The personable Major General Harry W. O. Kinnard, steering force in the development of the airmobile concept, commander of the experimental 11th Air Assault Division and first commander of the 1st Air Cavalry Division, infused the revolutionary division with his own style and elan when he first took it into combat. After the division surgeon prescribed an eye patch for the general's slight eye injury, MG Kinnard added the insignia of his division. Hardcore... and with style.

For a “grunt” in the field, happiness is a bath (above), and this soldier has the South China Sea for his bathtub. Any C-ration chef worth his beans knows that the best gift from home is a bottle of meat sauce (below left) to spark his field gourmet efforts. First Sergeant Hollis Stephens of Company B, 2nd of the 12th, “taking five” during Operation PERSHING (below right), has the set jaw and hard face that belongs to an old soldier—and a look that bespeaks of a thousand tales of war.

Even in combat there is time for a smile as this member of the Cav shows on his way back to camp following a hard day on patrol.

He who laughs last, laughs best, and Specialist Four Robert R. Gorgensen is all smiles after he stumbled over a 12-foot python while on a mission with Company D, 2nd of the 12th. Gorgensen bagged the considerably dangerous reptile with his M-16. It was an enemy infiltrator.
Manila...Pyongyang...Vietnam...the faces change but the look is the same. This one (above) belongs to Private First Class Richard Coleman of the 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry. Specialist Four Mack A. Hassler (right) pours water from a helmet over Private First Class Lee A. Bilbrey, who is getting his first bath in 22 days, after his unit was pulled back from the front line for a rest during Operation MASHER in January 1966.

Airmobile or not, the soldier’s age-old plague—thick, deep, grabbing, tiring, impeding, heavy mud—was always a problem in Vietnam (below), especially in the long months of the monsoons. Much of the Cav’s fighting in III Corps was done in the rubber plantations (right) that sprawl over the central and northern parts of the Corps area. This Skytrooper runs for cover as sniper fire breaks out in the rubber east of Quan Loi.

A Cavalry officer finds a perch in a small hilltop tree to scan the distance with field glasses (above), looking for signs of the enemy on the move in hills near Quang Tri. While a machinegun crew sends rapid grazing fire into the enemy’s treeline position (left) another Cav trooper sprints forward, “cultivating a low, running profile,” toward the action. The firefight took place northeast of Tay Ninh in January 1970.
While waiting to board choppers for a combat assault (above), this trooper takes the opportunity to catch some more sleep, a commodity always in short supply for the "grunt." One welcome by-product of the fighting was large bomb craters that filled with rainwater (below) and that became handy, if not really clear, bathing pools.

A Montagnard woman in Vietnam—a witness of many wars—reflects (top center) on the latest conflict raging over her homeland. It was hot and it was usually wet. If there weren't rice paddies to cross and it wasn't pouring out of the monsoon sky, there would surely be one of a thousand streams and rivers to cross (top right) which served to get the trooper thoroughly soaked. A special breed of the enemy was the NVA sapper (below), a soldier who underwent 18 months of training in North Vietnam to learn how to penetrate American firebases and bases-camps expertly and silently with his load of TNT charges. This man rallied to the southern cause and showed Cav soldiers how he would penetrate their defenses if they were unwary.

One of the best times in the field for a "grunt" comes when a "care package" from home arrives. Getting a good mouthful of candy while on a mission near Song Be with Company D, 2nd of the 12th, is Private First Class Dennis E. Sullivan.

Let there be no mistake: the war, the combat, they were always an ugly business. Sergeant Donald Scott comforts a wounded member of his squad (below), a victim of one of the horrors prominent in the Vietnam War, a VC booby trap.
With the helicopter as much to the Cav as the rifle to the infantryman, the airmobile Cav is, as MG Kinnard said, "freed forever from the tyranny of terrain." But if no longer a tyrant for the airmobile division, terrain still serves as a heavy cloak of secrecy for enemy infiltrators and basecamps. When discovered by the Cav—and if they are of sufficient size to warrant the measure—enemy basecamps are treated to the specialty of a B-52 bomb strike (above) turning the area into a void.

Terrain

On the edge of a Cav installation atop Nui Ba Ra Mountain a few flowers survive to belie the war that washes back and forth across the plains below, where—secured by the 1st Cav and saved from enemy attack in August 1969—the capital of Phuoc Long Province, the village-city of Song Be, flourishes as best it can during the war.

