



2nd Battalion 1st Infantry Chapter, Americal Division Veterans Association (ADVA)

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Volume 4

"A Soldier Once... And Always"

December 2014

Commanders Corner: I hope all of you and your families and friends enjoyed Thanksgiving Day. My apology for not filling you in on our annual 2/1 Chapter meeting and the ADVA reunion, so bear with me while I fill you in. The ADVA Executive Council Meeting discussed the Legacy Foundation, the Scholarship Program, and future reunions. If you desire more details on any of these subjects, please contact Rich Heroux or myself. The General Membership Meeting consisted of the usual association reports on the status of the association and points discussed by the Executive Council. Some discussion took place regarding the legacy of the association and the fact that our membership will eventually die out; literally. The future of the association, scholarship fund, etc. is something that the ADVA needs to address as we press forward. Speaking of the Scholarship Fund, it is available to all members and, if you have anyone in your family that could use some financial assistance, please fill out the form and take advantage of it. There is quite a bit of money available for distribution with the minimum award being \$500. The form has been simplified for easy access. The main question, asked of me from guys who were not able to attend the annual convention meeting, is where the next reunion will be held. It looks like Norfolk, VA is the probable location; somewhere in the July time frame and tentatively at the Waterside Marriott. As soon as I have definite information it will appear in the newsletter and on our web site. Proposed site for 2016 is Albuquerque, NM and for 2017, Indianapolis, IN. The annual chapter meeting had several items up for discussion and attended by 27 members (all time high). On the agenda was a discussion on how general decisions for the chapter would be made and it was voted to continue to do this at the annual chapter meeting. It was voted to add 2 at-large-council positions to give us a broader base of opinions for items that arise throughout the year. After nominations the attending members voted, effective immediately, the 2 new positions will be filled by Stan Disorda and Julius "Juju" Deriscavage. Originally, Bobby Locke-Bey was voted into a council seat but, due to circumstances regarding communications problems, we had to replace Bobby. Lifetime dues were discussed and a motion was passed to allow a lifetime chapter membership for the paltry sum of \$50. Contact Don Hicks if interested. Next; the chapter has been sending a wreath/flowers to the funerals of 2/1 soldiers when notified regarding their passing. It was voted to continue doing this but to restrict it to chapter members. All pertinent changes, voted on by the chapter, which affect our chapter by-laws will be reflected in the updated version available on the web site. As an aside, Dwight Sybolt (B & C Cos.) brought a DVD of pictures taken in Nam and has requested anyone wanting a copy or having pictures to add to the DVD to contact him. Dwight's contact information is located



on the website on the Company B Roster. Thanks for a great reunion. We have some great ladies associated with our chapter and we couldn't do without them. The hospitality room, set up mainly by Don and Rene Hicks, was the best we have ever had. Also, thanks to all members and our ladies who helped out with the room. Keep in mind, at the next annual meeting, we will be nominating and voting on the 3 main officers positions: Commander, Vice-commander, and Secretary/Treasures. Think it over and come up with some candidates who will be able to assist us in continuing to be an outstanding organization. A couple of days after leaving Houston, I had to go to the Kokomo Veterans Reunion, which for over 20 some years has been an annual pilgrimage for me. This year was especially gratifying because guys from Bravo Company donated money to purchase memorial bricks which were laid at the Kokomo Veterans Memorial Garden. These bricks honored our brothers who lost their lives in Vietnam or have passed on since returning. A special thanks to all of you who contributed. After Houston and Kokomo, I had to get ready for my annual pig roast which takes a couple of weeks. Luckily, since you are reading this, I survived all 3 events

Chuck

Keep safe and may the bond of battle never be broken



DOD Identifies 3 Missing Korean War Service Members: The Defense POW/MIA Office has announced the identification of remains belonging to three Korean War soldiers. Recovered are:

- **Army Master Sgt. Francis H. Stamer**, 35, of Hyde Park, N.Y. He was assigned to Company M, 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, lost on Nov. 2, 1950, in North Korea, and accounted for on Oct. 29, 2014. He will be buried with full military honors on a date, time and location yet to be determined.
- **Army Cpl. Richard L. Wing**, 19, of Toledo, Ohio. He was assigned to Company H, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, lost on Nov. 28, 1950, in North Korea, and accounted for on Nov. 7, 2014. He will be buried with full military honors on a date, time and location yet to be determined.
- **Army Cpl. Leland F. Smith**, 18, from Indiana. He was assigned to Company K, 35th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, lost on Nov. 28, 1950, in North Korea, and accounted for on Nov. 8, 2014. He will be buried with full military honors on a date, time and location yet to be determined.

