



11TH INFANTRY BRIGADE

TRIDENT

"JUNGLE WARRIORS"



VOLUME 3 NUMBER 6

DUC PHO, VIETNAM

FEBRUARY 8, 1969

11TH BDE TROOPS BLAST 168 ENEMY

The 11th Brigade "Jungle Warriors" encountered heavy action this week in southern Quang Ngai Province with 168 kills, 41 detainees and 66 weapons captured.

On January 27 "Shark" gunships of the 174th Assault Helicopter Company in support of A Company, 1/20, commanded by CPT David W. Walsh (Colton, Calif.), killed three VC. A Company, operating eight miles north of Duc Pho, went on to kill one VC and detain 12 VCS. D Company, commanded by 1LT Arthur Teele, Jr., (Tallahassee, Fla.), killed two more VC 13 miles southwest of Duc Pho. "Gimlets" of 4/21 killed 16 VC five miles northwest of Quang Ngai City. The recon element (WRAPUP cont on page 3)

GEN. ABRAMS USARV CHIEF PRESENTS DSC TO THREE

General Creighton W. Abrams, USARV Commander, visited LZ Bronco this week to present the Distinguished Service Cross to three Americal Division soldiers.

Two of the recipients, SSG Nicky D. Bacon (Silverton, Oregon) and CPT Barry D. Gasdek (Loyalhanna, Penn.) are "Jungle Warriors." The third recipient, CPT Roger Dimsdale (Sioux City, Iowa) is with the 198th Brigade.

CPT Gasdek, who is presently S-4 officer with the 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry was the company commander

of D Company of the same battalion when his heroic actions earned him the DSC last September.

His unit had come under intense enemy fire and CPT Gasdek exposed himself to a hail of bullets to encourage his men to fire their weapons and throw hand grenades. There were armored personnel carriers in the area.

(GENERAL Cont on page 6--)



LRRPS SURPRISE UNSUSPECTING VC

A team of men, moving slowly through heavy jungle in the Highlands of Vietnam, suddenly become aware of enemy presence. Once again, the skill of an Americal Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol (LRRP) team catches a group of NVA soldiers off guard, provides itself with the invaluable element of surprise and eliminates the enemy.

This scene recently took place when a LRRP team, working in support of the 11th Infantry Brigade, was inserted into an area seven miles west of Duc Pho. SGT Dick T. Roth (Billings, Montana), the (LRRP cont on page 5)

AFTER 27 YEARS SGM ONCE AGAIN WITH AMERICAL DIV.

In the year 1939, Sergeant Major (SGM) Anthony Manfredi (Salinas, Kansas) entered the Army. On the morning of December 7, 1941, then Corporal Manfredi was about to be discharged from the Army.

His orders were quickly changed, and he was sent to Australia. From there, he was sent to New Caledonia where the newest U.S. Army division was being formed--the Americal Division.

This was SGM Manfredi's first tour of duty with the Americal Division. Twenty seven years later, in 1969, he returned to the Americal Division in Vietnam. He is the sergeant major of the 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry.

SGM Manfredi served as a squad leader with the pioneer and ammunitions unit with the 164th Infantry Regiment during his first tour with the division.

He spent nine months on New Caledonia training in jungle warfare tactics. He saw his first action at Guadalcanal as the 164th became the first American (SGM cont on page 3)

COMMAND INFORMATION

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the first article in a series on GI Bill benefits. A thorough knowledge of the benefits you are eligible for can be of great value to you in the future. Read the articles carefully so that you can use the GI Bill to your advantage.)

Good ol' Uncle Sam realizes that your military service may have interrupted your education, delayed your plans for job training or slowed your savings toward a home for your family. Although he can't give you back the years you've spent in service, he has come up with something which, financially at least, makes up for that "lost time."

What has he come up with? Cold cash! Dollars to pay for your education or job training. Dollars to back up your credit when you borrow to buy a home or a farm. Dollars to pay for medical services which you might not be able to afford otherwise. Dollars you may not have been able to raise if it weren't for your military service.

It's all made available to you through the provisions of the latest "GI Bills," the Veterans' Readjustment Benefits Act of 1966 and the Veterans' Readjustment Act of 1967.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for benefits under these two acts, you must be either a veteran of 181 days continuous active duty, any part of which was after January 31, 1955 or a veteran with less than 181 days of service, released from active duty after January 31, 1955 for a service-connected disability. In both

cases, termination of service must have been under conditions other than dishonorable. You are also eligible for most benefits while still in service if you have served more than two years of active duty.

EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE BENEFITS

If you can meet these requirements, you are eligible to receive financial assistance to (a) obtain education which you otherwise might not be able to afford; or (b) further your education or advance your vocational status. For each month or fraction of a month you serve on active duty, you can receive one month of financial assistance, up to a maximum of 36 months or its equivalent if your studies are on a part-time basis. The money is paid directly to you. You must pay all expenses and whatever tuition is involved.

Educational institutions approved for study (both in and outside the U.S.) include public or private secondary (high) schools; correspondence, business and vocational schools; junior colleges and teacher's colleges; professional, scientific and technical schools; and four-year colleges and universities. Financial assistance is also available to veterans for approved apprenticeship, on-the-job training, or farm or flight training programs.

Your eligibility for these benefits ends eight years after your release from active duty. This means that you must arrange your program of studies so that it will be completed before you reach the eight-year limit.

FLIGHT TRAINING

If eligible, you may take an approved course of flight training to attain a recognized vocational goal. (Next week we will continue with your GI Bill benefits.)

DIVISION RE-UP RECORD SET BY "JUNGLE WARRIORS"

The 11th Brigade "Jungle Warriors" set a Division record and issued a challenge to all other brigades in the Americal Division as they reenlisted 19 AUS (inductee) personnel in January of 1969.

The Brigade's total number of reenlistments for January was greater than any Americal Division total for a one month period in 1968.

Colonel (COL) John W. Donaldson spoke to the 19 reenlistees at a brief ceremony at LZ Bronco.

COL Donaldson told the men how proud he was of them for the outstanding accomplishments that the 11th Brigade "Jungle Warriors" had achieved during the month of (RE-UP cont on page 5)

TRIDENT

Brigade Commander
Information Officer
TRIDENT OIC
NCQIC
Editor
Illustrator

Staff Reporters SGT Dave Deverick, SP4 Dale Reich and SP4 Don Yost

COL JOHN W. DONALDSON
1LT STEPHEN H. COBB
1LT FREDERICK A. PELEATE
SFC GENE K. MORENO
SP4 CARL W. NORD
SP5 Lou Fedorski
SP4 Tony Swindell

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(WRAP UP Cont from pg 1)
 of 4/21 killed 11 VC. A Company of the same battalion, commanded by 1LT Thomas L. Smith (Hicksville, N.Y.), killed five VC and detained three in the same area.

On January 28 a "Shark" gunship of the 174th killed three VC four miles north of Duc Pho. A Company, 4/21, killed one VC and detained two VCS. D Company, 3/1, operating 13 miles west of Quang Ngai killed three VC and one NVA, capturing an AK-47. B Company, 3/1, commanded by CPT Willie F. Williams (Burlington, NJ), operating six miles west (WRAP UP Cont on page---4)

SGM MANFREDI IN PACIFIC, THEN VIETNAM WITH AMCAL

(SGM Cont from page 1)
 troops to stage an offensive operation in World War II.

SGM Manfredi followed the division's moves through the Pacific until he returned to the United States in 1945. During his Pacific tour the young corporal was promoted to sergeant.

"World War II was completely different from the war here in Vietnam," he stated. "We had lines set up and pretty well knew where the enemy was."

SGM Manfredi explained that there were, however, patrols that went out. The Legion of Merit was awarded the sergeant major for his participation in one such patrol.

A smile crossed his face as he talked of this dangerous patrol. He is one of that rare breed of soldier who has earned the Combat Infantry Badge with two stars. He also served in Korea with the 27th Infantry (SGM Cont on page 4)

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"OLD GUARD" HAS 48 ENEMY KIA, 12 SUSPECTS AT BATANGAN

(SGM Cont from page 3)
Division.

"Old Guard" soldiers of the 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry, of the 11th Infantry Brigade have compiled an impressive record in their first two weeks of participation in Operation Russell Beach. A and D Companies, along with the Recon platoon of 4/3, have accounted for 48 enemy kills, seven weapons captured, and 12 VC captured in action since the giant cordon began to close on the Batangan Peninsula. They have also aided in the evacuation of 1,428 refugees, rounded up 23 VC suspects, and collected eight Hoi Chanh.

Several elements are participating in the operation including Marines to the north, a battalion of the 198th Infantry Brigade

to the east, an ARVN battalion to the south, and the 4/3, also to the south.

The peninsula, a long-time VC sanctuary, will soon be under GVN control. After the Allies eliminate enemy control of the area it will be turned over to the ARVNs, who will secure it for future pacification programs.