With varying intensity, warfare has continued in Vietnam since the end of World War II. The older scars of artillery barrages and bomb strikes gradually sink and fill as nature heals her wounds (below); in time they will all disappear.

Any "grunt" would say that the best way to see the often beautiful fields of rice paddies (above) is from a helicopter, a nice dry helicopter. When sites for a new firebase are considered by headquarters commanders, preference is naturally given to open, semi-clear ground; but the tactical need is the greater dictator and, if need be, the jungle forest is sliced open for a new base (below) that sits like an oasis in the wilds.

The manner in which "the tyranny of terrain" was ended can be seen from this UH-1H Huey, as it, and others, circle the target landing zone just before banking in for the assault. Artillery shells slam into the assault area as a Huey smoke bird lays down a screen to obscure the enemy's vision.
They carried everything from AK-47s to M-16s, wore tennis shoes and a variety of uniforms (including black pajamas), and they followed two Viet Cong veterans to a basecamp hidden in the thick bamboo rain forest.

Several hundred meters behind, a company of 1st Air Cavalrymen followed in hot pursuit.

But this scenario of war is not what it seems. The mission of Company C, 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry, was to support, not attack, the lead element of Vietnamese Regional Forces troops from Phuoc Long Province in search of a weapons cache.

The two Viet Cong veterans with them had rallied to the Republic of Vietnam under the Chieu Hoi program several days before and were walking point for the combined force operation. The target was a secluded Viet Cong basecamp where the Hoi Chanhs had lived for two years.

Combined operations of this type are common throughout Cav Country and especially numerous in northern Phuoc Long Province where the defense of Song Be has been given top priority. In a typical operation 24 hours earlier, an ARVN company made a combat assault with 1st Cav helicopters, while a company of Air Cavalrymen on APCs of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment broke through a thick forest to meet

When the 1st ARVN Airborne Division received its first 155 mm howitzers, the first such guns its unit ever had, a facet of “Dong Tien” moved into play with men of the 1st Battalion, 30th Artillery, showing the ARVN soldiers how to rig and sling out the medium range guns and their ammo (right) using the giant CH-54 Flying Cranes. In the more informal aspect of Dong Tien, Cav troopers and ARVN Airborne soldiers (above) pass idle time like all soldiers do—shooting the breeze.
them, hoping to trap the enemy in the
vise.

“We’re glad to have the ARVNs
working with us, especially in this
populated area,” said Lieutenant Colonel
Thomas Healy, commander of a 1st Cav
battalion at Song Be. “It’s hard for the
Vietnamese—and impossible for us—to
tell a peaceful farmer from a hard core
Viet Cong.

“We treat the ARVN units like our
own here, even when they operate
alone.”

The Hoi Chanhns, followed by AK-
carrying locals, walked swiftly toward
the VC camp along well-used trails. The Americans moved more cautiously,
cutting their own path to the objective.

But the Regional Force troopers saw
nothing strange in their methods.
“They’re not going to ambush friends
who are leading Vietnamese with
AK-47s,” said Sergeant First Class
Phan Hong Thanh, an interpreter with
the unit.

There was no ambush. The campsites
of elaborate bamboo hooches was
deserted. The Hoi Chanhns did, however,
lead the unit to the promised weapons
hidden in the river bed.

With growing emphasis on “Vietnami-
zation” of the war, the 1st Air Cavalry
has swung into high gear with its “Dong
Tien” (Forward Together) program.
Combined operations are an everyday
occurrence throughout Cav Country.

Throughout the Cav’s campaigns in
II and I Corps the ARVN forces in the
area played a vital role. From Plei Me
to Khe Sanh Vietnamese forces have
fought alongside Americans.

The airmobile division, with its in-
stantly available artillery and gunship
support, is an ideal component for a
combined operation. The ARVN
forces, often lacking their own tube
artillery and air support, are highly
effective fighters when given the aid
of the Cav’s mobility and firepower.
Prior to the advent of vast combined
operations in the III Corps Tactical
Zone, the 1st Cav made preparations
for the coming missions. A major part
of the preparation was spent in teaching
Vietnamese soldiers the “how to’s” of a
combat assault, the Cav’s “thing.”

A very representative part of the
training took place in August—Septem-
ber 1969 at LZ Alvarado, then home of
the 2nd Bn, 12th Cav.

