"DUSTOFF" AIDMEN ARE MEN OF SKILL

SOC TRANG, RVN--U. S. Army SP\(^4\) William W. Hook (Tacoma, Wash.), an aidman with the 82nd Medical Detachment (Helicopter Ambulance) at the Army Airfield here, checks his aid kit prior to a med-evac. More commonly known as "dustoff," the 82nd supports all Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) soldiers in the Delta which includes the 21st, 9th and 7th Divisions. "Dustoff" also supports all U. S. advisory groups, Special Forces camps and four assault helicopter companies, the 121st and 336th at Soc Trang and the 175th and 116th at Vinh Long, 50 miles north of here. Aidmen aboard the "dustoff" medical evacuation helicopters are trained to do just about anything that could be done in the limited space of the helicopter. In cases that require tracheotomies or heart massages, a doctor goes out with the mission. (U. S. ARMY PHOTO)