

Savage Fighting Near Phu Cat

Koreans Kill 240 Reds in 3 Days

S&S Vietnam Bureau

SAIGON — Korean soldiers of the Capitol Div. reported killing 61 Reds Thursday as they tightened the circle around an estimated two North Vietnamese companies near Phu Cat in Binh Dinh Province.

In three days of fighting the Korean troops, supported by two platoons of mechanized infantry from the U.S. 1st Air Cav. Div. and two platoons of tanks from

the 4th Inf. Div., have killed 240 Communists.

The action started early Tuesday morning when six companies from the Korean division made contact with an estimated two companies from the 9th Bn., 18th North Vietnamese Army Regt.

The savage fighting continued throughout the day and by night fall the Koreans had surrounded the Red force:

Shortly after dawn Wednesday the Koreans began closing in on the trapped Communists and another day-long battle erupted. One hundred and seventy-nine Reds were killed during the first two days of the battle.

At dawn Thursday the enemy was still trapped within the circle of Korean troops.

The Koreans continued to move on the bloodied Reds, forcing them into another day of

bitter fighting.

Reports from the area Thursday said the Koreans still had at least part of the Communist force trapped and under fire that morning.

The Korean troops have reported capturing nine Communist suspects, 126 individual and 20 crew-served weapons.

There have been no reports on the number of U.S. or Korean casualties in the fighting.

Enemy Hit Hard From Air

S&S Vietnam Bureau

SAIGON — American air power concentrated Thursday on supply routes of North Vietnamese forces attacking U.S. Marine positions near Khe Sanh.

Three B52 missions were flown against targets in the Khe Sanh area Thursday and Friday. The giant bombers struck troop concentrations storage areas and suspected base camps. Strikes ranged from 15 miles north of the threatened outpost to seven miles south.

Sixty-nine tactical air missions were flown over the North, including a two-plane strike on the airfield five miles north of Vinh. Carrier-based Intruder pilots reported their bombs on target, but darkness prevented accurate assessment of bomb damage.

In the Mu Gia Pass area, Air Force pilots interdicted roads in four places, and destroyed or damaged two van trucks some 10 miles north of the pass.

Southern Panhandle targets included a highway bridge 32 miles northwest of Vinh, and an ammunition storage area 36 miles southeast of Dong Hoi.

Strikes over the North were hampered by rains, which also prevented damage assessment.

Marine pilots from Da Nang smashed enemy positions near the DMZ.

One flight of Marine planes hit troop concentrations three miles northwest of Gio Linh and an ammo storage area four miles north of the same city.

Crusader pilots from Da Nang hit enemy positions just north of Con Thien, and Red artillery positions just north of the DMZ.

Officer, Wife to Go to Viet

WICHITA, Kan. (UPI) — Lt. George Matassarini and his wife, Lt. Pat Matassarini both had Army orders Friday for duty in Vietnam, but they were preparing to go separate ways after their brief reunion here.

Thanks largely to a loose button on a colonel's jacket they shared a strong hope that they would meet in Vietnam.

Mrs. Matassarini, an Army nurse stationed at Fitzsimons General Hospital in Denver, explained that a colonel was among her patients. One day a visitor, a colonel from the Pentagon, showed up with a loose button on his jacket and she offered to sew it on for him. They got to talking.

Mrs. Matassarini said she told him that George had gotten his orders to go to Vietnam, and that the couple has never been stationed together since they were married, in December, 1966. They have been able to see little of each other, she said, so she volunteered for service in Vietnam, the colonel was told.

Later, Mrs. Matassarini said, the colonel talked things over with other people in the Pentagon and she received a letter from him "saying we would be stationed together in Vietnam if it was at all possible."

George Matassarini leaves Monday for an undesignated spot in the war zone. He is a helicopter pilot in the medical service.

Mrs. Matassarini has orders to leave Feb. 3, also for an unspecified post in Vietnam.



Comedienne Martha Raye and Spec. 4 Roger Boyd chat in the Yokota AB, Japan, passenger terminal. Miss Raye was on her way to the U.S. after a five-month Vietnam visit.

(USAF Photo via AP)

Pacification Chief Resigns

SAIGON (UPI) — Maj. Gen. Nguyen Duc Thang, the respected and reform-minded South Vietnamese pacification chief, has resigned from his post.