Regular classes on how to dismount a
helicopter were given by Major Anthony
J. Andrews, commander of Company A,
227th Assault Helicopter Battalion, and
Captain Calvin C. Jones, Jr., the com-
pany operations officer.

The first of these classes was presented
to 50 members of a 334th Regional
Forces (RF) Company, part of the force
of Phuoc Long Province. Ranging in
age from 15 to 60 years old, the men
of the RF company were preparing to
conduct future combat assaults with
elements of the division's 2nd Brigade.

The class was conducted through an
interpreter provided by the province
chief. The RFs were eager students and
learned quickly. At the end of the class
was a practical exercise—a combat
assault.

Ten enthusiastic Vietnamese soldiers
piled into each chopper and lifted off.
When the trip was over, several excited
RFs pointed to their shoulder patches,
then to the patches on the shoulders
of nearby Skytroopers: "Same, same,"
they exclaimed.

Some combined operations have been
going on throughout III Corps for
years. One of these has been taken over
by 1st Air Cavalrymen since their arrival
in Phuoc Vinh.

Defending the Song Be Bridge, a
vital link between Saigon and northern
III Corps, is the mission of a combined
Vietnamese, 1st Air Cavalry Division
force.

Combined U.S.—Regional Force
patrols comb the surrounding area
daily. Ambushes are set up at night,
Riverine operations search for in­
filtrators. A class in small arms proficiency
is given to both 1st Cav and RF soldiers.
"This is the first chance my men have
had to meet the Vietnamese without
the pressure of battle," said Captain
Leigh Fairbank, commander of Com­
pny E, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry.
"In the field you're too busy fighting." Security is tight around the bridge.
Vietnamese guards stand ready to inspect
every vehicle before it is allowed to pass.
Individuals must present their ID cards.
"Working together helps establish
confidence in each other," said CPT
Fairbank.

With Cav units rotating back to the
field, and new units taking over the
security mission, the operation allows
many Skytroopers to become more
familiar with the RF soldiers.
"I've been standing guard with the
Vietnamese for a month now," said
Private First Class Charles Hespell.
"My understanding of Vietnam, its
A 1st Cav soldier (above) goes over the platoon-level details of a joint operation with his Vietnamese Popular Force counterparts. Emphasis is placed on the units—whether of company or squad size—operating as a single unit rather than having them act separately, with one or the other eventually winding up as observers. As the troops prepare to move out, the two commanders (below), American and Vietnamese, go over final plans and check map coordinates for final objectives.

The overall planning for the joint operation, between 1st Cav troops and members of Phuoc Long Province’s Popular Force units, was carried out by the high-ranking representatives from both the American and Vietnamese sides. The three-day mission was conducted north of FSB Buttons, the 2nd Brigade headquarters.
people and language has increased immensely. It's quite a change of pace from the field.

Late 1969 found elements of the 1st ARVN Airborne Division moving into Cav Country, especially the 1st Brigade’s area of operations.

Airmobility was just a vague concept to a battalion of men from the 2nd ARVN Airborne Brigade when it was airlifted to an isolated clearing 22 miles northeast of Tay Ninh. Within 48 hours they had established a firebase and moved against the enemy with the same group tactics and air support used by every line company in the airmobile 1st Cavalry.

“This is completely new to us,” said Major Dudley McIver, senior advisor to the 3rd ARVN Airborne Battalion. “Previously we had to move in a mass. When you don’t have much artillery and air support you need a large number of troops for firepower. Of course, you lose the element of surprise.”

The paratroopers now have that support: an ARVN 105mm battery at the battalion’s firebase. 1st Cav helicopter gunships, aerial rocket artillery ships and artillery at nearby firebases are committed to the battalion’s ground activity.

1st Cav Hueys and Chinooks brought in food, water and building machines. The division’s 8th Engineers arrived the first day with bulldozers and other heavy equipment.

“We’re here to build the TOC, the aid station and the berm,” said Pvt. George Coles, one of the 50 combat engineers at the firebase. “After that it’s their baby. We’re showing them how to set up the wire and clear the area, but they’re doing most of the work. The next time they’ll be on their own.”

At times the firebase looked like an outdoor classroom. Infantry, artillery, logistics, communications and engineer officers from the Cav’s 1st Brigade met their ARVN counterparts in informal discussions throughout the first day.

“These guys can really work,” said Pvt. Wayne Boss, who was demonstrating to several ARVNs the proper way to set up concertina wire.

