platoon of ARVN Panthers had just returned from a 36-hour patrol mission deep in the mountainous jungles near the Laotian border. This patrol was the final phase of an eight-day training program provided by the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) to familiarize the Hac Bao with U.S. Army fighting tactics.

The Hac Bao company was broken down into six platoon-size cycles with each platoon taking its turn for the period of training at Camp Evans. Utilizing the SERTS training area, along with a combined group of the division's best instructors, the Panthers settled into eight days of classroom study and practical training.

With lesson plans laid out by Rangers from Company L, 75th Infantry, and selected members of the SERTS teaching staff, the new pupils were presented an orientation.

"The purpose of this training," began 1LT Michael P. Grim, executive officer of Company L and officer-in-charge of the Hac Bao training, "is to develop you into a more effective platoon-size strike force for employment anywhere in northern Military Region 1." The Staunton, Va., native continued, "To do this, we will expose you to some of the combat methods practiced by the United States Army and further familiarize you with the airmobility concept of the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile)."

Because few of the Hac Bao soldiers could understand English, Vietnamese interpreters were employed to break down



To begin their SERTS training, the Panthers shout "Hac Bao" illustrating the pride and spirit within their unit.

the language barrier. The procedure proved worthwhile with each American instructor making his points, followed by the Vietnamese translation.

Seated on rows of wooden bleachers, the black-bereted ARVN soldiers were given courses in aerial photograph, map and compass reading.

"The Hac Bao are extremely proficient with compasses and maps," said Ranger SSG James E. Moran of Milford, Conn., "but most of them don't need a map to see where they are. They know where they are. After all, this is their country and they've been fighting in these jungles for a long time."

On the second day of training the Hac Bao were able to see firsthand some of the important things that they have going for them while out in the field. An aerial rocket artillery (ARA) demonstration by Cobras of Battery C, 4th Battalion (Airmobile), 77th Artillery, vividly illustrated what a rocket-equipped helicopter can do to targets on the ground. Perched on a set of bleachers in an open field, well away from Camp Evans, the Hac Bao watched the Cobra pilot engage an imaginary target on the hillside, first firing his rockets, then sending down a steady rain of lead from his mini-gun. The ARVN soldiers were urged to request ARA support from the "Griffins" whenever they needed it.

Dawn of the third day found the platoon of Panthers being taken by truck outside the perimeter to the SERTS demolition range. There in the grassy flatlands, SFC Floyd Brown, Dixon, Ky., from the 326th Engineer Battalion, divided his day of instruction into two parts: classroom techniques on the use of demolitions, followed by practical exercises.

Aided by the interpreter, the sergeant explained the various types of explosives and the proper method for handling and detonating each. After a morning of tutoring, the Hac Bao were given a chance to compose a live C-4 charge and detonate it. With all necessary fuses and wires hooked up, one Panther, with "Seattle" inked on his camouflaged helmet cover, jumped behind the protective barrier and squeezed the detonator. After flinching from the sharp explosion, the Hac Bao conjured-up a smile. "Numba one, numba one!" he shouted.

The Panther platoon stared upward at the SERTS 40-foot rappelling tower as they were briefed on the proper application of the "Swiss Seat," on the fourth morning.

Among interested observers are Major General Ngo Troung, second from the right, former commanding general of the 1st Infantry Division (ARVN) and Colonel Jesse L. Wheeler, far left, U.S. senior advisor to the division.



Donning leather gloves and D-rings, the Hac Bao, one by one, manipulated each ladder rung to the top of the tower.

"There's a lot of pride in this unit," said Moran. "The morale of these soldiers is incredibly high and the name Hac Bao means a lot to them. They have such a hate for the NVA soldiers that it works in their favor—helps keep their spirit up."

"A lot of them," continued the sergeant, "lost their families to the NVA during the '68 Tet Offensive, so whenever they make enemy contact in the field they start shouting 'Hac Bao.' It sort of works as a terror factor against the NVA."

True to Moran's words, the team of Panthers rappelled down the tower in big swinging bounds, shouting "Hac Bao, Hac Bao" all the way.

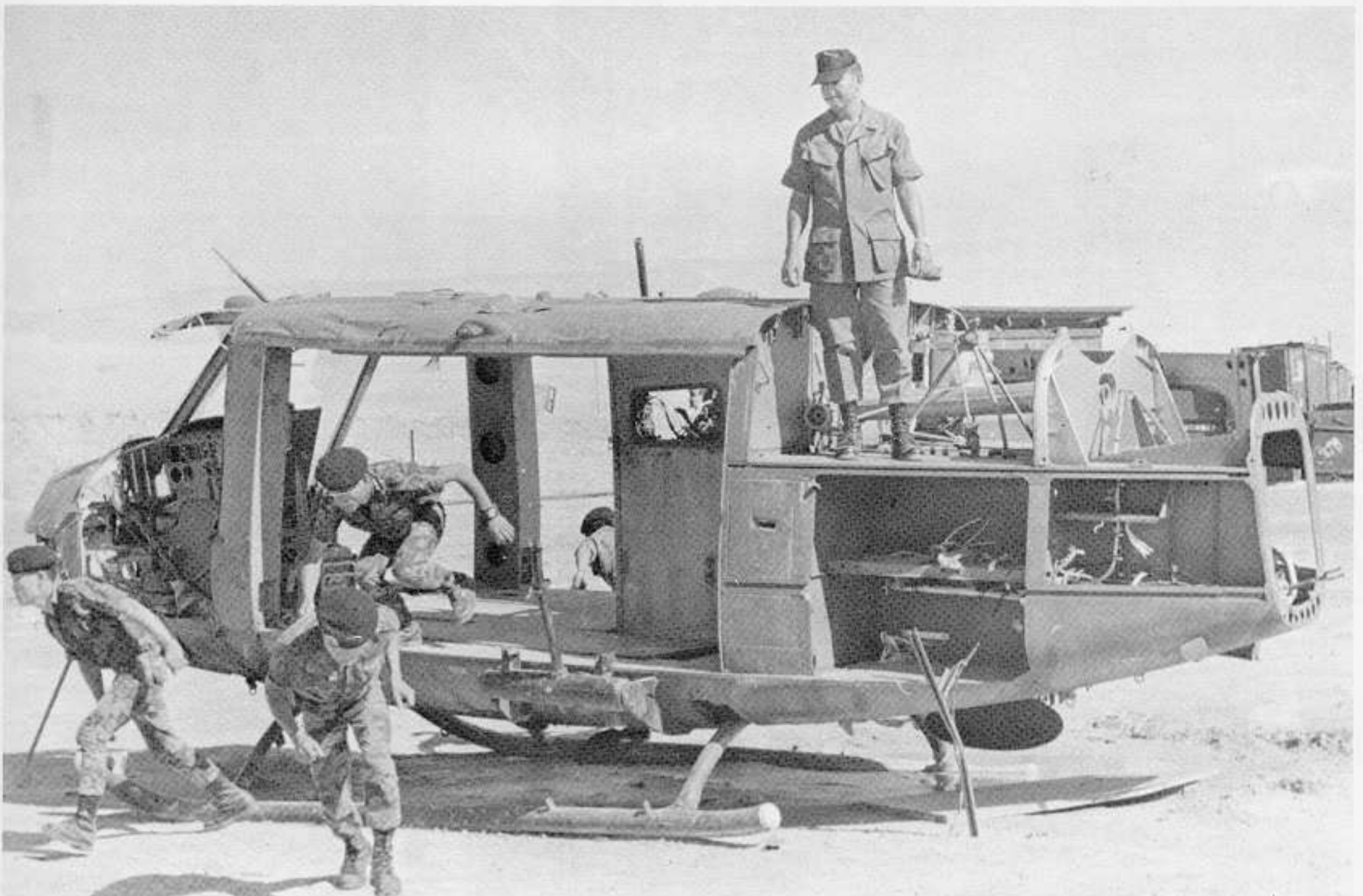
Making an unexpected visit, MG Ngo Truong, then commander of the 1st Infantry Division (ARVN), and COL Jesse L. Wheeler, U.S. advisor to the division, watched intently as the Panther troops descended the tower wall. Pleased with the progress of the training the visitors spent the morning viewing the Hac Bao drill.