However, Thang's request to resign from the army was not accepted, informed sources said, and he was expected to move on to another armed forces job.

The sources said Thang was to be replaced in the pacification position by Maj. Gen. Nguyen Van La, who was until recently inspector general of the armed forces.

Floods in East Java

JAKARTA (AP) — Heavy floods have hit at least 24 villages in East Java and reportedly killed more than 30 people. It was near the area where a dam broke under heavy rains last month and killed more than 60 people in a night of terror.

Very Special Trouper Miss Raye Goes Home

TOKYO (UPI) — Comedienne Martha Raye left for home Friday, tired but looking forward to another "tour of duty" in South Vietnam.

Wearing fatigues and the green beret of the U.S. Special Forces Miss Raye left on a chartered U.S. Air Force flight for Travis AFB, Calif.

She had arrived at Yokota AB outside Tokyo about 90 minutes earlier from Saigon.

Among those meeting her was Air Force Capt. William P. Campbell, deputy base information officer.

"I didn't know she was a lieutenant colonel," Campbell said. "She is the only woman in the U.S. Special Forces. She's an honorary officer," he explained.

Campbell said Miss Raye didn't talk much, explaining that she had not yet undergone "debriefing."

"I asked her how long she was in show business," Camp-

bell said. "She said she was born into show business."

"Then I said 'I guess that wasn't a fair question to ask a lady,'" Campbell said. "She said 'no.'"

The captain said Miss Raye planned to do six television specials for a U.S. network (NBC) in seven months.

"Then she plans to rest for about seven weeks and then go back to Vietnam," Campbell said.

Campbell said Miss Raye has been in South Vietnam a total of 24 months since the war began.

"The kids going back to the States on the same plane were real tickled when they found out they were flying back with her," he said.

Did she say anything about entertaining the boys in mid-flight?

"No, she was real tired," Campbell said. "But I imagine a gal like that would want to."

Fleeing Laos Unit Missing

VIENTIANE, Laos (AP) — There was no word Friday of the fate of a Laotian government battalion and some 2,000 civilians fleeing before a Communist force in Southern Laos.

The battalion was attacked Wednesday by an estimated three to four battalions of mixed North Vietnamese and Pathet Lao troops using artillery, mortars and heavy machine guns.

The Laotian outpost of Ban Houei Sane was located near the Ho Chi Minh trail about 2.5 miles from the South Vietnamese border and about 10 miles from the beleaguered camp of Khe Sanh.

Aussie Chief to Viet

CANBERRA, Australia (UPI) — Vice Adm. Sir Alan McNicoll, Australian chief of naval staff, was to leave for South Vietnam Thursday on a 10-day visit to tour Army, Navy and Air Force units.

6 Pacific Stars & Stripes Sunday, Jan. 28, 1968

2 Marines Escape Viet Cong Captivity

DA NANG, Vietnam (AP) — Two U.S. Marines captured and held by the Viet Cong for 19 days escaped and made their way back to a Leatherneck position, the Marine command said Friday.

Lance Cpl. Steven D. Nelson, Elkhart, Ind., and Pfc. Michael R. Roha, National City, Calif., were in good physical condition

and awaiting reassignment to duty in the United States.

Both were captured Jan. 7 during an attack on their pacification platoon position on Route 1, 17 miles northwest of Da Nang.

Other details were not immediately available.

In Elkhart, Nelson's father, Orval, said he had been informed of his son's escape Monday.

Orval Nelson said he and his wife had been notified Jan. 9 that Steven, who will be 20 in May, had been killed in action.

"When they called that he was alive and safe I almost bawled," he said. "It was such a shock, almost as bad as the first shock."

In National City, Roha's mother said "We had faith that Mike would be all right. He's al-

Seek Escort In Girl-Killing

BANGKOK (AP) — Thai police are searching for a man, believed to be an American, who was last seen with a beautiful Danish girl who was found raped and murdered on a lonely provincial road Monday morning.

The girl, Dorrit Vonhaven, 23, of Copenhagen had been slashed about the face with a knife. Her throat had been cut and she apparently had been tortured with lighted cigarettes.

Police said the man they wished to interview checked into the same hotel as the murdered girl.

Police said the man checked out of the hotel with Dorrit when she moved to another hotel.

They believed he had travelled from Cambodia with her. He was seen with her around midday Sunday at Bangkok's floating market, one of the city's top tourist attractions.