Vietnamization of the war, at least in this part of the Cav’s area of operations, was proceeding smoothly.

One of the best examples of combined operations in Cav history has been taking place in the Bo Duc-Bu Dop area of northern III Corps in Phuoc Long Province. Throughout the area, the scene of heavy enemy activity in the late months of 1969, 1st Air Cav and Vietnamese soldiers worked and fought side by side.

FSB Jerri, located three miles south of Bu Dop, was the scene of much activity throughout November and December. Incoming rounds were a daily occurrence. The 3rd Mobile Strike Force, consisting of Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) soldiers and American advisors, patrolled the area around the firebase, searching for the enemy’s rocket and mortar launching points.

As Allied control over the area increased, the 1st Cav turned the firebase over to the Vietnamese troops, adding it to the many Vietnamese controlled firebases throughout Cav Country.

The Vietnamese have secured the area, refusing the NVA one of their major infiltration routes from Cambodia.

In mid-December 1969, Skytroopers from Company D, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry, combined with CIDG troops to kill 100 NVA in a four day battle near FSB Jamie.

Combat assaulting into the area to reinforce the aerial rifle platoon (Blues) of Troop A, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry.

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CIVIC ACTION AND PACIFICATION

Pacification is the process of organizing the people for their own self-defense, self-government and self-development with the ultimate objective of securing their political support to the national cause of defeating the enemy.

A necessary precondition to pacification is that a sufficient level of sustained and credible security is first established by the regular forces to enable the territorial security forces to protect the people from undue harassment.

Pacification seeks to elicit popular commitment to the national effort by involving the people in that effort at a level meaningful to them and by developing a sense of common participation toward common goals. It involves every agency of the Government of the Republic of Vietnam and potentially every man, woman and child in the nation.

The 1st Air Cavalry Division has continuously strived to promote the pacification programs of the Republic of Vietnam. Through civic action programs, personnel of the division have worked to aid the people of Vietnam in their struggle for peace and freedom.

One of the most important and dramatic programs initiated by the Government of Vietnam (GVN) is the “Chieu Hoi” or “Open Arms” program. It offers amnesty to the enemy and persuades them to rally to the side of the GVN. It offers them a chance to start a new life within GVN society and to help in the economic and political development of the nation.

The success of this program is dependent upon the treatment the individual receives after he has rallied. Security and human treatment are guaranteed the rallier by the Government of South Vietnam and Free World Military Forces. This guarantee is printed on safe-conduct passes distributed in enemy areas by various means. While the safe-conduct pass facilitates the act of rallying, it is not a prerequisite.

The FIRST TEAM, like other American units in the Republic of Vietnam, takes special care to comply with the provisions of the Chieu Hoi program. If the rallier needs medical care, food or clothing, he gets it. The individual is searched, of course, and security is maintained, but the Hoi Chanh’s dignity is preserved, a most vital part of processing and orienting the individual into the GVN society.

Through the use of PSYOP (Psychological Operations) broadcasts from helicopters and jungle clearings and the dropping of leaflets, the civil affairs sections of the division have brought many people back to the safety and support of the South Vietnamese government.

An excellent example of the success of the program was the tide of ralliers turning themselves in to 1st Cav firebases in the 2nd Brigade AO during the months of September to November 1969. In a period of two months, 546 civilians and former enemy soldiers responded to 1st Cav PSYOPs broadcasts and rallied to the Government of the Republic of Vietnam.

With them the people brought tales of horror, of years of living under the watchful eyes of Viet Cong and North Vietnamese soldiers. When ARVN or American troops would approach the often unmapped hamlets, the enemy would force the people off into the jungle at gunpoint.

The villagers spent their days working in fields, growing food for the Viet Cong. In return for their work, they would receive as little as one-half potato per
day to survive on. Many villagers reported burning elephant grass and eating the ashes as a salt substitute.

Night brought added terror to the villagers. Sleeping in holes, they would listen as American planes and helicopters fired on the enemy in the nearby jungle. They wondered when the American bombs would land on them, knowing the Allies were unaware of their presence and captivity.

Through the efforts of the PSYOPs personnel, the villagers were made aware of a new life of security and freedom. They began sneaking out of their villages during the night, a few people at a time, to turn themselves in at a nearby firebase in the morning. Often the desire for freedom was so great that families would be separated, but such was their desire to be rid of the Viet Cong.

Observing the Cav’s pacification efforts and the resulting successes, the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese started their own “counter-pacification” program.

