

Inside:

•	Echo Raiders Website Under Construction 2
•	Echo's Near Mutiny Orders to kill dogs3

- Purple Hearts
 Stories of the wounded4
- VC Warning What did it say? 4
- Family News
 Seeking news about
 Echo families5
- Sgt B & Hurricane Ian 8
- Readying the F-4 For Combat10
- **Dispatches**From the Sea Tiger 12

Hey Raiders...

During March where I live, we commonly have several cycles of winter followed by, what feels like spring, followed abruptly by winter then back to what you think will be spring. I believe this is the third spring so far. This "spring" looks as though it will stay. The March calendar reminds me of events that are significant to us.

stay. The March calendar reminds nevents that are significant to us.

It was 58 years ago that the Marines landed on Red Beach near Danang,
Vietnam on 8

March 1965. A

Gathering. P

There is another date in March significant to us. In 2012, 29 March was proclaimed National Vietnam War Veterans Day to pay special recognition to those who served in Vietnam and to the over 58,000 men and women named on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in

few months later,

in November,

the 2d Bn, 1st

Marines arrived.

Memorial in Washington, DC. The day is also to

give recognition to those who didn't receive the recognition due them at the time.

In 2017, National Vietnam War

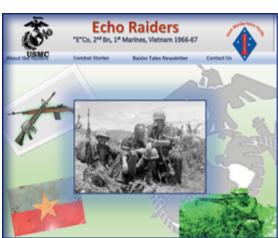


Lt. Marshall
Croy
Platoon Commander

Echo Gathering

We look forward to seeing many of you in **Prescott Valley**, **AZ**, the 1st week of May for our **Annual Gathering**. Please come join us. Make your reservations at the **Hampton Inn** on Glassford Hills Rd **Prescott Valley**, **AZ** (928) 772 1800.

You'll have a good time in Arizona!



The Echo Raiders website is coming. <u>See page 2.</u>

Veterans Day was signed into law to recognize the legacy of those who served in Vietnam... to recognize

YOUR legacy.

By the time you read this, the day will have passed. I hope you celebrated, in your own way, what the nation is attempting to say to us. I hope someone acknowledged your sacrifice and service.

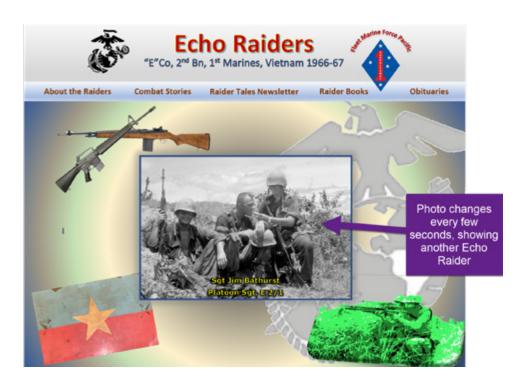
Semper Fi

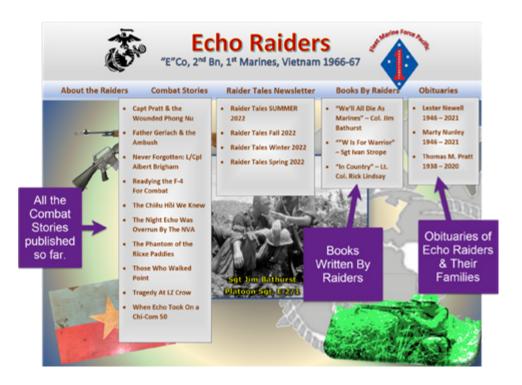
— Marshall Croy RAIDER TALES, Spring 2023

Echo Raiders Website Under Construction

The Echo Raiders website, echoraiders.com, will be up and running in a few more weeks. The website will have a home page where photos of individual Echo Raiders

will flip by every few seconds. Send your photos of when we were young Echo Raiders and you'll appear on the Echo website. The drop-down menus on the websites' menu bar contain links to all the combat stories we've published so far. Also, obituaries of Echo Raiders.