An American army officer reported he saw the pair together later in the afternoon at the Grand Palace on the other side of town.

ways been the last one home." Roha, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter J. Roha, has two brothers in the Marine Corps.

"When we got the telegram that Mike was missing in action it was like a nightmare. When we were notified that he escaped and reached safety, it was like awakening from a bad dream. It's wonderful, just wonderful," Mrs. Roha said.

5 Face Odds of 60-to-1

PHU BAI, Vietnam (ISO) — Four U.S. Marines and an Army lieutenant found the odds about 60-to-1 against them in an encounter with Viet Cong near here.

The Marines from Combined Action Platoon A-2 near Phu Bai almost ran right into the VC as they pursued three snipers who had disrupted their patrol.

While chasing the snipers they came across an awesome sight. There, on line with rifles ready, were between 200 and 300 Viet Cong.

As the Leathernecks turned back toward their compound, the VC advanced, yelling for them to surrender.

"We had nowhere to go," said Pfc. Gonzeila D. Trimble. "We kept yelling for artillery over the radio but didn't know if they were receiving us or not. The VC kept moving toward us, almost casually."

One Marine was hit by Red fire and died instantly. As the VC neared the Marines' position, three artillery rounds suddenly dropped among them.

"They turned and ran. But then they started coming at us again," Trimble said. "Again artillery came in. They scattered and when the artillery stopped, advanced on us again."

The Marines began to pull back toward the river which separated them from their compound.

"We had to drag a couple of our buddies away," Trimble said. "We reached the river and threw our rifles in the water. Then we had to swim the river, helping the wounded. Army gunships picked us up on the other side."

"I just knew I was dead, but at the time I wasn't scared."

"Each one of us had a grenade in his hand with the pin pulled. We were going to wait until they got right up to us and then drop the grenades between them and kill as many VC as we could."

Soap Bullets Clean Up Rats

CU CHI, Vietnam (IO) — At the 25th Inf. Div.'s 1st Brigade base camp in Katum, rats are a problem. Poison doesn't seem to faze them, and they avoid traps. The only effective way to kill the rats is by shooting them, but a high-powered rifle or pistol bullet can go on a long way, even after passing through a rat.

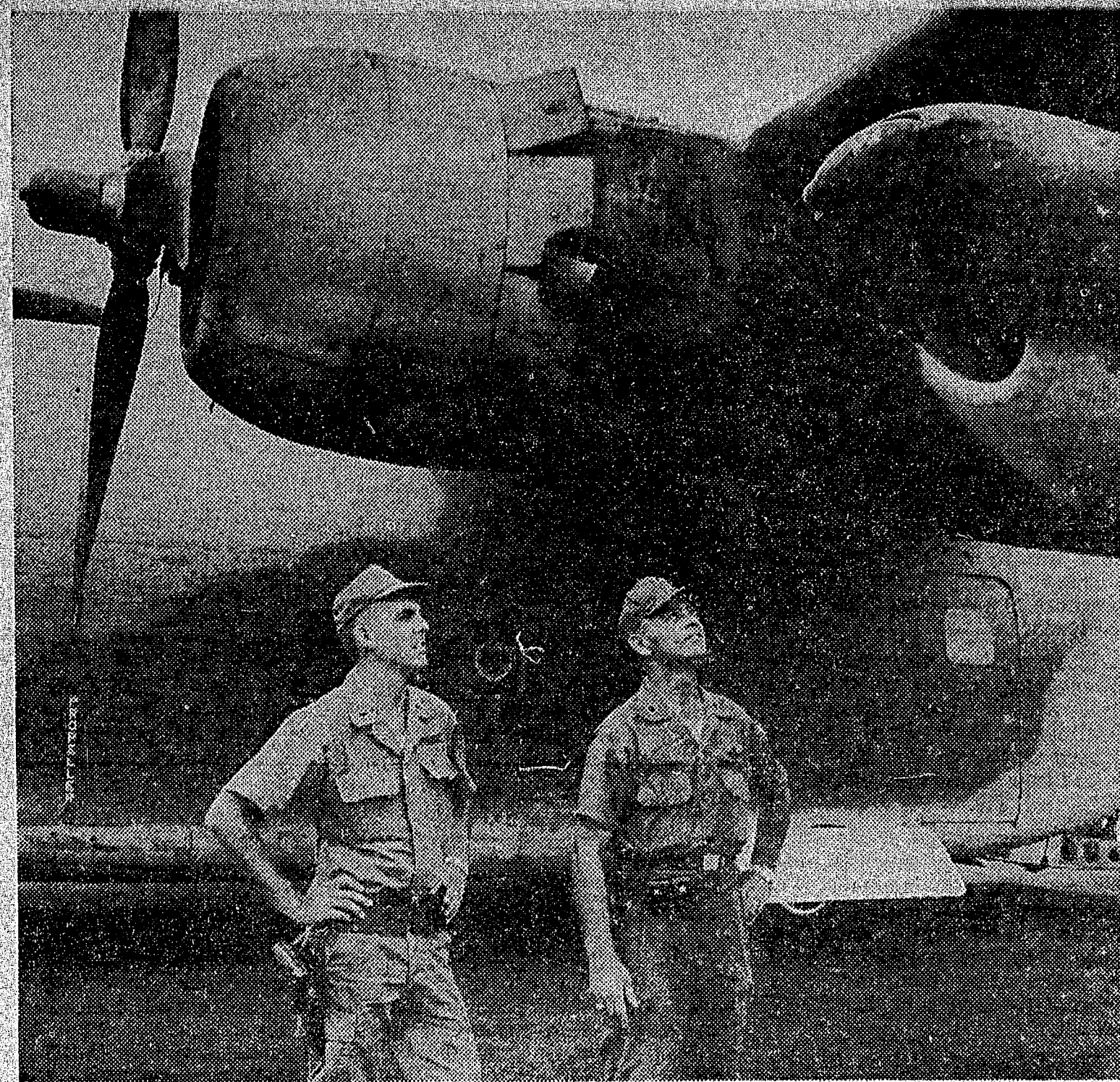
So Spec. 4 Roger L. Gardner has come up with an idea. He removes the bullet from the shell casing and replaces it with a small plug made of soap. When fired, the soap "bullet" is accurate and lethal up to a few yards; it then disintegrates harmlessly. And not only is it much safer, but the report is quieter too.