In the afternoon the Panthers grouped at the SERTS helipad where they were to rapel from a helicopter. With a last minute pep-talk by ILT Minh, commander of the ARVN platoon, the troops, harnessed in "Swiss Seats," jogged to the waiting bird. As the chopper lifted off, Ranger SSG Robert J. Fobert, NCOIC of the training program, acted as safety man, grabbing the ground end of the sturdy rappelling rope.



An ARVN Panther descends the SERTS rappelling tower during a training session.

A SERTS instructor directs members of the Hac Bao as they practice disembarking a helicopter on a simulated landing zone.



"Most of the Hac Bao have rapelled before," said Fobert, of Hubbard, Ore., "but for most of them this will be the first time from a helicopter. I doubt it'll bother them though because they aren't afraid to do anything," he added.

Without hesitation, the troops stepped out onto the skids of the hovering chopper and with one mighty leap backwards they slid the 80 feet to the ground.

Back in the bleachers on the fifth day, the Hac Bao were shown the chalk-board tactics of ambushes and patrols. All eyes were intent on the instructor's platform as SGT "Jo-Jo" D. Bouck, Panorama City, Calif., discussed reconnaissance missions and raid patrols, explaining the differences and effectiveness of each.

For the entire day the Hac Bao were given detailed instruction on the proper

maneuvers of a small-sized force working in the mountainous jungle regions. "It is very important," stressed Bouck, "that you pick up all the information you can from these classes, because you'll be putting to use all that you have learned here when you go out on the actual mission beginning tomorrow."

"The Hac Bao are excellent jungle fighters," pointed out Moran, "and it would be foolish for us to tell them how to fight in the terrain they know best. However, in the past they have worked primarily as a company-size element, which is why they're here at SERTS—to study the tactics of a platoon-size strike force." He continued, "Since the Rangers are trained to work in smaller elements, we were asked to relate our knowledge of this type of fighting to the Hac Bao. But in a program

of this type," he added, "both the Vietnamese and Americans can learn from each other."

Plans for the operation had been carefully laid out. The Panthers were to be inserted into a known enemy area in the mountainous region near the Laotian border. There the Hac Bao Platoon, along with the four Ranger advisors, Moran, Fobert, Bouck and SGT Robert R. Jones, would conduct a 36-hour patrol, with expectations of making enemy contact.

Preparations were made in the morning hours of the sixth day and by noon the Hac Bao were standing by with their field equipment waiting for the choppers from the 2nd Squadron (Airmobile), 17th Cavalry, to take them to the action.

The flight was short and, weighted down with packs and rifles, the ARVN sprang from the hovering helicopters and quickly set up a defensive position on the ground. 1LT Minh called his platoon sergeant, SFC Ky, and the Ranger advisors together for a quick conference.

"You're in command now, sir," said Moran, "we're just along for the ride." With these words, Minh took charge and moved his men out through the jungles, beginning their day-and-a-half operation.

Later that day the Hac Bao made contact with a small NVA element. After gaining immediate fire superiority the Panthers began shouting "Hac Bao" so that their reputable identity would be known to the enemy. A later investigation turned up a fresh blood trail. Also discovered on the operation were three old enemy bunkers and mortar sites.

"We were well taken care of by the Hac Bao," said Jones, from Jamestown, Ind. "We were treated just like guests all of the time, but we still had to 'hump' hard and fast to keep up with them. 1LT Minh really kept us moving."

Extracted the next afternoon, the Panther team was flown back to Camp Evans where they showered off the dirt and relaxed the weary muscles that had carried them through the long week of training.

Sitting around a briefing table, Minh and his squad leaders went over the high points of the cycle with the Rangers and SERTS officials. A favorable critique of the Hac Bao's eight days of training was made, showing the program as having been beneficial on all counts. The Panthers had broadened their scope as a fighting unit by learning to better utilize their unique fighting capabilities throughout northern Military Region 1.

The ARVN soldiers' week full of demolitions, rapelling, and their hours of classes and miles of jungle "humping" ended with a formal graduation on the eighth and final day.

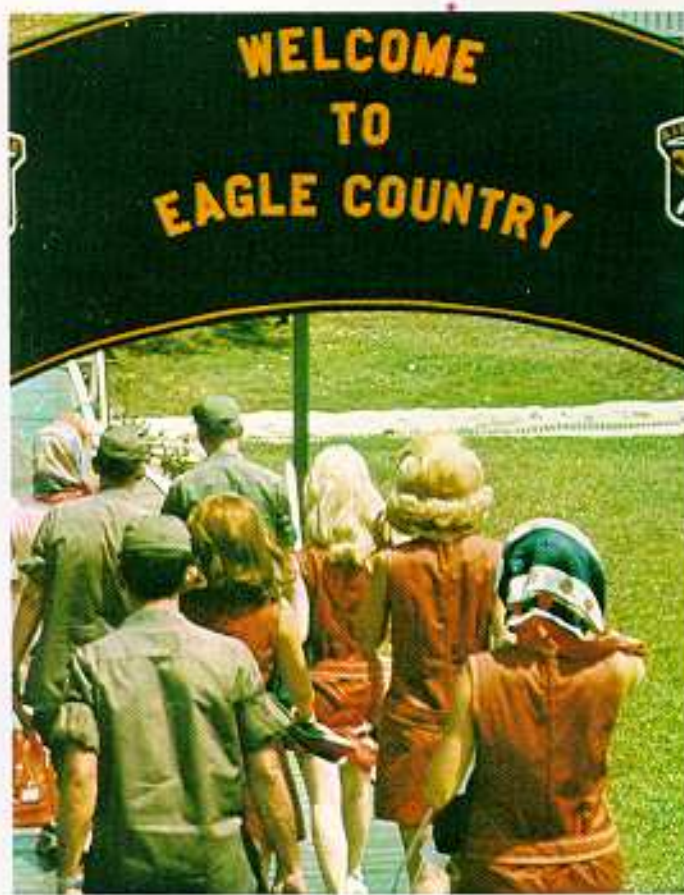
Present at the ceremony was 101st Assistant Division Commander, BG Sidney B. Berry, who spoke in behalf of the division. "In America," he said, "we honor the Rangers as one of our best fighting units. Therefore, it is only appropriate that the Rangers and you work together in training. Congratulations to you, Hac Bao, for you are the best."