The enemy attempted to convince the people that the Americans were lying, that “Saigon is in ruins.” They repeatedly held forced indoctrination sessions during which the people were informed that the Saigon government was defeated and the Communists would soon be in power.

The villagers questioned the FIRST TEAM’s pacification workers about the Communist claims. The civil affairs people came up with an excellent idea to convince the villagers that the enemy had been lying.

Visits to Saigon were arranged for the children of the local villages and hamlets. They were taken on sight-seeing tours of the city and shown that the bustling capital was its normal self. Such attractions as the zoo were shown the children, who went back to their villages and told their parents of the wonders of the big city. The enemy was once again defeated.
Two Cav medics of Company A, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry, rush a 12-year-old Vietnamese boy to a MedEvac helicopter. The boy was brought to a civic action sick call with a severe case of malaria.

The history of the Cav in Vietnam is filled with stories of the division's efforts to help local people develop a better and more meaningful life.

"Nha thuong" is the traditional Vietnamese expression for hospital and means "house of love." The 1st Air Cavalry's 15th Medical Battalion, over a three-year period, created such a refuge for the ill in the An Khe area.

Shortly after the Cav deployed to Vietnam in 1965, a Medical Civic Action Project (MEDCAP) was set up to minister to the needs of the 70,000 people of the An Tue District, part of Binh Dinh Province.

Many came to be healed, and in the spring of 1966 the program was put on a permanent basis. An old stone house furnished operating and waiting rooms while division engineers erected wards and the medical battalion selected men to guide the venture.

Local help was quickly enlisted, since many Vietnamese were eager for the regular salary offered. Yet out of the toil and trials born together and joys commonly shared grew bonds of friendship, and those who stayed on became the beginning of a family.

A distraught mother brought her afflicted child to the dispensary and, when the child recovered, stayed on in gratitude to help with the cleaning chores.

The dispensary maintained 76 sickbeds and with 10 more in a separate maternity section. In 1967, more than 2,000 patients were given care and 350 babies were delivered. Nearly 27,000 people, about one-third of the district's population, came for treatment ranging from ointments to inoculations.

Staff Sergeant John D. Rozzell extended time and again to work with the clinic staff, and it was he who was most responsible for the project's success. "We help anyone who comes here without regard to his background or politics. We are here to serve," he said.

The division's policy of treating all Vietnamese regardless of political beliefs proved salutary in some unexpected ways. Eliminating politics helped overcome the doubts of many Vietnamese. For example, following one instance in 1968 when the dispensary was hit by rockets, word filtered back that the Viet Cong had apologized for the incident.

The dispensary was more than simply a clinic and place for the sick. It sponsored several children in school. It offered first aid training and instruction in hygiene and basic English. It even began an experimental program in modern agricultural methods.

Since its founding, however, it was
understood that one day the dispensary should be given to the Vietnamese people for whom it was built. On April 3, 1969, that goal was realized when Lieutenant Colonel Guthrie L. Turner, Jr., division surgeon and commanding officer of the 15th Medical Battalion, presented the facilities to the deputy chief of Binh Dinh Province at dedication ceremonies.

When the FIRST TEAM’s rear detachment moved to Bien Hoa in April, the 4th Division assumed the responsibility for providing any further assistance that might be required by the dispensary. But the people of the An Tuc District never will forget the efforts of the men of the 1st Air Cavalry Division. Theirs was a mission of mercy: one part medicine and two parts compassion.

The building of the hospital at An Khe represented only a small fraction of the division’s medical aid to the civilian population. MEDCAPs continue to be the largest medical programs, and they are very successful.

By going out to the people the doctors and medics of the Cav are able to win the people’s confidence, as well as sparing them the trip to the sometimes distant Cav base.

In one average three-month period, the division held 575 MEDCAPs during which 27,550 patients were treated.

With the Cav securely located in III Corps, new problems were to be solved. A main focus of interest has been in Phuoc Long Province, part of the 2nd Brigade’s AO—an area of low economic development.

As part of the continuing efforts to aid the economy of Phuoc Long Province the Cav’s 2nd Brigade civil affairs section (S-5) has repeatedly initiated self-help projects for the people in the area.

Animal husbandry has taken a front seat in the 2nd Brigade’s efforts. By providing the people with animals, the Cav not only supplies needed meat sources, but the reproductive capabilities of the animals make the programs self-sustaining.

