



9th Infantry Division



The Old Reliable

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Republic of Vietnam

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6-31 ending enemy village control

TAN HOI – The pacification program of the 6th Battalion, 31st Infantry has come a long way since its inception, and the general trend thus far points to even greater achievement in the foreseeable future.

The red clay road to Vinh Kim, once held by the Viet Cong, is now open, enabling free access to and from the rural hamlets.

When we first started this program of area pacification," said First Lieutenant Carlton. R. Blacker, 25, of San Diego, Calif., "we had 20 hamlets. Out of the 20 hamlets only one was controlled by the South Vietnamese Government. Twelve were Viet Cong controlled and seven were contested."

The long range plan for all of South Vietnam is to bring one thousand hamlets and one million people under the control of the government, with a second objective of placing 200,000 men in uniform and supplying them with modern weaponry to help rid their country of its enemies.

"The area I have has two large cities, Vinh Kim and Cay Lai," Blacker said. "I cannot cover all of this territory with out help, so I have two liaison personnel. These men live with the people and know what is happening in their area. Another part of the job is to work with the local Vietnamese officials and to help them in any way possible to strengthen and build the area.

Since Blacker and his men went to work, four hamlets are now government controlled and 12 are contested, with only four under Viet Cong control.

"If things continue to improve as they are now, our problem of trying to wrestle control of the rural areas from the VC and rallying the people to the government will be a tremendous success." Commented Blacker.



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VC party Crashed by Recondos

DONG TAM – Party crashers are unwelcome individuals, but when the 2nd Platoon, Company A, 6th Battalion 31st Infantry embarked upon some party crashing recently, none of the hosts stayed long enough to register a complaint.

“My platoon was moving a trail when the Tiger Scout signaled us to freeze.” said Platoon Sergeant Ronald D. McDonnell, 23, Fort Worth, Texas. “We stopped and the Tiger Scout moved up to check out a hut sitting off the trail about 50 meters.” Five minutes later the Tiger Scout motioned McDonnell to advance.

Upon entering, he found 150 individual place settings; each with hot bowls of baked chicken and boiled rice, plus watermelon cubes, soda pop and beer being cooled. “The settings were everywhere on benches, chairs, tables and bunkers,” said McDonnell.

“It looked like a banquet of some kind, and we had interrupted the fun.” McDonnell stated. “My Tiger Scout said that it was a party for the area Viet Cong infra-structure and Battalion members.”