Two ARVN soldiers receive assistance from instructors after completing an exercise in extraction techniques employing the "Swiss Seat."





Miss America 1970



On August 22, 12,000 Screaming Eagles and members of other commands in northern Military Region I packed Eagle Entertainment Bowl at Camp Eagle for a glimpse of Miss America 1970, Michigan's Pamela Anne Eldred, right, and the Miss America-USO Show 1970.





Outstanding

AIRBORNE



of the Year



The 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) was named "Outstanding Aviation Unit of the Year" for 1969-1970 during ceremonies at the Army Aviation Association of America convention in Washington, D.C., in mid-October.

The division was selected as the top aviation unit for its achievements from April 1, 1969 to March 31, 1970.

The five criteria established as a basis for selection of the award are tactics, training, doctrine, technology and safety.



Aviation Unit

ORNE

r 1969-1970

The award, sponsored by the Aircraft Division of Hughes Tool Company, California, is presented annually to a selected aviation unit for outstanding contribution to, or innovation in employment of Army aviation over and above the normal mission assigned to the unit.

The "Outstanding Aviation Unit of the Year" award was initiated in 1960. In its 10 year history this is only the third time a division-size unit has won the award.



After months in the field...



STANDDOWN

by SP5 Thomas Atwell and SP4 Charles Kahn



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

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

The "Alpha Angels" of the 1st Battalion (Airmobile), 502nd Infantry, had not seen the company's rear area in months of living, working and fighting in the mountainous, triple canopy jungles southwest of Hue.

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

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

A cloud of dust moved slowly toward Company A. Men stirred, shelters came down, packs were shouldered and canteens were replaced. Each man slumped forward slightly, hunchbacked from the weight upon his shoulders. Alpha Company was going "home" to Phu Bai Combat Base for a few days.

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

Early the next morning the Screaming Eagles found themselves outside the perimeter wires of Phu Bai Combat Base—this time on a weapons range. Each man zeroed his weapon. During an instruction period the men were familiarized with their buddy's weapon. More firing—machine gunners used M-79s, grenadiers fired M-60 machine guns, riflemen fired both. Everyone fired someone else's weapon. Later, M-72 Light Anti-tank Weapons (LAW) and the 90mm recoilless rifle were brought out.

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

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

Supper was served on the range that night. The men of Company A were scheduled to attend a class on "night firing techniques," but their company commander, CPT Thomas E. Curtis, San Francisco, had assured them that the USO Show slated to perform for the battalion that night would be held until Alpha Company returned from the range.

The show was great. Beer and soda cans

were emptied. The men relaxed. Sleep came more naturally that second night in the rear area.

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

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

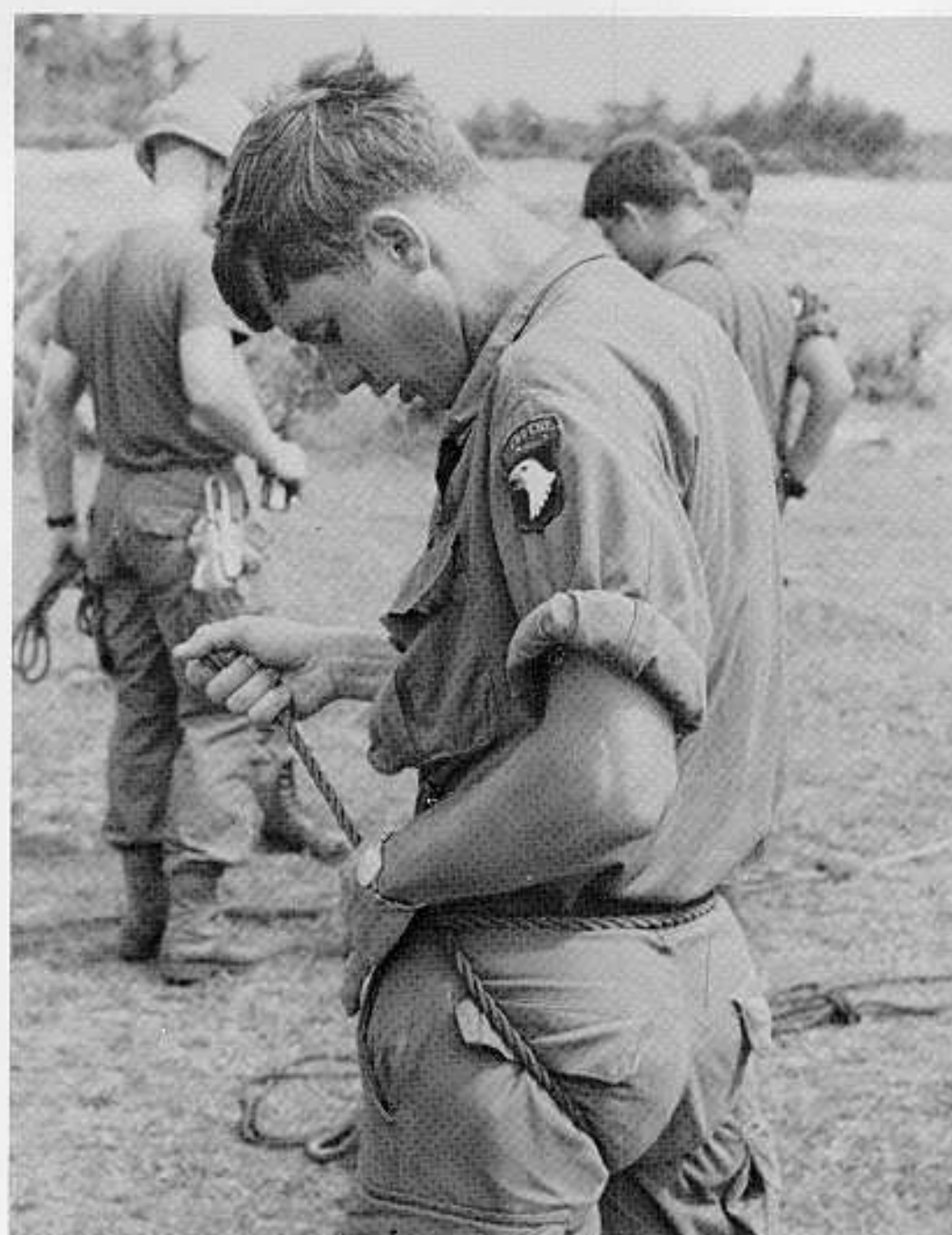
After lunch there was a short class in stream crossing techniques. Then there was a demonstration on the construction and use of the single rope bridge and the Australian poncho raft. The sun made the afternoon nearly unbearable. The Screaming Eagles of Company A were ready to cross the "blue" using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

CPT Curtis was the first man to attempt crossing the stream on the single rope bridge.