Most of the programs worked, but some didn’t; but the failures provided valuable lessons learned to Skytroopers and villagers alike. One such lesson was that some types of poultry do not adapt readily to environmental changes.

A case in point was when the brigade supplied 230 ducklings to the people of An Luong and Thuan Khiem 4, two hamlets in the province.

According to Captain Michael W. Griffith, the brigade civil affairs officer, the program was to be self-sustained. The district chief told the recipients
A 15th Medical Battalion lab technician checks blood samples at the An Tue Dispensary lab, part of the facility constructed by the Cav for the people of the An Khe area.

Staff Sergeant John D. Rozzell, the man primarily responsible for the great success of the An Tue Dispensary, comforts one of the many Vietnamese children born at the dispensary under his care.

Specialist Four Herbert Marchese helps a Montagnard woman settle down in her new home after the Cav relocated the tribe's village.

A Cav medic, working through an interpreter, prescribes medication for a Vietnamese woman seeking aid during a Medical Civic Action Project (MEDCAP). FSB Buttons, headquarters of the Cav's 2nd Brigade and located next the provincial capital of Song Be, was the scene of a special Christmas party as children of the city were brought into the base to receive Christmas packages from the Skytroopers stationed there.
that after a period of time, he would require that 230 ducklings be produced so that they could be passed on to other villagers.

Unfortunately the young birds, unused to the environment of the Song Be area, didn’t survive long enough to reproduce.

On the other hand, rabbits, a source of food and fur for all culture throughout history, are not fazed by mere changes in scenery and climate.

The brigade S-5 section purchased 20 rabbits and distributed them to five families in the area. The program has developed into one of the most successful of the division’s efforts.

Another project brought seven cows, 750 baby chicks, 20 pigs and seven goats to Phuoc Long Province for distribution among Montagnard refugees at Don Luan and Bo Duc.

The refugees, forced to flee their homes due to Communist aggression, have been settled in other parts of the province. The program is designed to give them the means to start a new life, a life not dependent on the government.

The animals have brought about a new life for these people. They are able to grow crops to feed themselves and their livestock, and they will soon be fully established in their new homes.

One of the biggest problems for many villagers in Vietnam presents itself at harvest time. As the rice crops are picked, the Viet Cong arrive to take the

Medical treatment was not the only service available (above) at the An Tuc Dispensary. Dental care, general hygiene, agricultural methods and simple things, like the use of a sewing machine, were taught to the people. Vietnamese children surround a Cav doctor on a MEDCAP mission in Phuoc Vinh village (below), shortly after the Cav moved to III Corps.

A Vietnamese woman and her newborn baby—another born at the An Tuc Dispensary—receive the warm attention (below left) of a dispensary staffer. A 15th Medical Battalion member (below right) of the An Tuc Dispensary staff takes the pulse of an ill Montagnard child.
1st Cav civic action touches all ages, from the little Vietnamese boy (above), who is too young to really understand what is going on, to the very old (below), like this elderly woman listening to the 1st Cav band playing at Song Be.

Lieutenant Truman Arnett of Battery C, 1st Battalion, 77th Artillery, presents a portion of a shipment of seeds to a member of Hoi An village. The seeds were provided by the Division Artillery chaplain.

While a Vietnamese priest looks over progress on reconstruction of a village, the children clamor over a Cav engineer advisor at right. The village was located near An Khe.

food from the people, leaving them to starve. It is a vicious, ugly part of the war, as any Skytrooper who has seen the bloated stomach of a young child suffering from malnutrition will admit.

To counter the loss of crops in the Phuoc Long Province area, the 2nd Brigade civil affairs section shipped some 80 tons of rice to the villages of Bo Duc and Duc Phang during a three-week period in October 1969.

The rice was also a vital factor in aiding the resettlement of hundreds of refugees recently moved to the areas. With food available, they were able to immediately go to work to build homes for themselves and get their own rice crops sown.

Aiding the refugees in building homes was a shipment of four tons of tool kits, sent along with the rice. The Cav’s airmobility was a vital factor in supplying the people with the essentials for the beginning of their new lives. With no roads available to allow motor convoys access to the villages, the mighty CH-47 Chinooks of the FIRST TEAM took over the supply mission, and accomplished it in the usual dispatch of the 1st Cavalry Division.

One shipment of rice is not news in itself. But the sharp-eyed Skytroopers of the division have been finding huge enemy rice and salt caches since their

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