The cordon, described by the "Old Guard" commander, LTC Jack C. Davis, (Maudlin, Ark.), as "very tight and very effective," is supported by the U.S. Navy, which patrols the coastline from the South China Sea, and the U.S. Air Force, which has provided numerous airstrikes in support of ground action on Batangan.

We went out in a sampan and made a rendezvous with a Catholic priest who was dressed in a white robe. He had a bonfire for us which was really fabulous."

The Americal Division of World War II and the present division are just as far apart in similarities as the tactics of the two wars," he observed. He went on to explain that the equipment, weapons, fire support, and fire power are fantastic today. He also observed that the Americal soldier today may possibly be a better soldier than those of World War II. This he attributed to better training.

Helicopters, which were not used in WWII and sparsely in Korea, are one of SGM Manfredi's favorite vehicles.

(WRAP UP Cont from pg---3) of Quang Ngai City, killed one VC and detained two.

On January 29 the Recon of 4/21 killed five VC in an area six miles northwest of Quang Ngai.

"Always First" soldiers of D 3/1 killed five VC 14 miles west of Quang Ngai.

On January 30 D 3/1 killed five NVA and nine VC in heavy action 12 miles west of Quang Ngai. C Company accounted for two kills six miles west of Quang Ngai.

On January 31 C 3/1 operating seven miles northwest of Quang Ngai discovered a weapons cache and captured 30 enemy weapons, including two 30 caliber machine guns, nine M16s, four K44s, six M-1s, two Russian Tommy guns, and a variety of other weapons.

On February 1 C 3/1 again hit the jackpot with 32 weapons discovered, including a 30 caliber machine gun eight miles west of Quang Ngai City.

On February 2 "Sharks" of the 174th killed nine VC eight miles northwest of Quang Ngai.

D 3/1, killed six enemy northwest of Quang Ngai.

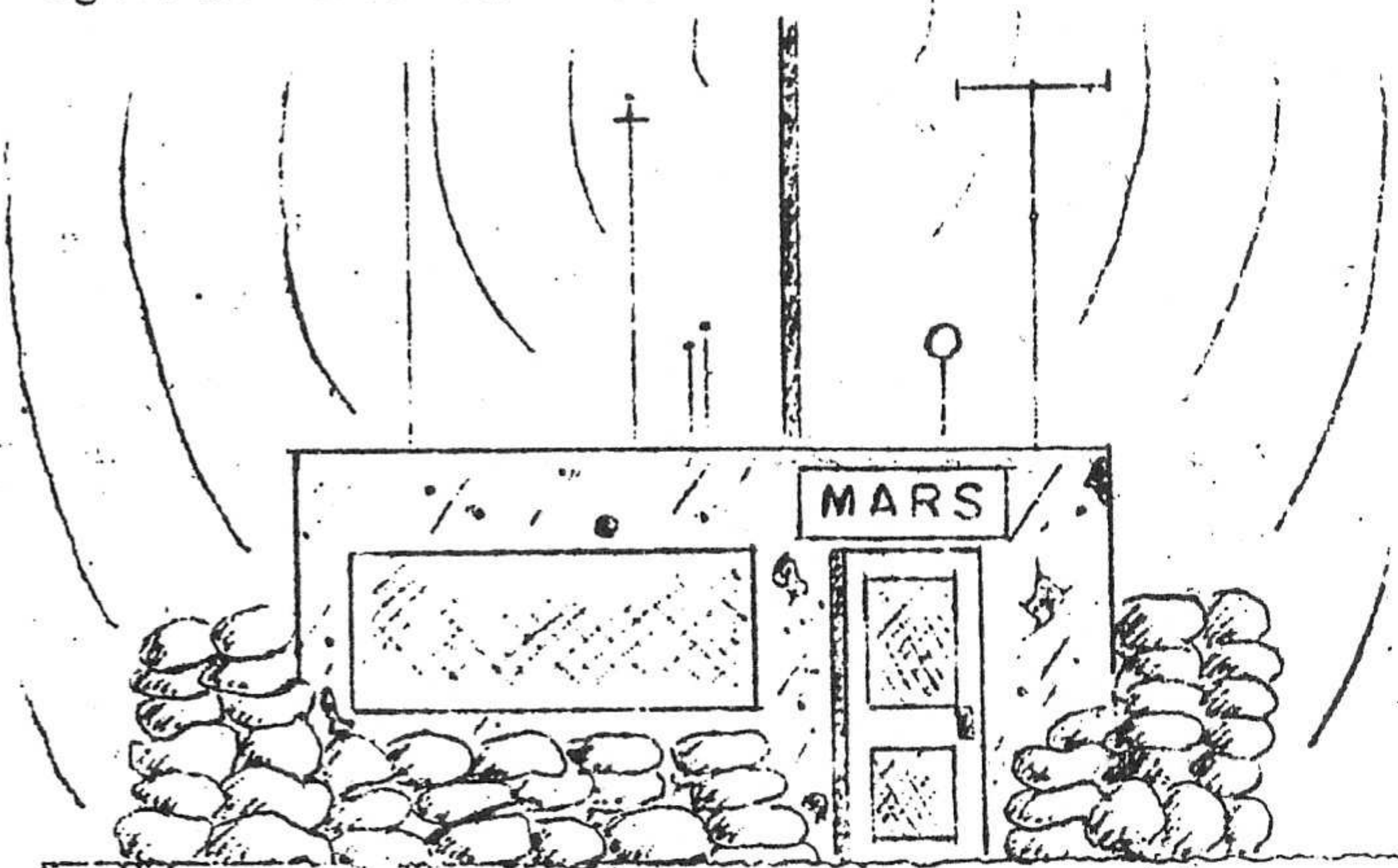
MARS BIG BOON TO TROOPS AT LZ BRONCO, & ELSEWHERE