"This is what standdowns should be like all the time," yelled PFC Edward Broffett, Ontario, Calif., as he plunged into the stream for another try at crossing on the poncho raft.

Another day came and went with more classroom work.

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



day in the sun and surf.

"Eagle Beach makes it," commented SP4 Daniel Jarosek of Taylor, Tex.

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

"Surf's up!"

"Beer anyone?"

"Fifteen, love!"

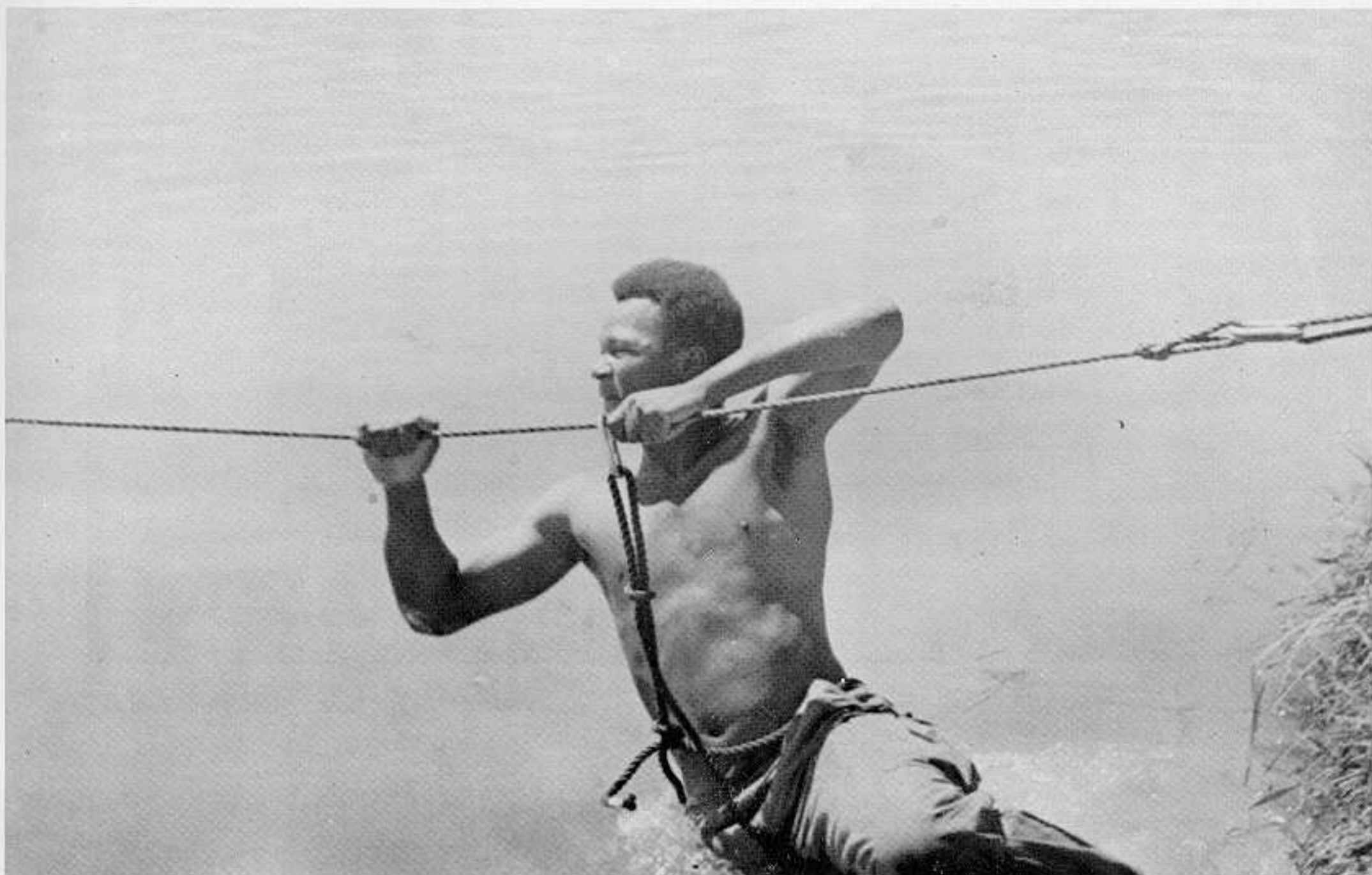
"A ringer!"

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

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

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

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



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

SP4 Barry Pickett, Orlando, Fla. commented, "This sort of training is good for refreshing your memory on some of the little details that may have slipped your mind, but which are very important."