Orders Are Orders

FMF C E

Echo's Near Mutiny



Cpl Terry Dunne Machine Gun Squad Leader 1st Platoon "E" 2/1 I was sitting in bible study, deep in the Old Testament, when the subject of warfare and soldiers came up.

"You killed," one of the nice church ladies sneered. "In honest combat," I protested weakly.

The bible study teacher intervened on my behalf, arguing "Soldiers follow orders. That's what they do. It has to be that way."

"Like robots, like mindless killing machines," spoke the nice church lady.

I thought back, back through time to "E" Company, 2nd Bn, 1st Marines as Lt. Cockerell's 1st platoon locked and loaded for a 2:00 am patrol. For a number of weeks we'd been successfully ambushing Viet Cong in a series of villages in Quang Nam province. But the last few patrols had failed when barking dogs gave us away.

Orders came down: "Kill the dogs."
Right away more than one Marine
balked: "I'm not killing dogs." But most
of us didn't think twice.

As we sat waiting in ambush that night, just before dawn we heard pop, pop — two rounds of rifle fire followed by the high pitched screaming of a wounded dog. It didn't end. Pop, pop, pop, pop: four more rounds but the dog was still alive in agony. Then came a burst of automatic fire and the dog, torn to pieces, whimpered sadly for a few minutes before he died.

The next day, defiance was in the air. We'd all heard the dog getting killed and most of us were disgusted. The word was that the kill-dogs order had come down from regimental Intelligence.

A 19-year-old squad leader spoke up angrily, "Why we got some

Bắc Hà Dog Typical Vietnamese Village Dog

rear-echelon jerkoffs telling us what to do? I'm not killing any dogs."

Platoon commander Lt. Eugene Cockerell, deeply respected, told us to tone it down.

You could see he felt as we did but, without saying it, he said to lay low on the subject. From which we interpreted, "Leave the dogs alone but, if questioned, say you killed them"

No dogs died after that but the description of the one that got shot was used again and again. I heard we submitted maybe 15–20 phony dog-kill reports. But regimental intelligence was catching on and there was talk of being run up for disobedience of a direct order.

And then...

Our tactical focus shifted as the spinning rotors of row after row of big CH-46 troop helicopters beckoned our departure to Operation Union. Elements of the 2nd North Vietnamese Army division were trapped and the Echo Raiders were joining the fight to finish them off.

Kill dogs? Not us. We no longer patroled the Quang Nam villes. Hey, orders are orders.

"But you killed a dog. How could you do such a thing?" charged the nice church lady.

It wasn't us. We found out later, weeks later, that an AK-47 killed Dan that night. Dan was one of our big German Shepherd Scout Dogs. He'd bolted from his handler, charged into the night, and was quickly shot by the nearby Viet Cong. He was a brave dog.

We heard Dan's handler was run up on charges and wound up in the brig for losing control of the dog. We all hoped a big tough dog like Dan took a hefty chunk out of the VC before he died.

Semper Fi Dan. You were a good Marine.

Dan
Killed in Action 1966
Quang Nam Province
(representation)

Semper Fi.

Page 2 Page 3

RAIDER TALES, Spring 2023

Purple Hearts

Many were wounded while participating in the amazing exploits of Echo 2/1. If you received the Purple Heart and would like us to write up your story about what it was like to get hit, the circumstances involved, and the recovery period, let us know. We'll publish your story along with your photo in the Raider Tales newsletter.

tdunne3@tampabay.rr.com • (352) 999-1576

VC Warning?