AF Seeks Film Honor

SOUTHEAST ASIA (OI) — The film "There Is A Way", shot a year ago in newsreel style at the 388th Tactical Fighter Wing, has been selected by Air Force officials for entry in the 40th annual awards competition conducted by Hollywood's Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. The Aerospace Audio-Visual Service film will compete for an "Oscar" in the documentary feature category.

Something New Has Been Added

Jets Put More Push in 'Provider'



1st Lt. Gary R. Ware (left) and Lt. Col. Earl L. Thompson examine a C-123K Provider at Tan Son Nhut AB, Saigon. Both agree on its good qualities. (S&S Photo by Henry Hansen)

NCO Sees Future All Too Clearly

CU CHI, Vietnam (IO) — Sgt. John Onhaus, from Pittsburgh, doesn't claim to be clairvoyant but he does believe in intuition.

The 4th Bn., 8th Inf., sergeant was point man during a recent search and destroy mission in War Zone C, when he began having odd thoughts.

"All of a sudden and for no reason at all, I began thinking about boobytraps," says Onhaus.

"Not just boobytraps in general, but rigged 155mm artillery shells."

"I hadn't gone too far when I felt something tight against my left leg. I looked down and

saw that it was a wire running across the path to a clump of brush about five meters to my left."

Onhaus froze in position and called to the men behind him, who moved up and checked the clump of brush. Hidden under it was a boobytrapped 155mm artillery shell.

The fact that the boobytrap was a weather-beaten dud is of no concern to Onhaus. . . he still believes in his new talent of intuition.

The soldier was asked if he had any other thoughts about the future. His only reply was, "Pittsburgh in 61 days."