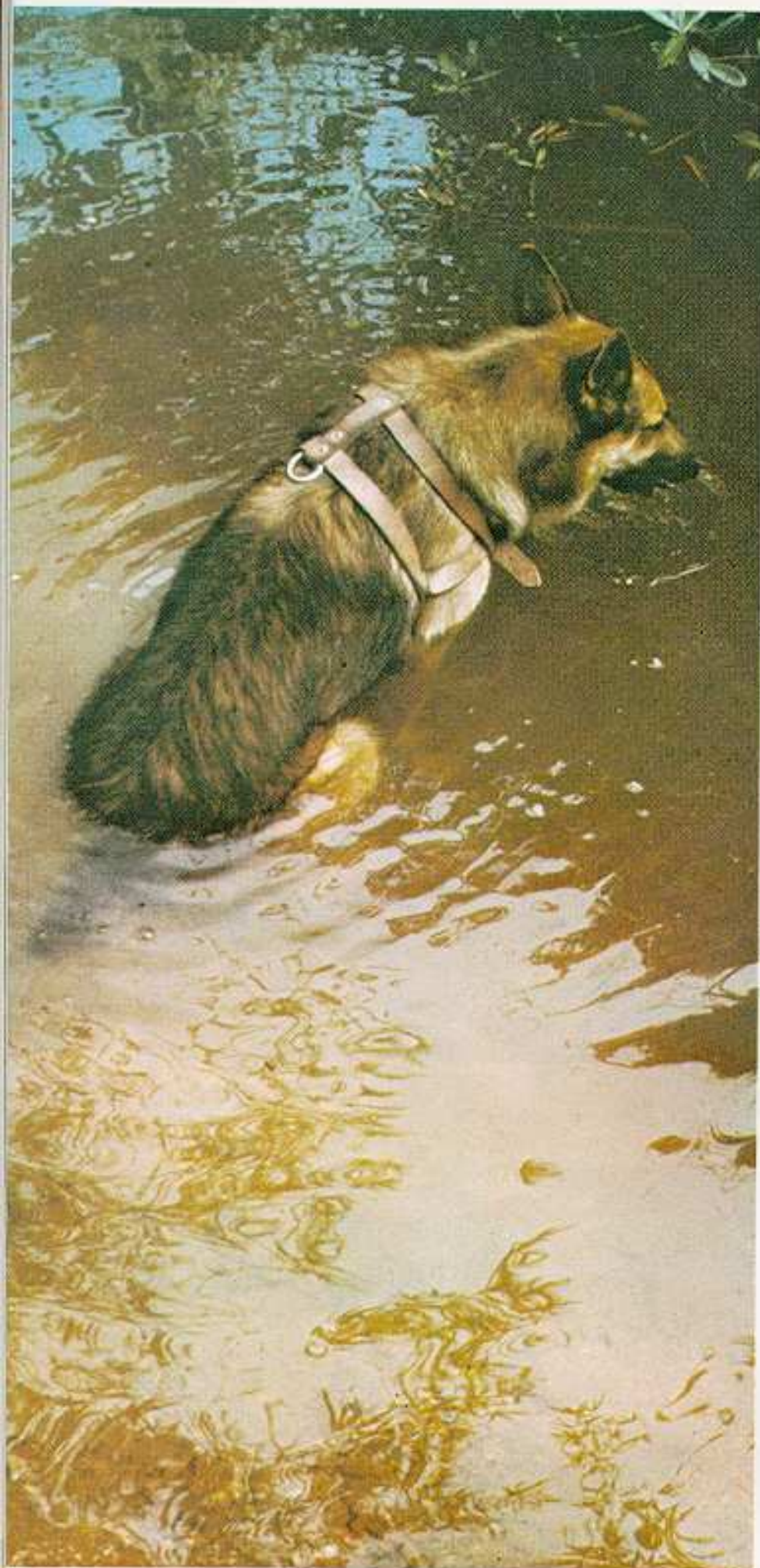
"What they get during standdown training is important; if they get one thing out of it, they will have accomplished something," added 1LT Paul Ervin, Marshfield, Mass.

The battalion commander was pleased with his men's reaction to the training.

"It went very well...and continued smoothly. It seems to have been good for everyone involved, enlisted men and officers alike," he said.

The last night of standdown was quiet in the 1/502 billeting area. Snoring could be heard. The Screaming Eagles were resting up for the next day—retrained and ready for combat in the mountains and lowlands of northern Military Region 1.





