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COMMAND

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**HARPOON**

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## Harpooners Leave Annex

**CMAC IO**--After completing a move from the MACV Annex last week, CMAC personnel from the G-1, G-4, AG and Information sections were just one jump away from a permanent home.

Staff sections located on the third floor of the Annex building, including Hq. Commandant Supply, CI and MACV Advisory Team 100, found themselves packing records, regulations and forms and carting them across the street to their new "temporary" home. Residence was quickly established and operations resumed in good order.

The move was necessitated because of new construction in the Annex area which calls for the destruction (Cont'd on Page 7, Column 2)

## RF, PF Heroes Presented Medals

By Sp4 Brian Wickham

**CMAC IO**----Impact awards of two American Bronze Star Medals with 'V' and seven Army Commendation Medals with 'V' were presented recently to nine Vietnamese Regional (RF) and Popular Forces (PF) soldiers near Saigon. The awards gave instant recognition to the soldiers who were

### Thayer Now Col.

Colonel James L. Thayer, CMAC Artillery Officer was recently promoted to his present rank. Major General F.K. Mearns, Commanding General, CMAC, pinned the insignia of rank on the colonel's uniform in ceremonies Jan. 16 at CMAC Headquarters.

Colonel Thayer arrived in Vietnam in May, 1968 and was assigned to the 41st Artillery Group. One month later he was reassigned to the newly formed CMAC.

A native of Belfast, Maine, Col. Thayer now makes his home in Hampton, Va. with his wife and three children.

cited for gallantry in action which had taken place only three days before the ceremony.

### CG PRESENTS MEDALS

Major General F.K. Mearns of CMAC awarded the Bronze Stars to Captain Nguyen Van Mai, 131st RF Company and Squad Leader Doan Van Tu, 149th PF Platoon, at ceremonies in Bam Hom, Binh Chanh District, six miles west of Saigon. Gen. Mearns presented the Army Commendation Medals to Tu's squad members.

Capt. Mai was cited for his role in defeating a VC force on January 18, 1969.

(Cont'd on Page 7, Column 1)

## EDITORIAL

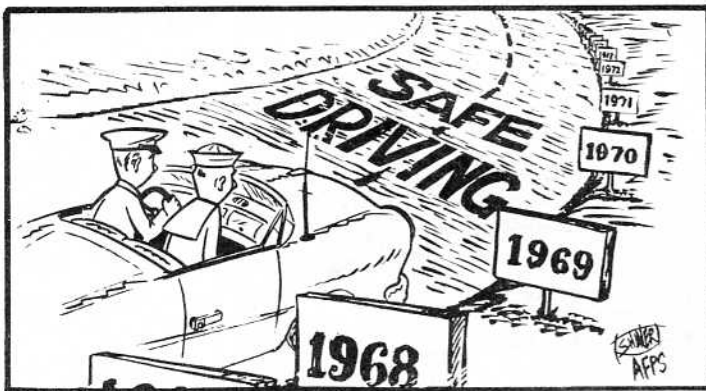
**Auto Safety Diagnosis—1969**

American automobile manufacturers are out-doing themselves year after year. Their products seem to be better engineered and more beautiful in appearance as time evolves, and they are being purchased in record numbers.

We might add that safety consciousness on the part of the manufacturers, and Congressional involvement in this area, are promoting more rigid precautions. Hundreds of autos are being recalled each year by manufacturers to repair equipment deemed unsafe.

But be this as it may, it is the driver of the automobile, in most cases, who causes the accidents. A car with faulty brakes, inadequate windshield wipers or headlights can be taken to a garage to correct these deficiencies. But how about excessive speeding, doing 75 miles an hour on a 55 mile an hour highway?

A check with the legal office of the National Safety Council in Washington early this month produced some astounding figures.



In the first nine months of last year more than 40,000 Americans died on our highways and byways. The projected figure for deaths on our roads for the remainder of 1968 will be in excess of 54,900.

While you're trying to digest those figures, add 1,900,000 Americans who were injured, many so seriously they will be maimed for life.