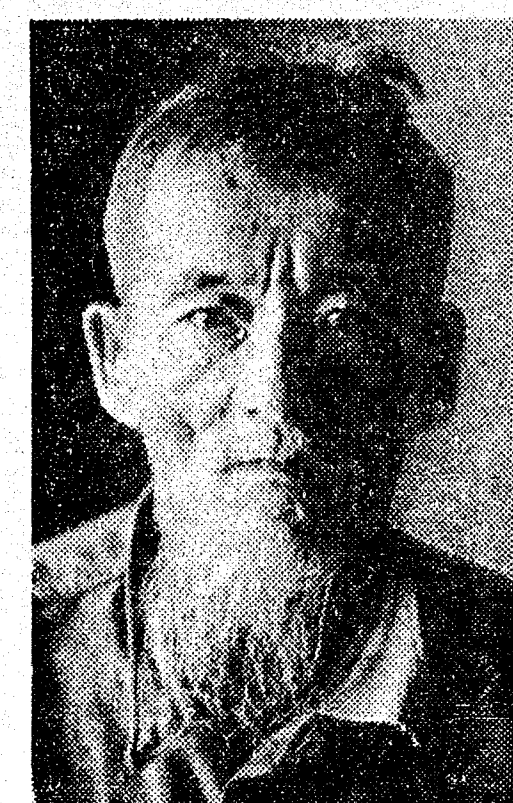
Arms Issued To RD Group

LONG BINH, Vietnam (IO) — One hundred twenty members of a Revolutionary Development Youth Group have been issued carbines and Thompson submachine guns at the village of Ap Doi Moi (New Life Hamlet) Binh Hoa, Binh Duong Province, 25 miles north of Saigon.

The unpaid volunteer Armed Youth Group, as they will be officially known, will serve as back-up security for RD cadres in rural villages and hamlets.

This is the first time since 1964 that the government of Vietnam has issued arms to men who are not actually part of the armed forces. The 120 volunteers—aged 15 to 35—represent 10 RD teams in Binh Duong Province.

U.S. Doctor Restores Villager's Sight



UNG TRANH

By PFC. WILLIAM H. GUERRANT

CHU LAI, Vietnam (IO) — Starving out at a world previously dimmed and obscured by cataracts, the weathered face of the old Vietnamese man twinkled with excitement.

His name is Ung Tranh and his story is one of American medical achievement in the midst of the war.

Working in the field in early December in the Chu Lai district, a MEDCAP unit discovered Ung's vision was greatly impaired. Cataracts were diagnosed and he was sent to Chu Lai's 1st Hospital Co.

The hospital ophthalmologist, Capt. Sheldon A. Coburn, performed several tests to determine the extent of Tranh's affliction. A delicate and involved cataract removal operation was recommended by the U.S. Army

physician for the 76-year-old Vietnamese.

On Dec. 17, in a hospital overlooking the South China Sea, an American doctor restored Tranh's sight.

It is not important whether Ung Tranh understands the intricacies of the surgery performed but hopefully he will grasp the significance of the medical treatment being given to thousands of Vietnamese.

Several weeks of rest and treatment followed the operation to properly heal the delicate tissues. Glasses were fitted. Ung was happy.

On Dec. 28 Coburn and the staff bid the patient farewell and he returned to his village.

"This is the second cataract operation I've performed here at 1st Hospital Co. and Ung was an excellent patient," Coburn said.

By HENRY HANSEN
S&S Vietnam Bureau

SAIGON — Is the C-123K Provider a good aircraft? Ask the man who flies one.

"It's a much better bird than the old B model," says Air Force 1st Lt. Gary R. Ware. "When they added the jets they made it 100 per cent better in many ways."

Ware, who has been flying the C-123K since it first began service in Vietnam eight months ago, is assigned to the 19th Air Commando Sq. at Tan Son Nhut AB.

"The jets, each of them rated at 2,850 pounds thrust, give us a lot more power when we need it most — during takeoff," he said.

"When we flew the old B model, just about the same aircraft, but without jets, we needed about 3,000 feet of runway for a max gross takeoff," he continued, "but the K model leaps off the ground in 1,800 feet, carrying the same weight."

The powerful J-85-GE-17 jets are normally used only during takeoff, but in emergency situations, such as a medevac flight, they can increase the Provider's top speed by more than 60 knots.

"The modification was not done to increase the cruising speed," said Ware. "The jets were installed as a safety measure more than anything else."

"If we lost an engine during takeoff in the old model we were in for a few anxious moments, to say the very least," he said. "But the K model gives us that extra power we need in emergency situations."

Lt. Col. Earl L. Thompson, who was being checked out in the new Provider by Ware, added his own comment.

"Another time the power comes in handy is when we're operating out of a field under enemy ground fire," he said. "The old model would climb out at about 500 feet per minute, so we were taking a lot more hits. The K model gets us up there at 1,500 f.p.m. and in many cases we can make a circling climb out of small arms range within the field's perimeter."