EAGLE





EYES

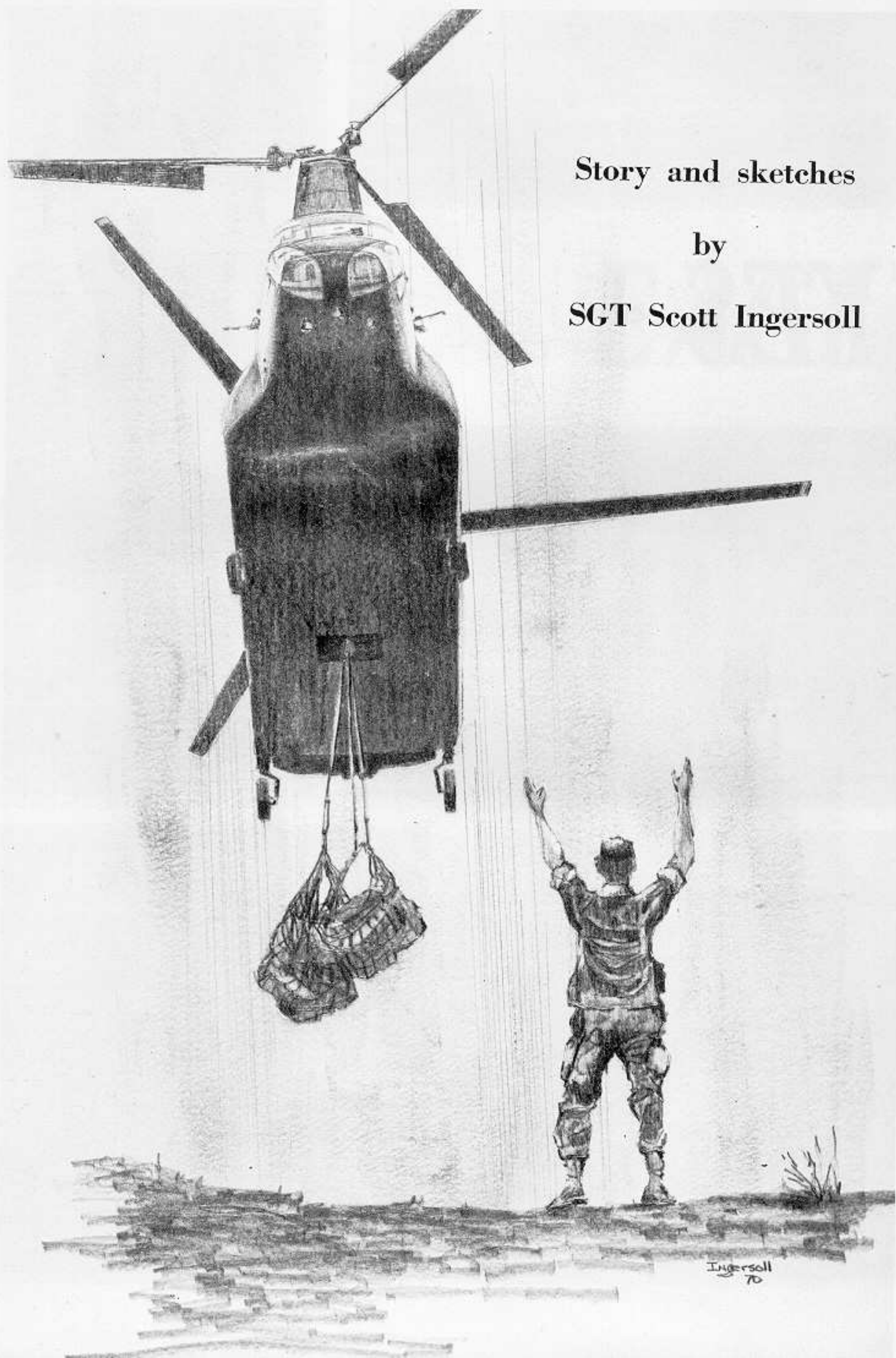


Pathfinders

Story and sketches

by

SGT Scott Ingersoll



Ingersoll
70

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

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

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

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

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

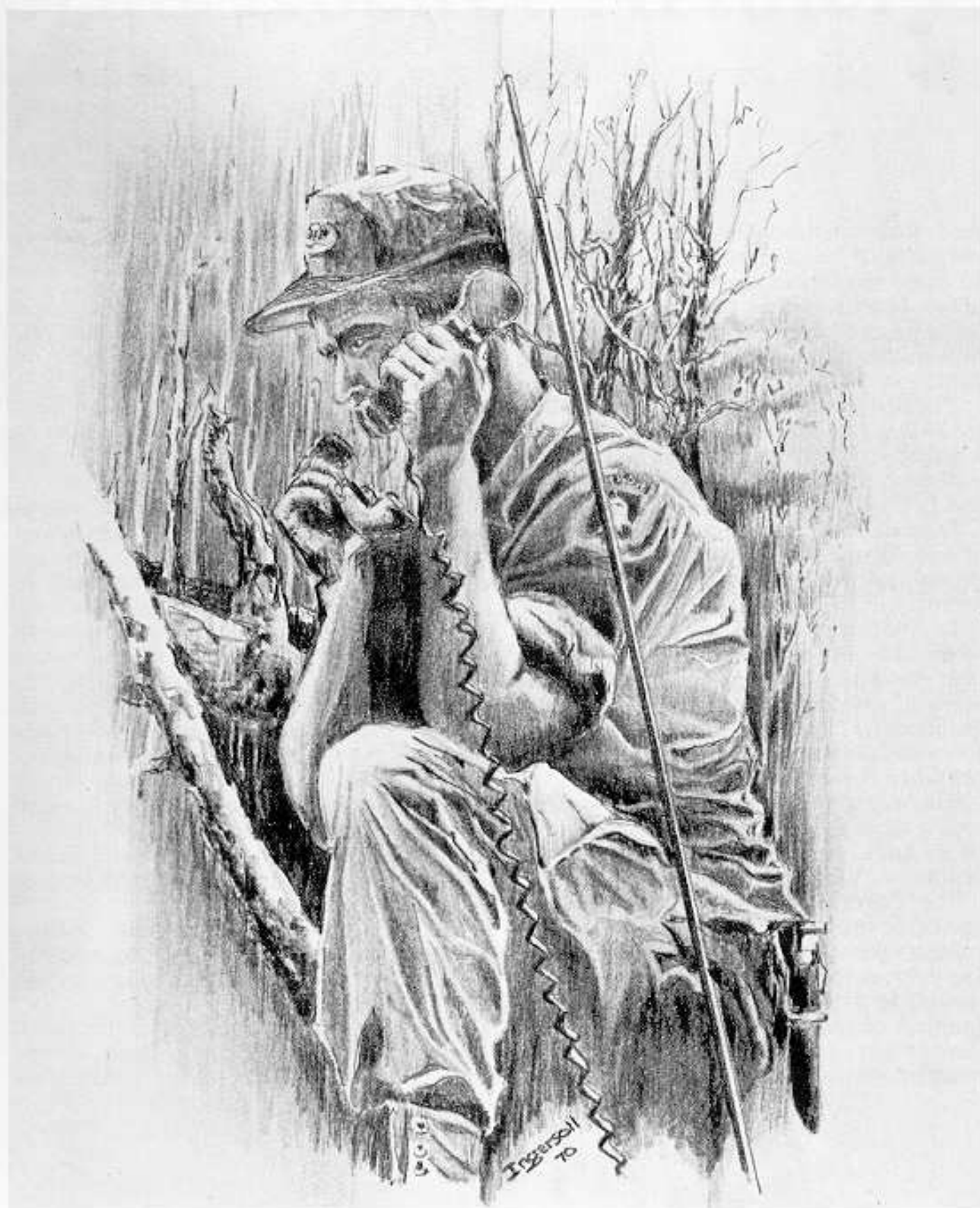
Responsible as infantrymen for on-site coordination between infantry and aviation elements, they are trained to maintain air traffic control at drop zones, landing zones and pick up zones; to direct artillery strikes, aerial rocket artillery and Air Force tactical air support. In addition, it is a Pathfinder's job to assist in the recovery of downed aircraft, to open and close fire support bases and serve as an instructor to supporting personnel in sling-load operations and rigging techniques.

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

The Pathfinder concept, though it has changed considerably in the intervening years, dates back to World War II, to one of that war's first large-scale airborne assaults—the invasion of Sicily in 1943. It became apparent during that operation when paratroopers of the 82nd Airborne Division were dropped as far as 40 miles



UH-1 Huey helicopters descend while receiving landing instructions from a Pathfinder.





A Pathfinder from the 101st Aviation Group watches an approaching CH-47 Chinook from his forward control bunker.

from their intended drop zones that some means must be developed to enable pilots to avoid misdrops. The Pathfinder concept arose directly out of the need to find an accurate and expedient method of marking and guiding aircraft to their assigned drop zones.

The first Pathfinder school was organized in 1944. The school, in North Witham, England, trained volunteers from the 82nd Airborne and 101st Airborne Divisions for the D-Day invasion of Normandy.

Discontinued in England following World War II, the Pathfinders were re-established in 1946 at the Home of the Infantry, Fort Benning, Ga.

In 1951 they were again discontinued when Air Force combat control teams (the Air Force having become a separate service), assumed duties formerly given to Pathfinders. The school was reopened following the Korean War and has remained operational ever since.

The war in the Republic of Vietnam has seen a rapid expansion of Pathfinder units; of 31 units currently in existence, 26 are utilized in Vietnam.

The Pathfinder school at Fort Benning presently turns out approximately 400 students per year, most of them earmarked for duty in the Republic of Vietnam. The school, in a five week course of intensive training, offers about 285 hours of instruction. Officers and enlisted men, all airborne qualified, train together receiving instruc-

tion in such subjects as land navigation, communications, rappelling, demolitions and artillery adjustment.

Primary emphasis is placed where it will do the most good—on maintaining air traffic control at helicopter landing zones.

In the 101st, Pathfinders perform a variety of missions. Considered by many to be the most important is the control of aviation operations at forward logistical and fire support bases.

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

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

The Pathfinder Platoon has recently developed a program designed to augment the formal training the Pathfinders receive at Fort Benning.

Working with a variety of instructors, each new member of the platoon undergoes a two week course of preparatory

training. The course places increased emphasis on the role of the Pathfinder in operations in the 101st. Written examinations combined with practical exercises in the field help insure that each new member of the platoon measures up to the high standards demanded of all Pathfinders.

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

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

Who are the Pathfinders?

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

The flaming winged torch, symbolizing their mission of lighting the way for the airborne, is more than just a symbol—any Pathfinder will tell you that.

It is a patch worn with pride by all Pathfinders—a pride, backed by more than 25 years of outstanding service and tradition.

