

PSYOPS Gets Stronger Voice

CAMP EAGLE - The PSYOP program of the 101st has gained a new and stronger voice thanks to the men of Co. A, 5th Trans. Bn. and their new "airmobile airhorn".

The "airhorn" is a helicopter-mounted speaker system similar to those used by PSYOP to relay the advantages of the "Chieu Hoi" program to potential communist ralliers. But, the new system is a far cry from the original.

"Our old unit had some difficulties," explained Capt. Robert D. Herb of Saugerties, N.Y., assistant division PSYOP officer. "Helicopter vibration ruined the delicate electronic parts."

"In the old system," he continued, "the amplifier was hooked into the helicopter's power supply through one cable and did not draw enough current to operate the system to its full potential. And the unit had to be tied onto the helicopter with a rope."

Because of these problems, 101st PSYOP asked other division units for help, and the men of the 5th Trans. Bn. avionics shop volunteered to tackle the problem.

CWO Gary Latham, Versailles, Me., battalion avionics officer, explained that the entire system had to be redesigned.

"The original system was a mass of cables and components," he said. "Everything was mounted on a heavy iron frame that transmitted the vibration of the helicopter to the electronic parts."

Latham explained that the new "airborne airhorn" has been designed around a new lightweight aluminum frame that snaps easily into rings set in the floor of UH-1 series helicopters, allowing quick installation and removal. The frame is mounted on four shock absorbers to reduce vibration. Rubber grommets located between components and the frame provide further insulation.

The new system draws power from two outlets in the helicopter, doubling the available amperage and allowing the speaker system to operate at peak capacity, Latham said. Quick disconnect plugs make the system safer and easier to remove from the helicopter.

"There is really no comparison," says Latham proudly. "The new system not only works better and is more reliable, but it looks neater too. The wiring and components of the unit are very compact."

Capt. Herb of PSYOP is also pleased with the new system.



SNIFFING 'EM OUT -- Spec. 4 Stephen Bowers of South Bend, Ind., and his dog "Lance" cross a rice paddy dike near Camp Sally. The scout dog team is a part of the 47th Inf. Plt. (Scout Dog) of the 2nd Brigade. (U.S. Army Photo by Lt. Ken Strafer)

Geronimo Troopers Destroy Enemy Bunker Complex

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Trail Ends at Bodies

CAMP EAGLE, - Haunted by the frustration of seeing countless enemy bloodtrails disappear into the dense jungles, men of the 2nd Bn. (Ambl.) 502nd Inf. have taken a measure of consolation in their recent discovery of 42 enemy bodies.

The first of a series of discoveries was made by the battalion's Co. A, which uncovered 10 bodies near Fire Support Base Rifle, 25 miles south of Hue.

"Late in the afternoon, we came across a large trail running toward the lowlands," explained Sgt. Dana Morin, Westbrook, Me., "and that night, we set up our night defensive position (NDP) just off the trail."

Early the next morning, as the company's security element was returning to the NDP, they discovered the concealed bodies. A search of the area by the battalion revealed 32 more bodies.

Geronimo Troopers Destroy Enemy Bunker Complex

CAMP SALLY - Four days of intensive search and clear missions by Co. D, 2nd Bn. (Ambl.), 501st Inf. have resulted in the detection and destruction of an enemy bunker complex southwest of Firebase Bastogne.

The initial discovery was made by the soldiers during a routine reconnaissance mission. Further probes of the area uncovered 49 bunkers and two escape tunnels.

Evidence of recent enemy occupation was unearthed as the troops pulled medical equipment, cooking pots, an NVA radio battery and mortar-aiming stakes from the site.

Encouraged by the discovery, the remainder of the company swept adjacent areas, with similar results. Another bunker produced eleven 82mm mortar rounds, several canteens, 20 pounds of salt and a Chicom claymore mine.

Two more days were spent carefully combing the area. A total of 33 small bunkers were found. Two of these were large command-types. Six 60mm mortar rounds and other Russian-made munitions were found in the heavily reinforced positions. An improvised lookout tower consisting of a ladder placed against a tree was also found.

All ammunition and bunkers were destroyed by "Geronimo" troopers and supporting engineer units.

Net TNT, NVA After Tracking

CAMP EVANS - Troopers of the 101st recently killed three enemy soldiers after a grueling day and a half of tracking.

While operating around Fire Support Base Rakkasan, Screaming Eagles of Co. D, 1st Bn. (Ambl.), 506th Inf. uncovered 33 blocks of TNT.

"When we uncover a cache like this, we sometimes leave behind an ambush in case the enemy comes back to the site," explained Lt. Jerry Smith, Knoxville, Tenn., a platoon leader. "This time the plan worked."

The ambush was sprung just before dawn as two NVA walked up the trail toward the cache site. In an exchange of fire, the badly frightened NVA fled leaving a noticeable blood trail.

The 101st soldiers, with the

aid of a tracker team, followed the trail for 32 hours until they came upon five NVA near a stream.

Flanking the enemy, the Currahees killed three of them with grenades and small arms fire.

VC Bunker Found

CAMP SALLY,--A well stocked enemy supply bunker was discovered recently by river patrol troopers of the 1st Bn. (Ambl.), 502nd Inf. operating along the Song Tra Trach River, south of Hue.

Members of Co. D of the unit were on a routine boat patrol south of the Pohl Bridge when they banked the craft to check out a nearby village. As the men moved up the steep river bank, they stumbled onto the bunker which was hidden in heavy underbrush.



PUT YOUR BACK INTO IT -- A gun crew of the 2nd Bn. (Ambl.), 11th Arty., manhandle a 155mm howitzer into place during an artillery raid at Fire Base Rakkasan.

(U.S. Army Photo by Spec. 4 Daniel Weber)