The flight engineer, SSgt. Roy J. Lupont, echoed the pilots' sentiments when he said, "It's really a great aircraft now."

"The jets burn regular aviation gas and feed out of the same tanks as the prop engines. This makes things a lot simpler. In fact," he continued, "adding the jets hasn't caused any problems at all — they just give us more power."

Is the jet-equipped C-123K Provider a good aircraft?

Ask the men who fly them.

Fuel Tank Farm Put Into Service

QUI NHON, Vietnam (IO) — Qui Nhon Support Command has opened a new fuel tank farm here. Operated by the 240th QM. Bn., the new storage area facilitates transfer of fuel from ship-to-shore and between other area tank farms. Now storing 150,000 barrels, the lines pump an average of about 800 barrels an hour and supply all the fuel used at the air base at Phu Cat, and Army bases at An Khe and Pleiku.

FBI Arrests 7 Rightists in Blast-Bank Plot

SEATTLE, Wash. (AP)—FBI agents arrested seven men Friday and charged them with conspiracy to blow up a police station and power plant and then rob four banks in Seattle suburbs.

J. E. Milnes, FBI agent in charge here, said the seven—including several members of the ultrapatriotic Minutemen organization, were seized shortly before the alleged conspiracy was to have been carried out.

Four of the men, waiting in an automobile, were arrested in a parking lot at Lake City, a Seattle suburb. The other three, in another car, were picked up at another parking lot at Bellevue, east of Seattle.

Israeli Sub Dakar Lost Off Cyprus

LONDON (AP)—The Israeli submarine Dakar was reported missing in the Mediterranean Friday night and a full-scale international search was launched, the British Admiralty reported.

First news of the emergency came from fragmentary radio reports intercepted by the British Navy. Then the admiralty confirmed the search was on, with British forces playing a major role.

The submarine's last known position placed it about 100 miles west of Cyprus.

Warn—

(Continued From Page 1)
from the outset."

He added: "I am authorized to say that the United States government would consider such a move of North Korea to be deliberate aggravation of an already serious situation."

Meanwhile, Secretary of State Dean Rusk said Friday the United States has set no deadline for return of the Pueblo and its crew.

Rusk told newsmen after a 2½-hour closed session with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee there is no deadline for diplomatic negotiations to free the ship and crew.

"Today would be a good time for them (North Korea) to turn them back," he said.

Johnson on Korea

WASHINGTON (UPI)—Text of President Johnson's message to the American people on the Pueblo crisis:

My fellow Americans:
Over the past 15 months, the North Koreans have pursued a stepped-up campaign of violence against South Korean and American troops in the area of the Demilitarized Zone.

Armed raider teams in large numbers have been sent into South Korea to engage in sabotage and assassination.

On Jan. 19, a 31-man team of North Korean raiders invaded Seoul with the object of murdering the president of the Republic of Korea.

In many of these aggressive actions, Korean and American soldiers have been killed and wounded.

The North Koreans are apparently attempting to intimidate the South Koreans and to interrupt the growing spirit of confidence and progress in the Republic of Korea.

These attacks may also be an attempt by the Communists to divert South Korean and United States military resources which together are resisting the aggression in Vietnam.

This week, the North Koreans

In the cars, Milnes said, were explosives and weapons.

He said the arrests followed an FBI investigation with aid of the police department at Redmond, Wash., location of three of the banks.

Seized along with the seven were 10 Molotov cocktails and an arsenal including two 38-caliber revolvers, a 32-caliber automatic, nine sticks of dynamite and blasting caps, a pipe bomb and floor plans for the banks and the police department.

The FBI said the men planned to rob three banks at Redmond, Wash., and had discussed robbing another at Des Moines, Wash.

The FBI also said they planned to dynamite the Redmond, Wash., power plant and police facilities as diversionary tactics immediately prior to the robberies.

An FBI spokesman said the men included Duane Ivan Carlson, 35, identified as a full-time employe of the Minutemen.

In addition to Carlson, a bachelor living in Seattle, the group included Joseph David Hourie, 20, a Seattle grocery chain employe; Ervin White, 41, a draftsman of Edmonds, Wash.; Jerome Nicholas Diemart, 43, recently employed as a ship oiler living in Arlington, Wash.; Mervyn Edward Henderson Sr., 57, a church sexton and part-time maintenance man of Bothell, Wash.; Kelly E. Derano, 24, a driver of Tacoma, Wash., and Milton James Dix, 34, a Seattle longshoreman.

committed yet another wanton and aggressive act by seizing an American ship and its crew in international waters.