The National Safety Council, U.S. Armed Forces, Congress and automobile manufacturers can expend all the energy in their possession to ask you to drive safely.....but you decide the end result. It's for your sake and your family's sake--- not theirs.

Remember, when the last squeal of burning rubber has faded away-----who will be an added statistical figure? You or them? For your sake and your family's sake, please drive safely during 1969.

(AFPS)

**Campaign Starts Soon**

CMAC IO---- Department of Defense provides for the conduct of a single Combined Federal Campaign among U.S. defense personnel located in overseas commands, excluding those located in Panama, Hawaii and Puerto Rico. The single combined campaign under this program will be the only regular on-the-job solicitation by authorized voluntary health and welfare agencies at these overseas activities in Fiscal Year 1969.

The campaign will be conducted during the six-week period beginning February 15, 1969, and ending March 31, 1969.

The Secretary of Defense stated that an informal campaign will be conducted in Vietnam. He explained that "An organized on-the-job solicitation will not be conducted during this campaign among U.S. military and civilian personnel located in South Vietnam." Unsolicited voluntary contributions will be appreciated by the agencies.

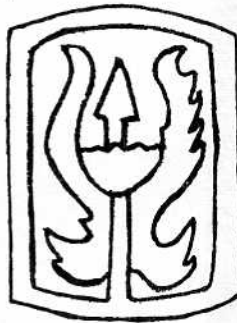
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# Redcatchers Receive Bronze Stars On-the-Spot

199th LIE IO----"I didn't know what to think," was the reaction of Specialist 4 Ronnie Bales of Morristown, Tenn. and his two buddies, after Brigadier General Frederic E. Davison, commander of the 199th Light Infantry Brigade, pinned them with on-the-spot Bronze Stars.

It all started when their company, D Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf was on a reconnaissance-in-force operation in the

"pineapple" region west of Saigon.



Towards dusk, a nearby supporting gunship suddenly

received fire as it was about to return to base, and was forced to make an emergency landing.

Crash-landing on a river bank in front of a manned VC bunker complex, the pilots were killed by enemy fire as they attempted to escape from the craft. The door gunners managed to slip into the river and escape into friendly hands.

"We were beginning to set (Cont'd on Page 7, Column 2)

## Freeland's 'Best Friend' Isn't Charlie's

199th LIE IO----"He's issued to me; he's a soldier --you know, a career man."

That's how Specialist 4 Charles I. Freeland of Mampa, Idaho thinks of the

black Labrador retriever, Shane.

Freeland and Shane are members of a combat tracker team organic to the 76th Infantry Detachment which

helps infantry companies of the 199th Light Infantry Brigade find the enemy.

"When he tracks down the enemy, he doesn't start barking and running for them; he just perks up his head and points in their direction," said Freeland.

Freeland and Shane were enrolled in a two-month course at the Jungle Warfare School before arriving in Vietnam.

Recently Shane and Freeland have been responsible for the detection of sizable enemy elements.

Night and day these two Redcatchers are inseparable. "Once when I was sick and had to get to the hospital," recalled Freeland, "Shane came with me and slept under my bed. Later, I did the same for him. He needed a check-up at Long Binh and there we were."

Their paths will part, however, when Freeland rotates home. Shane will stay in Vietnam because of the strict U.S. health laws.

## Urgent Radio Call for 82nd Abn: 'Require Help to Deliver a Baby'

3/82nd IO---It was a relatively quiet night until the radio started crackling. A Vietnamese medic was calling for assistance to deliver a baby. The mother was in labor and complications prevented a normal birth.



in the area and responded to the call immediately.

Specialist 4 Jack Rittenauer, the fourth platoon medic, was asked to assist in any way possible. After almost three hours of trying to help the mother-to-be, the platoon medic requested further assistance.

Within 20 minutes, C Co was providing security on a landing zone for a medivac to take the mother to a Saigon Hospital.

The company learned later that the child was the first son of a 65-year-old farmer who had previously fathered seven daughters. The 47-year-old mother and the child are doing fine.