The National Institutes of Health has just released the results of a \$200 million research study completed under a grant to Johns Hopkins. The new study has found that women who carry a little extra weight live longer than the

Ex-Navy SEAL Makes No Apologies for Going Public: Former Navy SEAL Robert O'Neill, who says he fired the shots that killed Osama bin Laden, played a role in some of the most consequential combat missions of the post-9/11 era, including three depicted in Hollywood movies. And now he's telling the world about them. By doing so, O'Neill has almost certainly increased his earning power on the speaking circuit. He also may have put himself and his family at greater risk. And he has earned the enmity of some current and former SEALs by violating their code of silence. But O'Neill, winner of two Silver and five Bronze Stars, makes no apologies for any of that. In a wide-ranging interview with The Associated Press, he said he believes the American public has a right to more details about the operation that killed the al-Qaida leader and other important military adventures. And he insisted he is taking pains not to divulge classified information or compromise the tactics SEALs use to get the drop on their enemies. "The last thing I want to do is endanger anybody," he said. "I think the good (of going public) outweighs the bad." O'Neill, who began discussing his role in the bin Laden mission, was in Washington for a round of television and media appearances that drew both praise and criticism.



Veterans Win Seats in Congress: Election Day 2014 was a huge victory for veterans running for Congress. With a few races still too close to call, at least 11 new veterans were elected to the House, bringing its total number to at least 81. Still, this is slightly down from the total of 87 at the beginning of last Congress. Only two incumbent veterans lost their House races. Four new veterans were elected to the Senate, bringing the total number of veterans up to 21 from 20. This marks the first election since 1982 in which the number of Senate veterans increased. Tom Cotton of Arkansas and Joni Ernst of Iowa won their races, making them the first two Iraq veterans ever elected to the Senate. If a veteran was newly elected in your district or state, take the opportunity in the coming weeks to reach out to them. Share your Priority Goals with them and their staff, and look for opportunities to host veterans' roundtables and town hall meetings with them.

Top US Military Officer Predicts ISIS War Will Last up to 4 Years: The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff estimates the U.S.-led fight against Islamic militants in Iraq and Syria will last up to four years. Army Gen. Martin Dempsey made the estimate recently during an interview at Atlantic Media's Defense One conference in Washington, D.C. about the fight against the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, or ISIS. The U.S. started launching airstrikes against ISIS in Iraq and Syria to thwart the organization's advances in some areas, though the militants still control vast parts of northern and western Iraq and eastern Syria. Under Secretary of Intelligence Mike Vickers later agreed with Dempsey's estimate warning about the time it will take to train a force inside Iraq and Syria to defeat ISIS. Dempsey first mentioned the timeline in regards to the challenges the military faces in funding the many conflicts across the globe. He listed the deployment of more American troops to Europe and Africa, as well as the "protracted probably three or four year campaign in the Middle East."

I pointed to two "old farts" across the bar from us and told my friend Bob, "That'll be us in ten years." He turned to me and said....."That's a mirror, you dumb idiot."

Captain Bars: Being an 81 mortar gunner whom spent all his time on remote fire bases and outposts it was very rare that we got clean clothes and other supplies because we never had an officer for our platoon and for quite awhile our top rank was an E-5. We were constantly getting extra details, three man LP'S, K.P. and poop burning details. Sometimes when we had night bunker guard we couldn't even get the three blooper rounds per three hour shift we were supposed to get because the ammo dump officer would pull rank and tell us to take a hike. Once we were in the rear and we got a pile of clean fatigues and one had a Captains bar on it which I took and kept for a special occasion. Now when we went to the ammo dump, I would don my Captains bar and tell the ammo dump officer that I wanted not only the three rounds per man, but a whole case and at first he looked at me and questioned me being a Captain because I had a baby face and he never saw or heard of me. I told him he could give me what I wanted or I would report him and we got a case whenever I went down there. We also would order LRRP rations which were only supposed to be for members of Long Range Recon Patrol personnel, but when I flashed my Captains bar they gave them to me and I also carried a black marker and would mark Bravo company mortars on things we could use or ordered and they had to give them to me because I had rank. We also would have all new guys sent to talk with the Captain and I would put on my Bar and give them a welcome to the platoon speech and then tell them what was expected of them. Some looked at me like this guy can't be a Captain as he looks like he should be in high school and they had to hold their tongue or be afraid to get stuck on ambush or the poop burning detail. We let them go all day thinking I was the captain and then at evening stand to, we would let the cat out of the bag. I knew I could get in big trouble, but I only wanted what was fair for us and got tired of getting out ranked and stuck doing more than our share of crappy details. The Captains bars made the playing field even and sometimes it worked to our advantage. We even got ice on resupply which was a miracle and a lot of people questioned me being a Captain, but I was never called on it or caught and we still talk about it among those of us left.