Clearly, this cannot be accepted. We are doing two things.

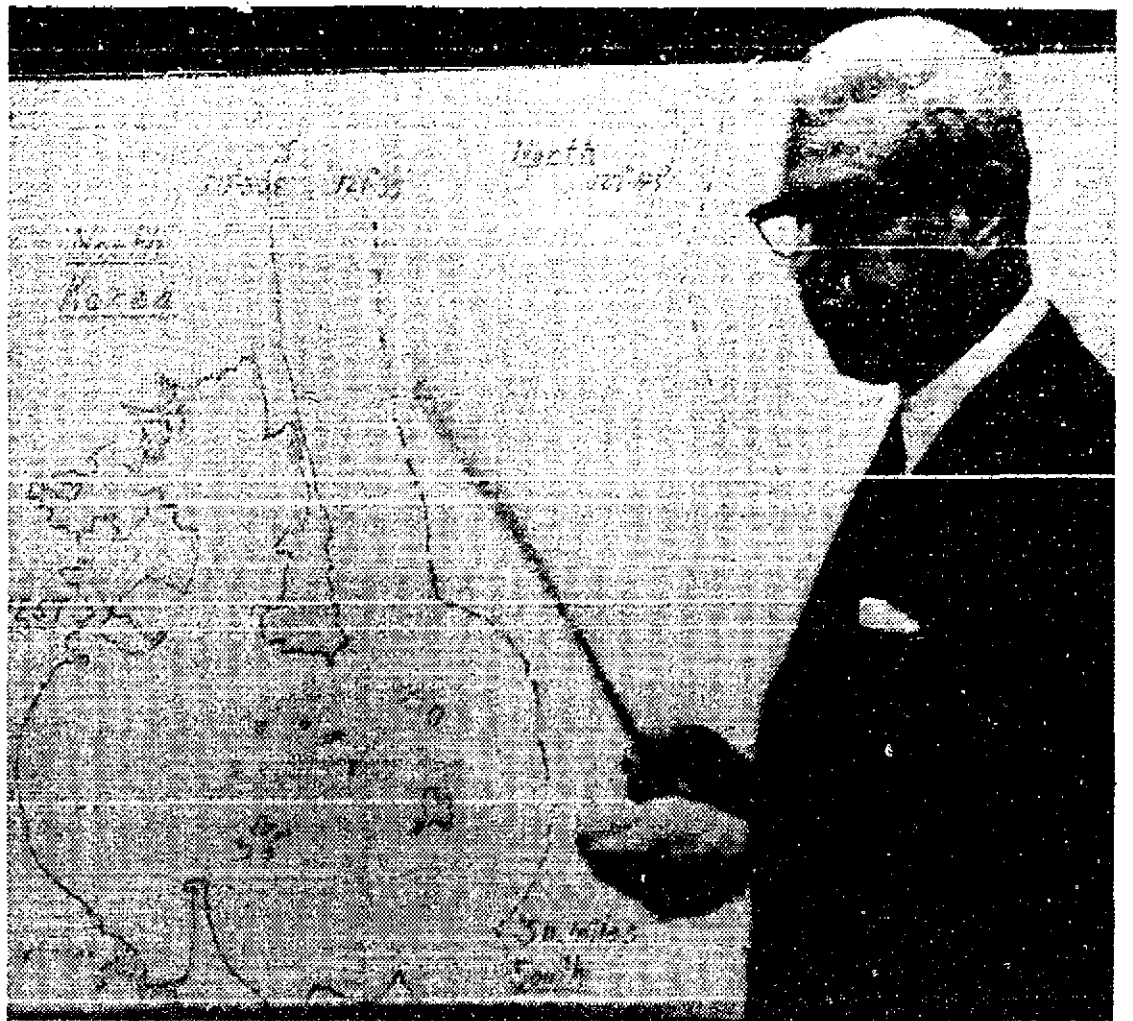
First, we are today taking the question to the Security Council of the United Nations. The best result would be for the whole world community to persuade North Korea to return our ship and our men and to stop the dangerous course of aggression against South Korea.