Troopers of the 82nd Abn Div, Co C, 1/508 Inf, were





**CMD CIVAC:** Helping 97 Vietnamese orphans help themselves is Maj John Skidmore, Senior Pol-War Advisor to the CMD, shown here unloading cement and observing the activity. CMD furnishes the materials - cement, lumber, etc. - and the recipients do the actual construction. In this instance of CMD Civic Action, six new classrooms will be built for this Saigon orphanage. (Photo by Sp5 Charles Galloway)



**GYPSY:** CSM Salvatore Cherry takes in the view as famed stripper, Gypsy Rose Lee, arrives at CMAC. CSM Cherry escorted the former Burlesque Queen as she greeted CMAC personnel.

**LEASH ON LIFE:** Sp5 James Powell, CMAC G-3, frees a monkey nearly "lynched" by its own tether string. The monkey, mascot of the CMD G-3, got its tether fouled in a tree. (Photos by Sp5 Charles Galloway)



## SAFETY FIRST

88 per cent of all accidents are caused by human failure.

Only 10 per cent are caused by mechanical failure.



ONLY TWO PER CENT OF ALL ACCIDENTS ARE CAUSED BY NATURAL PHENOMENA!

# Bringing What the Doctor Ordered

By Sp4 Brian Wickham

CMAC IO—Dale Carnegie could have taken lessons in "How to Win Friends and Influence People" from the Philippine Civic Action Groups in Vietnam (PHILCAGV).

One such group, commanded by Captain Triunfo Agustin, recently helped win over the people of Long Hoa Hamlet in Gia Dinh Province.

WAS PRO-VC

"Until our team moved in here last month, this place was pro-VC," according to Specialist 4 Michael Connell of Urbana, Ill.

Connell is a medic with MACV Advisory Team 54. "Vietnamese forces are gaining control here but we still consider this area contested," said Major John Skidmore, Senior Pol-War Advisor to the CMD.

JUST ONE VISIT

Sp4 Connell conducts his own medical help program in the area every day, but he said, "These Filipinos accomplish more in one visit than I can do in a week. They have the men and

equipment for it, and they have a dentist with them. If there is one thing the villagers need the most it is dental treatment."

ROTATE TEAMS

Capt. Agustin's group had just moved in from Tay Ninh three days ago. Maj. Skidmore explained, "They rotate their teams. Another group was here for two weeks and then switched places with Capt. Agustin's men....By the way, most of these Filipinos are paramedics. In their country they parachute into isolated jungle areas, do their medical work, and are then extracted."

"We receive our schedule from the CMD," said Capt. Agustin, "and we travel around to the hamlets six days a week."

VC STILL HERE

"The VC are still around here," said Maj. Skidmore, "and that's why we have a security platoon of ARVNs. PHILCAGV specializes in unsecured or contested hamlets."

Maj. Skidmore said the PHILCAGV unit was doing the really important job in the hamlets. "They usually treat about 150 dental patients and around 200 medical patients in one visit." Capt. Agustin claims over 600.



The Malaysian seaport of Penang has been likened to a "precious gem bordered with sparkling beaches and set in a silver sea." At least that's what the R&R folders say it's like. Rather than accept that storybook description, CMAC HARPOON sought an original source, someone from CMAC who had been to Penang and luxuriated among its splendors, to describe the island as it really is.

First Lieutenant Robert L. Wilson, CMAC G-2, is such a person. Lt. Wilson found the travel folders pretty much on target in their descriptions of this Malaysian island. During his five day visit he was able to see the entire island while getting plenty of rest and recreation.

Among the sights to be visited, the Monastery of Supreme Bliss or Kek Lok Si is said to be unequalled in Southeast Asia as an architectural and artistic masterpiece. It is made up of a series of temples built tier upon tier along a sprawling mountainside. The Snake Temple gets its name from its occupants, literally hundreds of

snakes who nestle themselves throughout its shrines and altars. Over the years, smoke from the incense burned in the temple has tamed the snakes and today they are a main attraction to visitors.

"The pace of living is slower than in Saigon or the States," says Lt. Wilson. "I went there to relax and found that I

cated in the seaport town. The movie theaters are air conditioned and show the latest films from around the world. Many of the theaters have their own restaurants and bars.