Jim Gales, Bravo CO, 81mm mortar platoon, 2/1st

Immigration Policy Reversal Denies Residency to Some Military Spouses: President Obama made his executive order on immigration weeks after a recent reversal of a U.S. immigration policy that will separate some military and Veterans Affairs employees from their spouses. The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service reversed a policy whereby it automatically granted legal residency status to spouses of doctors and those with critical language skills who came to the U.S., joined the military and were fast-tracked to citizenship. The reversal will force spouses to go back to their country of origin, stay there two years, and then apply to come to the U.S., just as any foreign visitor or student in the U.S. would have to do. "They did just notify an Army doctor in Baltimore and another in Kansas City that their spouses' green-card applications are going to be denied and the spouses will have to go 'home' for two years," said Margaret Stock, a retired Army Reserve officer who pitched the Military Accessions Vital to the National Interest program to the Army in 2008.

**DON'T LOSE YOUR HEAD
TO GAIN A MINUTE
YOU NEED YOUR HEAD
YOUR BRAINS ARE IN IT
Burma Shave**

American Groups Push Senators to Rethink Planned Cuts to Troop Pay, Benefits: Troop advocates led by the powerful Military Officers Association of America are pressing key senators to reconsider controversial budget proposals that would cut military pay and benefits. Norb Ryan, president of MOAA, the nation's largest officers' association, said he's concerned the final compromise on the 2015 defense budget may include proposals to reduce troop pay raises, housing allowances and pharmacy benefits. He's calling for the Senate to debate the issue like it did this week for the proposed Keystone XL pipeline. The House of Representatives passed its version of the 2015 defense authorization bill, which sets policy and spending goals. But the legislation stalled in the Senate. Now, leaders of defense panels in both chambers are negotiating to bypass the normal legislative process to get the bill passed by the end of the year. "I'm disappointed that they can't take one day to have a healthy debate by all duly elected 100 senators," he said during a recent interview with Military.com. "The 435 representatives took the time to do it ... Why can't the Senate do the same?" His group led a lobbying blitz in recent days to persuade senators on both sides of the political aisle to rethink the Pentagon's plans to cut troop pay raises to 1 percent from the statutory 1.8 percent, curb basic allowances for housing (BAH) by 5 percent over three years, and increase Tricare pharmacy co-pays.

Obama Broadens Mission to Allow US Troops to Engage Taliban Fighters: U.S. troops in Afghanistan may once again engage Taliban fighters, not just al-Qaida terrorists, under new guidelines quietly approved by President Barack Obama, administration officials say. The armed forces were to limit their operations in Afghanistan to counterterrorism missions against al-Qaida after this year, until Obama broadened the guidelines in recent weeks. The plan comes as the U.S. combat mission in Afghanistan draws to a close, thousands of troops return home and the military prepares for a narrower counterterrorism and training mission for the next two years. Obama's decision also means the U.S. can conduct air support when needed. One U.S. official said the military could only go after the Taliban if it posed a threat to American forces or provided direct support to al-Qaida, while the latter could be targeted more indiscriminately. "To the extent that Taliban members directly threaten the United States and coalition forces in Afghanistan or provide direct support to al-Qaida, however, we will take appropriate measures to keep Americans safe," the official said. The Taliban's presence in Afghanistan far exceeds that of al-Qaida, adding significance to Obama's authorization. The president's decision came in response to requests from military commanders who wanted troops to be allowed to continue to battle the Taliban, the U.S. officials said.