During 1968, Army, Navy, and Air Force stations of the Military Affiliated Radio System (MARS) in Vietnam and the U.S. completed 435,000 phone patches between servicemen and their families. Army stations accounted for 221,000 of these calls. MARS stations have completed 700,000 calls since January 1966.

These figures are a dynamic demonstration of the value of amateur radio operators to the Armed Forces and the public.

Here at LZ Bronco, the MARS station atop of Montezuma has completed 3,800 patches since July 1, 1968. Personnel operating the 11th Brigade's station include 1LT Harry Whitley, OIC, SGT Larry Gawthrop, SP5 Clint Bister, SP4 William Holt, SP4 Keith Hordesty and PFC John Lupinski.

These men are extremely efficient in their work and do everything possible to establish convenient and clear communications between the soldiers of the 11TH Brigade and their families.



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(LRRP cont from page 1)

team leader, was moving with his men through dense foliage when he suddenly became aware of a strong cooking odor. He cautiously moved forward and heard voices near a stream. It then became apparent that his team had encountered an enemy base camp of unknown size.

Realizing that his entire team could not move close to the camp without making a great deal of noise, SGT Roth ordered the team to remain behind while he and SP4 Larry G. Mosley (Sutter, Calif.), inched forward to make a closer examination of enemy activity.

As they approached the camp the two men spotted eight NVA soldiers and a woman preparing a meal. They also noticed that their weapons were stacked against a tree some distance away from the unsuspecting group.

The advantage was with the two silent observers, and they moved quickly to spring their ambush.

"We threw a grenade at them," said SGT Roth, "But it failed to go off. The NVA were alarmed, but after a few seconds went back to cooking. They apparently thought it was just a falling rock."

The second grenade had a somewhat different effect.

(LRRP Cont on page 6---)



COL DONALDSON CHALLENGES BDE.S TO MATCH 11TH'S RE-UP

(RE-UP Cont from page 2)

January, and stated that it was indicative of the morale of the brigade that such a large number of men had reenlisted.

Special recognition was given to the 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry since nine of the 19 reenlistees were "Always First" soldiers.

COL Donaldson then proudly extended a challenge to all brigade size units in Vietnam to match this number of reenlistments by AUS personnel during a one month period.

Although the individual soldier makes up his own mind about reenlisting, the 11th Brigade makes it convenient for a soldier to reenlist by providing career counselors with transportation to as many forward fire bases as possible.

The responsibility to make the individual soldier aware of all the benefits he can receive by reenlisting rests with Sergeant First Class (SFC) Fred Fredrich who is in charge of Career Counseling for the 11th Brigade.



EM TO 2LT IN ONE DAY FOR LT ALLEN

A Direct Commission as an officer in the United States Army is an extremely difficult award for an enlisted man to acquire.

Such an award depends solely upon an individual's personal leadership qualities, educational background, and his possession of those personality characteristics that make him officer material.

2LT John Allen possesses these leadership qualifications and was recently awarded a direct commission as a 2LT.

LT Allen was graduated with a masters degree from the University of Rochester in 1966. He was employed as an internal auditor for the General Foods Corporation in New York City.

In September of 1967, LT Allen was drafted into the Army and took his basic training at Ft. Dix New Jersey. He arrived in Vietnam as a PFC in May of 1968 and was assigned to the H.H. Co. 2nd Bde. 25th Infantry. In July of 1968 he applied for a direct commission as a 2nd LT.