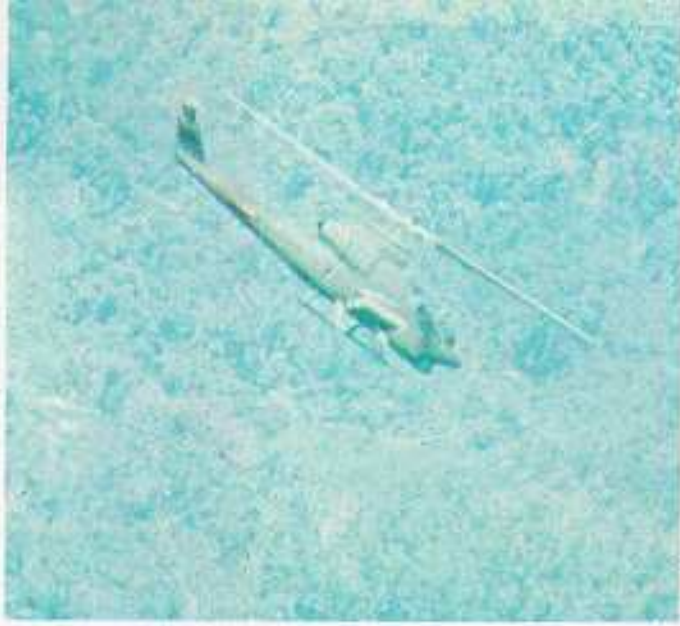




4/77th Aerial Rocket Artillery



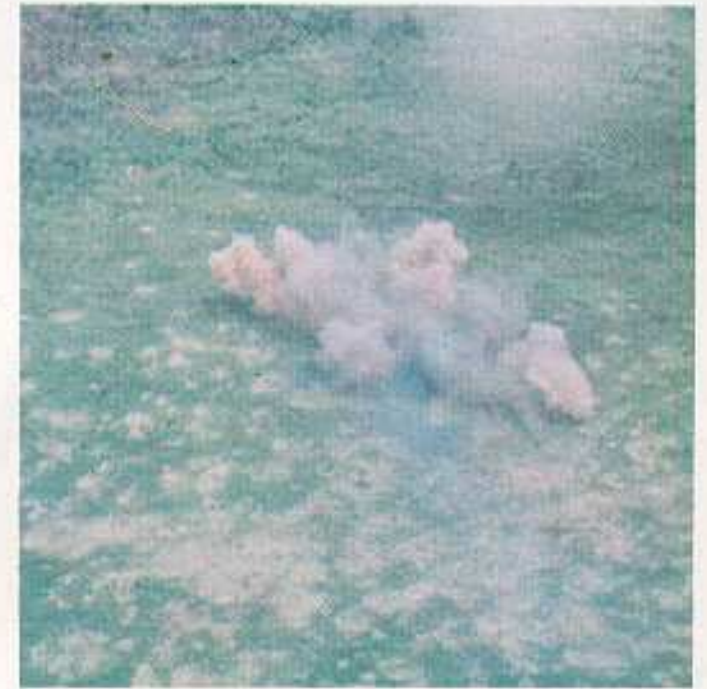
by
SP4 John Harding
and
SP4 Richard Edwards



An AH-1Cobra helicopter begins its dive to engage a target on the ground.



Two rockets plunge earthward towards the target area.



Smoke rises as the rockets impact on target.





It's 2200 hours. You're on guard duty. It's raining; you're cold and wet. All of a sudden the sky lights up and there are flashes everywhere. Then, after a pause, there is a frightening roar. But rather than being frightened and despite the weather conditions, the whole scene makes you feel secure and you watch in fascination knowing that an AH-1 Cobra helicopter is pouring its awesome fire power on a suspected enemy position.

The next day you are driving around Camp Eagle and you see some Cobras sitting on a helipad. You grab your camera, walk up and stand beside one of them while your buddy snaps a picture. When the prints come back you show your friends, "Here I am standing next to an ARA Cobra."

The aerial rocket artillery helicopters in the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) are organic to the 4th Battalion (Airmobile), 77th Artillery (Aerial Rocket Artillery), a Division Artillery unit. There are only two such units in the world.

The function of artillery is to get rounds on target as quickly and as accurately as possible. In northern Military Region I this job is sometimes difficult. The terrain in the 101st's area of operations is rugged with mountains and vast triple canopy jungles. This can cause problems for conventional artillery when fire is needed on the reverse slope of a mountain or in valleys between mountains. In addition there is the safety consideration when the enemy is too close to friendly units (within a few meters) for safe firing of field artillery. There is also the possibility that a unit needing support is out of tube artillery range. This is where the 4/77th, with Cobras providing direct aerial rocket artillery support, fills the gap.

Since the rockets are fired from a helicopter, the pilot has visual contact with ground forces, both friendly and enemy. Land features do not interfere because aerial rocket artillery uses a direct fire technique. Another advantage of aerial rocket artillery is its mobility—wherever the Cobra helicopter is capable of being flown, a target can be engaged. Its only limitations are poor flying weather and the time needed to reach the target location. Though nothing can be done about the weather, the 4/77th has devised a system to cut down the time it takes the helicopters to arrive on-station. The battalion estab-

lished a system of varying alert status for its aircraft.

There are three units, consisting of a two minute section (two aircraft), a five minute section, and a 15 minute section. As a section is launched, the next section takes its place, (the five minute section becomes the two minute section if the original two minute section launches and so on). This way, there are always two, five and 15 minute sections on call whenever and wherever they are needed.