There is now a mobile app for VA Mobile Health: This fall marked significant developments for VA Mobile Health, with the launch of VA's App store and the release of the first VA Apps giving Veterans direct access to their electronic health record. New Apps available for Veterans, including VA Launch pad, Mobile Blue Button and Summary of Care.

John Downey, Long-Held POW, Dies at 84: John T. Downey, a former CIA agent who survived more than 20 years in Chinese prisons during the Cold War before becoming a Connecticut judge, died recently. He was 84. Downey was diagnosed with cancer a month ago and died at a hospice facility in Branford, according to his son, Jack Downey, of Philadelphia. The elder Downey had graduated from Yale University and joined the Central Intelligence Agency a year before his plane was shot down during a botched cloak-and-dagger flight into China in November 1952. He spent the next 20 years, three months and 14 days in Chinese prisons. He was released in March 1973 shortly after President Richard Nixon publicly acknowledged Downey's CIA connection. After returning to the United States, he graduated from Harvard Law School and was appointed to the Connecticut bench in 1987.

Air Controller Becomes Just 3rd Airman to Earn 2nd Silver Star: Master Sgt. Thomas Case, an Air Force Tactical Air Control Party member, coordinates aerial command and control support as part of a joint task force deployed to Afghanistan in 2010. As bullets cracked around his head, Master Sgt. Thomas Case stayed cool and directed pinpoint airstrikes on Taliban positions less than a stone's throw away. And with two foreign fighters coming at the commander of the Army unit to which Case was assigned as a joint terminal attack controller, he shielded the officer with his body and took them down with his rifle. For his heroism fulfilling both the air and ground aspects of the JTAC's job during a battle on July 16 and 17, 2009, Case on Tuesday became just the third airman to be awarded a second Silver Star medal. Case, who's now part of the 18th Air Support Operations Group at Fort Bragg, N.C., received the honor in a ceremony at Pope Field. As a staff sergeant in 2004, he was awarded his first Silver Star for an operation during the 2003 invasion of Iraq to seize and hold the Haditha dam. Over the course of several days, controlling up to 14 aircraft simultaneously, Case was responsible for over 300 enemy casualties, the destruction of dozens of **enemy tanks, scores of artillery pieces and even a few enemy boats.**

MyVA Reorganization Plans Announced: Bob McDonald, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, announced his plans to reorganize the Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure veterans have a clear understanding of VA's structure and how to obtain needed care and benefits; to train and enable employees to solve problems and take action; and to integrate VA products and services. To achieve these goals, Secretary McDonald plans to establish a VA-wide customer service organization to understand and respond to the expectations of veterans; establish a single regional framework to simplify internal coordination, facilitate partnering and enhance customer service; establish Community Veteran Advisory Councils to better coordinate with local, state, and community partners; and develop a shared services model to improve efficiency, reduce costs and increase productivity across VA. Secretary McDonald asks that veterans submit their feedback, ideas and perspective through the MyVA Idea House.

Last Active Duty Army Vietnam-era Draftee Retires: The 2nd Infantry Division's public affairs, at Camp Red Cloud in South Korea says Chief Warrant Officer 5 Ralph Rigby's retirement ceremony held Oct. 28, his 62nd birthday. A native of Auburn in Cayuga County, Rigby was drafted in 1972. He's believed to be the Army's last continuously serving active duty draftee. Army officials announced the existence of two soldiers remained on continuous active duty after being drafted in 1972 after learning Rigby and another soldier. The other soldier, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Franklin Ernst, retired in 2012. U.S. military conscriptions ended in 1973.

Remembering Louis Zamperini for Veterans

Day: Each year, at the time of Veterans' Day a list of America's Most Beloved Veterans is published. The most likely to be added to that list in 2015 is Louis Zamperini, the former Olympic athlete who survived incarceration in a Japanese POW camp after enlisting in the Army Air Corps. His inspirational story was chronicled in Laura Hillenbrand's 2010 bestseller *Unbroken* and that book is now the basis for a new movie directed by Angelina Jolie. There's a new edition of the book that's loaded with photographs provided by the Zamperini family. The photos are printed in the text of the book and not in one of those photo inserts that make it hard to keep track of the story. Universal Studios provided us with the above image from the book. Louis poses at the Midland Army Airfield in Midland, Texas around 1941.