LT. Allen was highly recommended for the appointment by his company commander and was interviewed for approximately three hours by a review board at division level.

The board critically examined such things as his educational background and military record, his personality stability, and his over-all leadership potential. Being well-pleased with his qualifications, the review board awarded LT Allen his commission.

2LT Allen is now assigned to H.H.D. 6th Support Battalion as the Assistant Brigade Supply Officer for the 11th Brigade.

Upon finishing his tour in Vietnam, LT Allen will be assigned to the Ft. Lee Quarter Master School and will make the Army his career.

4 PRO GRIDDEERS VISIT LZ BRONCO THROUGH USO

Four professional football players recently visited LZ Bronco and treated the 11th Brigade "Jungle Warriors" to a color film of the Super Bowl.

Tommy Nobis, Atlanta Falcons linebacker, Dan Reeves, Dallas Cowboys halfback, Dick Westmoreland, Miami Dolphins defensive halfback, and Al Atkinson, a linebacker for the New York Jets, are presently touring the Far East, visiting servicemen under sponsorship of the USO.

As they showed the film they commented on the action and chatted with the men. Later, they visited the 75th medical detachment to shake hands with the patients and help cheer up their day.

Late in the afternoon they flew off to see other units throughout Vietnam that day.

(LRRP cont from page 5)

"It rolled between one of the enemy's legs," SGT Roth explained. "That's when we opened fire on them."

Only one of the surprised group was able to return fire, but neither of the patrol members was hit. Meanwhile, several of the grey-uniformed soldiers fell under the intense fire of the ambushers' weapons.

The element of surprise proved extremely profitable to the Americal soldiers. When the brief encounter was over the LRRP team counted four NVA bodies and later found several blood trails, indicating more of the enemy had been wounded while escaping.

A short time later the team was extracted from the area, and as SGT Roth said of the encounter, "It was simply a case of not allowing the NVA enough time to react. We caught them off guard."

(GEN cont from page 1)

CPT Gasdek took two of his men and directed the APCs to the battle site.

Upon returning they encountered accurate small arms fire which wounded CPT Gasdek in the leg. Despite his painful injury he moved up to his men and organized the evacuation of the wounded to the tracks.

Carrying the most seriously wounded man on his back, he crawled more than a hundred meters under intense enemy fire to the medic track.

He then went back to his men to make sure all his casualties were evacuated, and gather weapons and radios.

He administered first aid to his wounded radio operator and when his other radio operator was killed he carried both radios himself.

Next he directed helicopter fire 10 to 25 meters from his position, enabling his men to withdraw to a night defensive position.

The following morning he led an attack on the enemy, forcing them from the area. During this engagement he received a shrapnel wound in his back, but again refused evacuation to remain with his troops.

SSG Bacon was a squad leader with B Co., 4/21 at Tam Ky when heavy fire was received from a woodline. With his company pinned down, SSG Bacon moved forward and knocked out the lead bunker. He began receiving fire from another and knocked it out also with the aid of two of his men.

Moving forward again, he spotted five Americans lying in front, and pulled the only live one to safety in the face of point-blank machinegun fire. After rescuing the man, SSG Bacon returned and knocked out the bunker.

Later, he rode back in on a tank from 1/1 Cav., directing fire on bunkers.

Division commander Maj. Gen. Charles M. Gettys and Lt. Gen. Richard G. Stilwell, XXIV Corps CG, attended the ceremony.

BRITISH SOLDIER VETERAN OF CYPRUS, VIETNAM WARS

There are few men in Vietnam who can claim that they are the veterans of two different wars, especially if they are not yet 21-years-old. One man, Private First Class (PFC) John E. Conley, a rifleman for B Company, 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry, of the 11th Infantry Brigade, can make that claim. In fact, PFC Conley can not only claim participation in two wars, but also membership in two different armies.

PFC Conley, more familiarly known as "Little John", spent two years with the British army before joining the "Yanks" of the American army. For PFC Conley, whose hometown is Cumberland, England, Vietnam is war number two. He first saw combat in Cyprus with the British army in 1965.

He spent almost an entire year there riding shotgun for a British resupply truck. His tour was cut short when his truck was ambushed along one of the rocky roads going to the front lines. He was wounded and discharged from the army.

PFC Conley decided to come to the U.S. to visit relatives in Michigan. While he was there, he was back in uniform again, courtesy of the local selective Service Board, and was sent to the 11th Brigade in Vietnam.