We have been making other diplomatic efforts as well. We shall continue to use every means available to find a prompt and peaceful solution to the problem.

Second, we have taken and are taking certain precautionary measures to make sure that our military forces are prepared for any contingency that might arise in the area. These actions do not involve a reduction in any way of our forces in Vietnam.

I hope that the North Koreans will recognize the gravity of the situation which they have created.

I am confident that the American people will exhibit in this crisis, as they have in other crises, the determination and unity which are necessary to see it through.



U.S. Ambassador Arthur Goldberg tells the U.N. Security Council of the capture of the USS Pueblo. Goldberg uses map of the area off North Korea to back up his case. (AP Radiophoto)

Truce Times Differ; LBJ— Allies Still in Action

SAIGON (UPI) — A seven-day truce called by the Viet Cong went into effect early Saturday but American and allied forces said they would keep fighting until their own 36-hour cease-fire starts Monday evening.

"There are no plans for any decrease in offensive operations as a result of the Viet Cong announcement," a U.S. spokesman said a few hours before the one-sided stand-down was scheduled to begin.

Liberation Radio, the Viet Cong's clandestine broadcast, has declared a seven-day truce to celebrate Tet, the Vietnamese lunar new year. The cease-fire began at 1 a.m. Saturday, Saigon time.

The allies' 36-hour truce was scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. Monday, Saigon time.

The Tet truce was the last of three such cease-fires announced unilaterally by both sides in the war. The first two, around Christmas and New Years, were marked by numerous incidents.

Although continuing to apply heavy pressure on the U.S. Marine outpost at Khe Sanh near the demilitarized zone, in the hours before the Viet Cong truce was to start the Communists launched several major attacks in widely scattered areas. They included:

—A well-planned North Vietnamese ambush on a U.S. Marines ammunition convoy between Dong Ha and Camp Carroll which, after Leatherneck reinforcements moved in, left eight Americans dead, 44 wounded and the convoy badly shot up. Three Communists were killed.

—Artillery positions at Phu Bai, headquarters of the U.S. 3rd Marine Div., defenders of South Vietnam's northern tier, came under a heavy attack

early Friday. Ground probes followed heavy mortar fire but the Communist attack was repelled at a cost of 10 Marines wounded.

—At Camp Holloway in Pleiku, a major American stronghold in the Central Highlands, the Communists struck with rifles and machine guns following a mortar attack on the camp's airfield, causing "light" damage to aircraft and wounding 24 Americans.

—At An Khe, another Central Highlands U.S. stronghold, Communist attackers penetrated the airfield defenses and sapper squads systematically blew up planes on the flight line. Two Americans were killed and 11 wounded. Seven Communists were slain.

World Weather

USAF Weather Central				
TOKYO AREA				
Saturday:	Fair	Low 20		
Sunday:	Fair	High 45		
TEMPERATURES				
Jan. 26				
	H	L	H	
Bangkok	91	73	Naha	63
Chitose	28	-6	Saigon	88
Guam	82	-	Seoul	28
Itazuke	43	35	Taipei	43
Manila	88	67	Tokyo	45
	H	L	H	
Albany	15	-1	Memphis	48
Albuquerque	57	26	Miami	67
Amarillo	65	35	Milwaukee	30
Allentown	38	22	Moscow	18
Bismarck	36	32	N. Orleans	54
Boise	35	24	N.Y.C.	22
Boston	22	20	N. Platte	61
Chicago	31	18	Okla. City	42
Cincinnati	32	14	Omaha	50
Cleveland	23	02	Paris	43
Denver	62	33	Phila.	26
Des Moines	47	27	Phoenix	69
Detroit	21	04	Pittsburgh	25
Duluth	29	16	Port., O.	41
Fairbanks	09	-30	Rapid City	45
Fort Worth	38	32	Reno	53
Hong Kong	74	37	Richmond	30
Honolulu	67	58	Singapore	85
Indianapolis	79	63	St. Louis	40
Jackville	71	46	St. Paul	34
Jakarta	82	73	Salt Lake	35
Kansas City	54	30	S. Antonio	73
K. Lumpur	91	73	San Diego	67
Los Vegas	60	24	San Fran.	61
London	51	46	Seattle	38
Louisville	73	52	Shreveport	65
Losbourne	75	58	Sydney	75
			Tucson	70
			Wash.	32