Veterans Choice Card: The Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (VACAA), enacted less than 3-months ago, goes a long way toward enabling VA to meet the demand for Veterans health care in the short-term. VA has signed contracts with two private health care companies to help VA administer the Veterans Choice Program (Choice Program) under VACAA. This is a new, temporary benefit allowing some Veterans to receive health care in their communities rather than waiting for a VA appointment or traveling to a VA facility. As part of this new program, we are issuing a Veterans Choice Card to every Veteran who is potentially eligible for the new, temporary health benefit. The Choice Card allows Veterans to elect to receive care outside of VA when they qualify for the new program based on the distance of their residence from a VA care facility, or when wait times for VA health care exceed the standards established in law. The Choice Card does not replace the identification card you already use to access other VA benefits; please do not throw away that identification card. The Choice Card will be issued in three phases. The first group of Choice Cards is currently being sent to Veterans who may live more than 40 miles from a VA facility. The next group will be sent to those Veterans who are currently waiting for an appointment longer than 30-days from their preferred date or the date determined to be medically necessary by their physician. The final group will be sent between December 2014 and January 2015 to the remainder of all Veterans enrolled for VA health care who may be eligible for the Choice Program in the future.

VFW Pledges to End Sequestration: After representing the national organization at Veterans Day ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, VFW National Commander John Stroud spent the rest of the week inside the Pentagon. He met with the Army Chief of Staff, the leadership of the Army Reserve, the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy, and others. His message was simple: The VFW exists to support veterans, the troops and their families at home and abroad, and that the organization will work diligently with the new 114th Congress to eliminate sequestration. Now is not the time to force the Pentagon to reduce its spending; not with the military still fighting a war in Afghanistan, against a new enemy in the Middle East. And not with the ongoing shift in defense commitments to Asia and worldwide humanitarian missions that only America's military is capable of providing.

Drones Patrol Half of Mexico Border: The U.S. government now patrols nearly half the Mexican border by drones alone in a largely unheralded shift to control desolate stretches where there are no agents, camera towers, ground sensors or fences, and it plans to expand the strategy to the Canadian border. It represents a significant departure from a decades-old approach that emphasizes boots on the ground and fences. Since 2000, the number of Border Patrol agents on the 1,954-mile border more than doubled to surpass 18,000 and fencing multiplied nine times to 700 miles. Under the new approach, Predator Bs sweep remote mountains, canyons and rivers with a high-resolution video camera and return within three days for another video in the same spot, according to two officials with direct knowledge of the effort on condition of anonymity because details have not been made public. The two videos are then overlaid for analysts who use sophisticated software to identify tiny changes — perhaps the tracks of a farmer or cows, perhaps those of immigrants who entered the country illegally or a drug-laden Hummer, they said. About 92 percent of drone missions have shown no change in terrain, but the others raised enough questions to dispatch agents to determine if someone got away, sometimes by helicopter because the area is so remote. The agents look for any sign of human activity — footprints, broken twigs, trash.



VA Fires Pittsburgh Hospital Network's Director:

The Department of Veterans Affairs has fired the director of the Pittsburgh VA Healthcare System a month after officials determined she committed unspecified "conduct unbecoming a senior executive" and wasteful spending. The director, Terry Gerigk Wolf, had been on paid leave since June after a VA review of a Legionnaire's disease outbreak between February 2011 and November 2012. At least six Pittsburgh VA patients died and 16 were sickened by the bacterial disease, which was traced to water treatment problems at the Pittsburgh-area hospitals. The VA said in a statement that Wolf's firing after seven years heading the Pittsburgh health system "underscores the VA's commitment to hold leaders accountable and get veterans the care they need." Wolf is the fourth senior executive at VA to be removed under a new law that gives VA Secretary Robert McDonald authority to streamline the firing of poor-performing executives by shortening the time for dealing with appeals. Two of the officials were allowed to retire, which has infuriated some Republican lawmakers. Rep. Jeff Miller, R-Fla., chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, accused the VA of dragging its feet, noting that Wolf was first targeted for removal on Oct. 3.