Penang is a free port and one of the world's least expensive shopping centers. Among the bargains are fine Swiss watches, Japanese and German cameras, and Ceylonese, Burmese, and Thai jewels. Free enterprise thrives in the form of bartering in the local marketplace.

Anyone planning to take R&R in Penang should know that first class hotel reservations can be made upon arrival in country. Currency can be exchanged locally at nearby banks.

Civilian clothing is not only to be taken; it is required dress

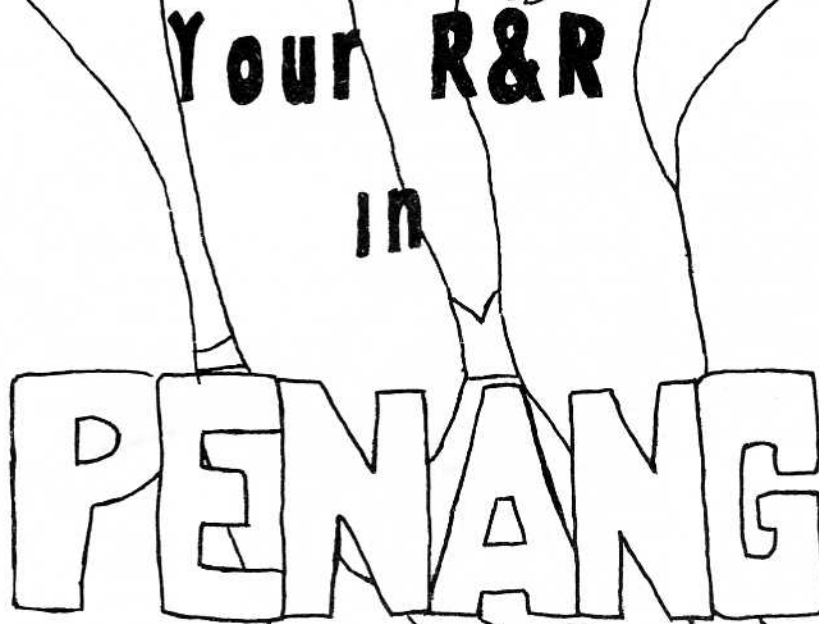
there. Take light summer clothing, casual in style, to gain entry into almost any establishment.

Travel will be by bus, taxi, or "trikes," the Malaysian cycles. For a look at a serene Southeast Asian island, try Penang and be prepared to enjoy yourself.

Of course this does not mean that Penang is not without its nightlife.

Many restaurants and the nightclubs of the larger hotels provide a variety of entertainment. American, European, Indian and Malaysian food is served in the many fine restaurants lo-

located in the seaport town.



**Your R&R**  
**IN**  
**PENANG**



## RF, PF Soldiers Receive Awards

(Cont'd from Page 1)

At that time, one of Capt. Mai's ambush patrols made contact with nine enemy soldiers in sampans. The RF officer immediately took a reaction force to the site of the firefight. He waded into the struggle in full view of the enemy, firing his weapon at close range. Capt. Mai's unit captured one prisoner, three AK-47 rifles, and one sampan. His unit suffered no losses.

### ENEMY ROUTED

On the same day, eight miles south of Saigon, PF Squad Leader Tu led his men in an attack on a numerically superior enemy force. The PF squad killed five enemy and captured five AK-47s and an RPG-2. They took no casualties.

Gen. Mearns told the men, who often combine their operations with U.S. units under the operational control of CMAC, "There is no question that the two actions just noted are outstanding examples of military skill and courage." In conclusion he said, "I congratulate you and thank you for your efforts."



## CMAC Leaves the Annex

(Cont'd from Page 1)

of several old barracks. The 7th Finance Section building will be torn down and the unit will move into the Annex.

At the same time plans continued to progress toward finding the Annex troopers a permanent place of business. Major Robert M. Schmid, Headquarters Commandant, announced that MACV approved renovation of Building #3 at CMD headquarters for CMAC use.

Maj. Schmid estimates the occupation date to be late March or early April. During the period prior to occupation the building, of French construction, will be renovated and prepared for use.

