



# 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division



## The Old Reliable

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*Republic of Vietnam*

*April 16, 1969*

### **Reliable GI finds shots necessary in Delta living**

**FIRE BASE MOORE** – The one word that brings pain to the mind of even the most battle-hardened veteran is the word – shots.

After three days in the field, recently, Company D, 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 31<sup>st</sup> Infantry was greeted by a check of individual shot records and then the familiar line for needed inoculations.

Most of the men needed just a few shots, but one soldier, needed a complete re-inoculation. "We couldn't give him every shot he needed at once," said Specialist Five Richard Gibson, a medic at the 6<sup>th</sup>/31<sup>st</sup> aid station. "But we started him off in the right direction. We gave him four just for a start."



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### Highway miners

### 6-31 pursue cache, find enemy sappers

FIRE BASE MOORE – Company C, 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 31<sup>st</sup> Infantry went looking for an enemy cache recently and came up with the sapper team that had been mining Highway 4 between here and Dong Tam.

Acting on reports, the infantrymen went looking for a cache and were inserted five miles southeast of here. As the men began moving, the command and control helicopter of Lieutenant Colonel Ralph J. Peterson, spotted several VC with weapons running east from the village of Huu Dao toward the woodline.

The command chopper moved down and killed three. As the infantrymen moved out, Bounty Hunter gunships from the 191<sup>st</sup> Assault Helicopter Company were called in and worked over the area.

"The gunships killed six in a period of minutes," said Captain Robert D. Robbins, company commander, from Wilmington, N.C. "By this time, we were close enough and my men killed two."

As the infantrymen swept the area, they encountered little resistance as the enemy began giving up.

"One may jumped up holding a Chi-Com RPD light machinegun over his head," Robbins said. "My men were right on top of his position but he chose to give up instead of fight." Three detainees who were held were later confirmed as VC.

The enemy losses were 11 killed and three detained. The infantrymen also took two Chi-Com RPD light machineguns, five AK-50s, 10 hand grenades and assorted field gear.

"Instead of a cache, we found the sapper team that has been mining Highway 4. We put an end to their road mining for a long time," said Robbins.