Sen. Graham: Benghazi Report 'Full of Crap': During an appearance on CNN, Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., flatly refused to accept the conclusions of a GOP-led report clearing the Obama administration of wrongdoing or cover-up in the 2012 Benghazi attack. "I think the report is full of crap," Graham told host Gloria Borger on CNN's State of the Union. Later in the interview, Graham called conclusions reached by the report "a bunch of garbage." He said he doesn't believe the report is accurate. When Borger asked Graham why the Republican chairman of the Intelligence Committee would be "buying a bunch of garbage," Graham simply replied, "good question." The report was released recently by the GOP-led House Intelligence Committee. The two-year investigation by the House Intelligence Committee cleared the CIA of any failure in the 2012 attack on the American embassy in Benghazi that killed U.S. ambassador Christopher Stevens and three other Americans.



AS THE COUNTDOWN BEGINS an ARVN artilleryman prepares to track the weather balloon with his theodolite. Working with the division the ARVN's have recently completed the first course in Artillery Ballistic Meteorology. (Photo By SSG James R. Sweet, Div. Arty IO)

Metro Mentors

ARVNs Learn Meteorology From American Counterparts

By SP5 A.C. Barnett
ARTILLERY HILL — Releasing air filled weather balloons and tracking their flights with a theodolite and compiling the data with slide rules, charts and graphs, is the job of five ARVN artillerymen who form a new and elite element in the 2d ARVN Div. Artillery.

Artillery ballistic meteorology or "metro", is vital to artillery the world over. The changing temperatures, densities and wind velocities in the atmosphere can effect a projectile enough to not only cause it to miss the target but possibly impact near 'friendly forces'.

Metro data has been provided for the ARVN artillery by their division counterparts. With the long range concept of having the ARVN artillery completely independent, a course in basic 'metro' was implemented at the 3d

Bn., 18th Artillery at Artillery Hill near Chu Lai.

Having taken into consideration the complexity of both the equipment and computations, the first class was scheduled to last eight weeks. The major problem was expected to be the language barrier as few interpreters have had the opportunity to study the precise scientific terms unique to this field.

"At first it appeared that the ability to communicate exact meanings was a very serious problem," said SSG James R. Sweet (Pittsburgh, Pa.) "but the one officer in the class 2LT Dinh Van Thu, proved to be an exceptional interpreter and the overall willingness of the men dispelled any misgivings we first experienced."

In just 18 days the men had successfully mastered the intricacies of the course.

"For the first week it was all hard work," said CWO Hally P. Wood, (Wichita Falls, Tex.) the officer in charge of the training. "but then we discovered one of the students, SGT Vo Van Gia could play a guitar and when we took a break we all relaxed to both American and Vietnamese songs. It became very rewarding personal experience for everyone, as well as an academic accomplishment."

Presented with a diploma stating their achievement by LTC William F. Stifford Jr., (El Dorado, Kan.) CO of the 3-18th Arty., the new 'grads', departed for Quang Ngai where they will set up their own "metro" unit, adding a new capability to an already impressive repertoire. The ARVN Artillery is rapidly becoming one of the most modern and effective in the world. (Div. Arty. IO)

As The Band Played On...

QUANG NGAI—The Second Republic of Vietnam Army Division Band played host to the Americal Div. Band here honoring the patron Saint of Music, Sister Cecilia.

After an awards ceremony, both the Vietnamese and Division bandmen entertained the many guests among which were BG Nguyen Van Toan, 2nd ARVN Div commander and COL K.B. Barlow, Division's Support Command commander.

The following Division bandmen received awards from the ARVN. CWO Murat, Technical Medal, 1st Class; SP4 Hank V. Kindell (Tampa, Fla.), Technical Medal, 2nd Class; SGT Robert White (Chattanooga, Tenn.), commendation certificate, division level; SP4 Jerry Tyler (Atlanta, Ga.) and SP4 David Matlock (St. Petersburg, Fla.), recovered the commendation certificate Brigade level; SSG John Stauffer (Bakersfield, Calif.), and SSG John Arbaugh (Harrisburg, Pa.) commendation certificate, regiment level.

Colonel Barlow presented the 2nd ARVN Div bandmaster CWO Nguyen Van Giap with the Army Commendation Medal. (Spt. Cmd. IO)

Won Your Heart.....



Vietnamese children smile shyly at the division photographer in a village just outside Chu Lai.