Improvements will include painting, lighting, upgrading latrines and providing special facilities to include an expanded Tactical Operations Center which will be centrally air conditioned, a photo lab, and a new switchboard frame-room.

## 3 Redcatchers Get Bronze Stars

(Cont'd from Page 3)

up our defensive position," recalled Bales, "when we got word of the downed chopper."

The third platoon was chosen to find the disabled gunship. They finally spotted it on the other side of a wide river.

Along with Bales, Corporal Richard Dix of Ft. Meyers, Fla. and Specialist 4 James Proctor of Pine Bluff, Ark., volunteered to swim across.

As the trio swam with the platoon covering, orders came from higher forbidding a swim crossing. But it was too late.

Without weapons Bales, Proctor and Dix reached the shore and immediately took security precautions. The tail blade of the chopper was in the water, with no signs of life aboard. But an M-60 machine gun was retrieved and Dix managed to get a defective M-16 to

work. With darkness fast approaching, resupply helicopters brought the rest of the platoon over while a C-47 Chinook extracted the damaged gunship.

As the platoon was about to begin blowing up the bunker complex, the brigade commander arrived on his helicopter.

"The general landed, came over to us and shook our hands," stated Proctor. "Then all of a sudden he pinned us with medals."

Bales added "The CO had told us we would probably be recommended for Bronze Stars, but we didn't expect the general to bring them out the next morning!"

Do you know others in CMAC who are from your hometown? If so, waste no time! Call MACV 2007/2313/4616 and let the Information Office know about it

# CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- 1-Commonplace
- 6-Vital organ
- 11-Author
- 12-Commonwealth
- 14-Strikes
- 15-Illuminated again
- 17-Preposition
- 18-Devoured
- 19-More unusual
- 20-Place
- 21-Behold!
- 22-Morning prayer
- 23-Head of Catholic Church
- 24-Printer's measure
- 25-Heroic event
- 26-Distance runner
- 27-Levantine vessel
- 28-Secluded valley
- 29-Remain erect
- 31-Sense
- 32-Rupees (abbr.)
- 34-Containers
- 35-Floats
- 36-What? (Colloq.)
- 37-Free of
- 38-Rents
- 39-Parent-teacher organization (init.)
- 40-Man's nickname
- 41-Broaden
- 42-Dirt
- 43-Perfumed ointment
- 45-Expel from country
- 47-Flowers
- 48-Look fixedly

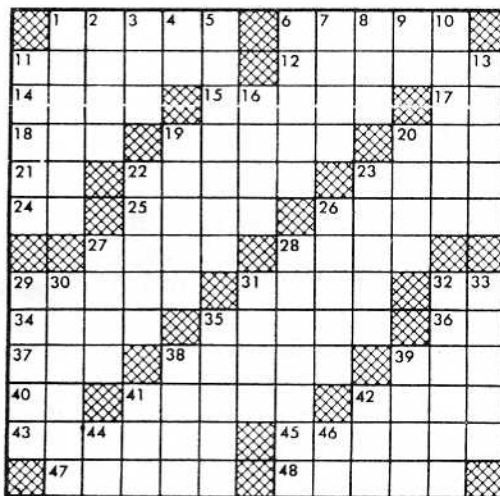
answer to previous puzzle



10

DOWN

- 1-Marine snail
- 2-Ceremony
- 3-Possessive pronoun
- 4-Symbol for tellurium
- 5-Eccentric
- 6-Girl's name
- 7-Arabian chieftain
- 8-Likely
- 9-A state (abbr.)
- 10-Body of performers
- 11-Sea mammal
- 13-Go in
- 16-Man's name
- 19-Swift
- 20-Take a vote
- 22-Denotes
- 23-Pellets
- 26-Encounters
- 27-Pulverized rock
- 28-Guards
- 29-Fragment
- 30-Clothesmaker
- 31-Price of passage
- 32-Retreat
- 33-Old auxiliary verb
- 35-Is borne
- 38-Conceal
- 39-Indigent
- 41-Existed
- 42-Resort
- 44-A state (abbr.)
- 46-Latin conjunction



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answer in next edition



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