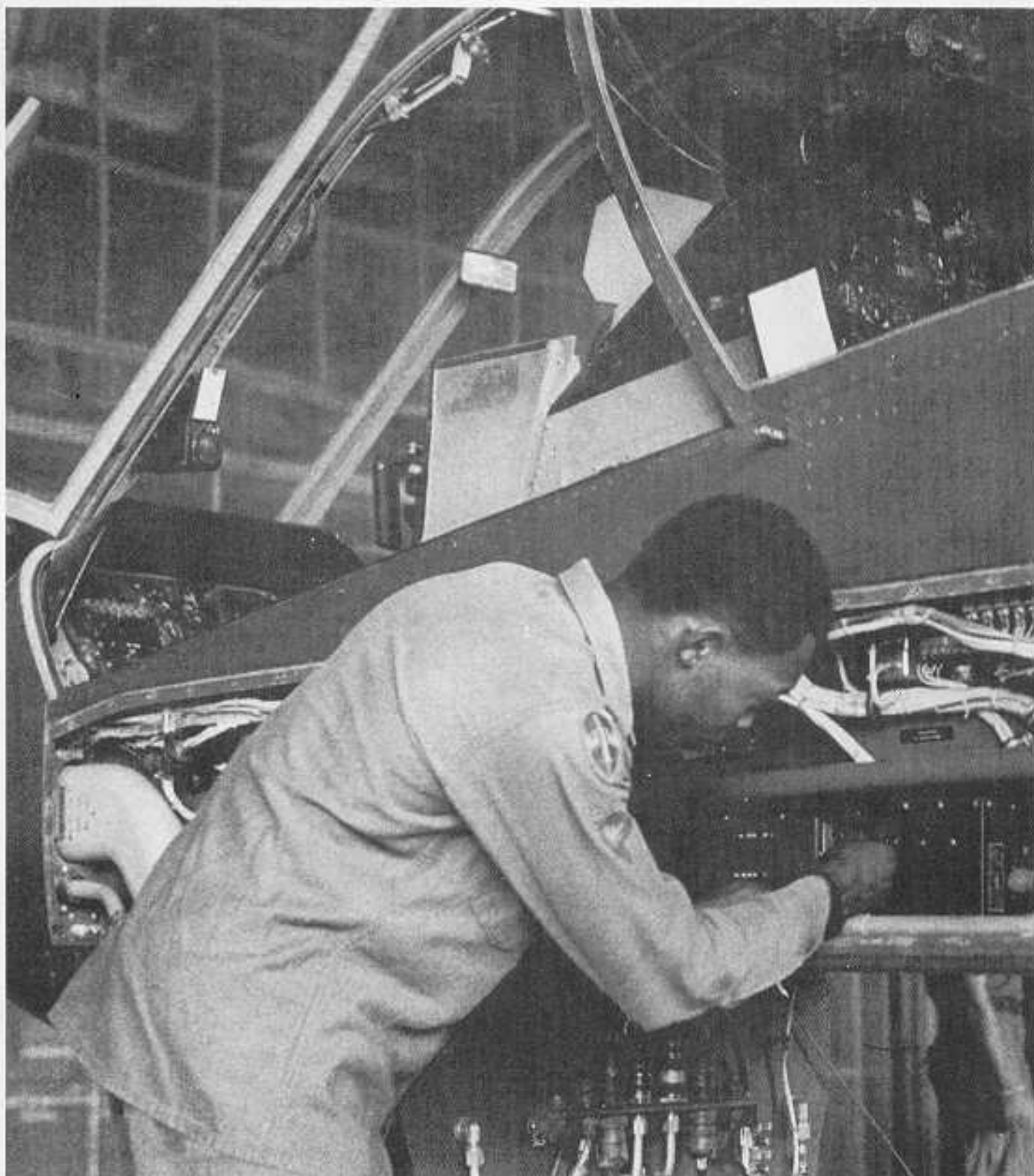
The two minute "Hot Section" is the heart of aerial rocket artillery. When the words "Fire Mission" are heard, the hot section crew members rush from their alert shack. The helicopters are already armed and ready for action. Within two minutes they are in the air and on the way to a target location. While the ships are leaving the helipad, the mission commander is finding out what the situation is and exactly where the Cobras are needed. From the time the helicopters become airborne until they reach the target area, they are in constant radio contact with the unit needing support.

When the helicopters arrive on-station,

the pilots ask the unit and all friendly units in the area to identify themselves. Once they have established, from signals, where the friendly units are, the pilots roll their Cobras in on the enemy. On the dive earthward, the gunner will fire a series of rockets in pairs, spray the target with mini-gun fire and pelt the area with 40mm grenades.

Aerial rocket artillery also plays a major role in preparation of landing zones (LZ) and protecting troops being inserted onto them. Field artillery is required to cease fire before troop-carrying helicopters can use an LZ. But the Cobras assisting on the mission can provide the support needed between the time the field artillery ceases fire and the troops are inserted and provide instant suppressive fire response in case the LZ becomes "hot" from enemy fire.

The aerial rocket artillery equipped Cobra helicopter is one of the most effective weapons in the U.S. Army arsenal. And, the men of the 4th Battalion (Airmobile), 77th Artillery (Aerial Rocket Artillery) fly them whenever and wherever needed—providing the close-in direct artillery support that only they can.



Tet Trung Thu





Vietnamese children crowd around tables containing gifts and food.

A Vietnamese boy ascends a bamboo pole carrying his colorful costume.



Story
and
Photos
by

SP4 Anthony Loiero

Under the autumn moonlight they meet their friends with cleverly shaped paper lanterns and go from house to house and street to street singing their autumn song.

Their laughter breaks the stillness of the night. Smiling faces can be seen illuminated by the twinkling light of the colorful lanterns. Children are everywhere. Tet Trung Thu has arrived.

Tet Trung Thu, the Vietnamese mid-autumn festival, is celebrated throughout the Republic of Vietnam. Often called the "Children's Holiday," the mid-autumn festival takes on a special meaning for the young, although both young and old alike take part in the festivities. It is a time for singing, eating sweets and the giving of gifts.

The holiday had its beginning in 1526 when the Vietnamese king, Trinh, formally established the Trung Thu festival. It evolved from the king's love of the outdoors and his custom of sailing around his palace lake, leaving flowers, fruits, wine and meat piled along the shore for his subjects. Each villager lighted his way with a highly decorated lantern.

This year a mid-autumn celebration was held in Hue and was supported by Screaming Eagles of the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile).

Troopers from the 101st donated a total



Upon reaching the top of the pole, the boy dons his costume.



A Vietnamese woman receives a gift during the Tet Trung Thu celebration.

of \$3,365.85 and truck loads of candy, gum, peanuts, soap and assorted canned goods. The money was taken to Saigon and exchanged for toys. All the contributions for this year's festival went to the children of soldiers in the 1st Infantry Division (ARVN). It was the first time soldiers of the 101st individually participated in the holiday.

MAJ H. W. Hinnison, Bowling Green, Ky., assistant G-5 for the 101st, said, "I feel the men were particularly successful in their all-out effort to make the Vietnamese festival a happy one. The troopers' concern for the children of our comrades-in-arms was beyond any measurement in kindness." He went on to explain the enthusiasm of the men by giving an example of a soldier who was going on his R&R and put his hand in his pocket, withdrew a \$20 bill, and said, "I hope it helps."

MG John J. Hennessey, commanding general of the 101st, attended the festival in Hue along with BG Pham Van Phu, commanding general of the 1st Infantry Division (ARVN) and a number of other guests from both divisions.

The ARVN division band played familiar "mid-autumn" songs while MG Hennessey and BG Phu walked among the children who were dressed in blue and gold costumes.

After a brief speech by BG Phu, the honored guests viewed a customary dance performed by the children in their hand-made costumes. Traditional songs were sung by the children and a small Vietnamese boy scaled a 20-foot pole and performed acrobatic stunts for the delight of the crowd. The entertainment was completed with the appearance of several small boys disguised as a Vietnamese dragon.

At the conclusion of the festival, MG Hennessey and BG Phu, along with their fellow officers, presented gifts to the anxiously awaiting children.

The celebration concluded, children returned to their homes with their gifts and prepared for the festivities that would continue into the night. As they left, the smiles on their faces expressed their gratitude for the benevolence of Screaming Eagles of the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile).



Three children watch the festivities with fascination.

Major General John J. Hennessey, commanding general of the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile), distributes gifts during the festival.