(Photo By PFC Gerard Paulin 523rd Sig. Bn.)

Refugees Given Aid

THUAN AN—"They come down out of the hills owning no more than what is on their backs," explained 1LT Spencer M. Baba (Bethesda, Md.). "They have no land and live mostly by odd jobs."

The peasant refugees come to the refugee center at Tam Ky seeking help which is provided by a joint military-civilian pacification effort. Here several American college students, including a group belonging to the United World Missions, and the infantrymen of the 2-1st Infantry work together to better the lot of the Vietnamese refugee.

"Over 50 refugees are making cups, mugs, and water pipes," claims Dennis Metzger (North Manchester, Ind.), a former American college student, who now teaches bamboo handicraft to the refugees.

There are sewing classes to teach the people to make clothes for themselves and other refugees along with a school, a mission and an orphanage.

Not all the refugees are adults. The orphanage shelters and feeds the homeless children. Some of these children are finding out for the first time what it means to be free from hunger, and they are quick to show their enthusiasm.

"We turn down the side road," says PFC Lester Joubert (New Orleans, La.) from the Civil Affairs section of 2-1st Inf., "and by the time we get to the orphanage, there are 100 kids around us."

One of the recent activities at the orphanage was a Christmas party for the children. D Co., 2-1st brought the toys; the orphanage staff provided the tree, and everyone joined in the Christmas spirit.

Reverend Dang-Ngoc Cang, Superintendent of Mission Activities explained that the idea behind the center is to help the refugees become self-sufficient.

"It's the only way," 1LT Baba said. "We are not going to be here forever." (196th IO)

A Gratitude Granted to Adopted Parents

BINH SON — U.S. and South Vietnamese religious and military officials gathered recently in this district headquarters 12 miles north of Quang Ngai for the formal dedication of Binh Son Orphanage. The dedication ceremony was a form of the orphanage's expression of thanks to its benefactors, which included soldiers of the division's 5-46th Inf., 198th Inf. Bde.

A few months ago the 5-46th unofficially "adopted" the Catholic charitable institution, and its men have been voluntarily contributing portions of their monthly pay toward its support. The total contribution to date is around 150,000 piasters. In December the men made their largest contribution which added \$400 to the total.

The orphanage is home to 60 children, and provides them an education of primary through high school. Another 20

children from four hamlets in the Binh Son area come to the orphanage daily to attend school. A new wing has been added to the institution, which gives additional space for living quarters and classrooms. Officials hope to add a second story to the new wing in the future.

Added to the academic courses of the school are homemaking classes for the girls and industrial arts subject for the boys.

But on the morning of the dedication there no classes were held. The children dressed neatly in their school clothes or bedecked in colorful costumes performed skits, songs and dances that were a colorful part of the dedication ceremonies.

After the youngsters' show, the local priest, a representative of the Bishop of Qui Nhon and assistant to the Quang Ngai Province Chief addressed the mixed U.S.-Vietnamese audience, which included a number of soldiers from the

5-46th. Sister Giseelle of the orphanage also spoke to the group, thanking the guests for their attendance, and saying, "Your presence is a source of great encouragement, not only for us — the faculty members—but most especially to the children."

Looking back, she recalled, "Three years ago our hope was to build an orphanage. Since our financial situation was not too bright, the prospect of realizing this... project, which entailed financial and spiritual sacrifices, seemed futile. The Department Of Social Action (GVN), believing in the sincerity of our desire to educate the less fortunate children in order that they become not only good children but (also) good citizens, permitted us to open our orphanage and gave us much support."

"In answer to our appeal, Reverend Father of Redemptorist, the Chief of Quang Ngai Province, the director of So-

cial Action, the civilian... defense force, and many American friends joined in giving us the much needed support... To all our benefactors, on behalf of the faculty members, (and) the children of this orphanage... kindly allow... me to express our profound gratitude. Without your assistance this humble orphanage would not be standing as it is today."

Directing a remark to the U.S. soldiers present, she said, "we are very glad to see a service group working with tremendous success in helping the poor, the forgotten, and (the) needy of this war-torn country. May our lord be always with you and your families for opening your hearts to the destitute."

Citing a desire to enlarge the orphanage to care for more children, she concluded, "To all benefactors, I ask of you, kindly continue your humanitarian work. Thank you very much. God bless you."