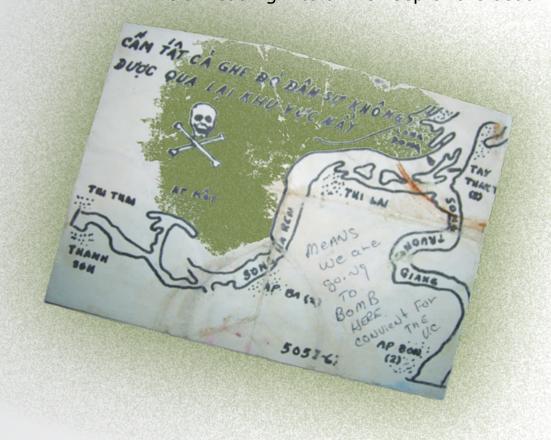


Sgt. Steve Berntson Sea Tiger Reporter, Embedded w/Echo 2/1

What does it say? This leaflet-style note was

found by Sea Tiger Reporter Steve Berntson on the trail leading into a

ville in the 2/1 tactical area of responsibility (TAOR), all on a 3-day sweep of the usual







Member News

Seeking Family News

The most important goal of the **Raider Tales** newsletter is to keep track of Echo Co. members and their families.

Vacations, wedding anniversaries, family milestones, grandchildren — these are the things we want to hear about.

Send or text your photos to:

<u>tdunne3@tampabay.rr.com</u> • (352) 999-1576

Page 4

RAIDER TALES, Spring 2023

My Brother's Sword

On our old black and white TV, my big brother and I'd stay up late watching Marine Corps combat movies. Nothing so inspired as John Wayne in **Sands of Iwo Jima**. No one was as tough as Frank Lovejoy in **Retreat Hell**. And there was nothing more noble, to us, than two brothers serving together in combat.

The Mameluke Sword, the U.S. Marine Corps officer's sword of Tripoli fame, was presented to my brother, 2nd Lieutenant Eddie Dunne, in 1961. It was a beautiful thing that seemed to sparkle with virtue. As he pulled it from its scabbard, he spoke of honor and courage, of devotion to duty, and of the noble citizen soldier willing to go to the far reaches of the earth to defend his country. The sword sparkled all the more.

We were **New York City Irish**, second generation American, and when my brother finished his oration, he slammed his beer on the bar and said with conviction:



"There's nobody tougher than the Irish."

I followed Eddie into the Marine Corps and we wound up together in the Caribbean, afloat aboard the **U.S.S. Guadalcanal**, a helicopter carrier. When we got back to the states, in June '66, Eddie's time was up and his second son had been born. He took a job with IBM in New York and I received orders to **WestPac** (Vietnam).

In the meantime, the electric news broke that **Robert O'Malley**, fellow New York City Irishman one neighborhood over, had won the **Medal of Honor** in Vietnam. We were psyched.



On a New York City rooftop, newly-commissioned U.S. Marine 2nd Lt. Eddie Dunne with Mameluke Sword

It didn't take long to get hit in Vietnam. While serving with Echo Co., 2nd Bn, 1st Marines, a booby-trapped hand grenade peppered me with shrapnel but I was OK and returned to duty after a week in the hospital. However, Marines in dress blues and serious faces had visited my mom and the news had shaken my brother. Against all advice, he ditched his career and signed up for Vietnam. He arrived in 1968, just in

time for the **Tet Offensive**.

But he was somebody now. He was **Infantry Captain Edward Francis Dunne**, packing six machine guns, three mortars, six rocket launchers,

and 100-or-so crack shot Marine riflemen. He helped bloody the North Vietnamese Army during the 1968 retake of **Hue City** and, years later at his rifle company's reunions, stories of courage and valor reflected well on his conduct during that time of heavy combat.

I got back to Vietnam midway through my brother's tour and we served together in the 3rd Bn, 1st Marines, 1st Marine Division. In the lovely Que Son Valley hill country west of Da Nang, elements of the 1st Marine Division took on the rough and tumble 2nd NVA Division and, for a short time, Eddie and I lived our youthful fantasies, he a rifle company commander, me a rifle company platoon sergeant. The Marine Corps caught up with us—

something about the **Sullivan Brothers**—so we signed waivers to stay in country and that was

It was after we returned home to the states that it happened. On a Sunday morning under the sun-dappled girders of the #7 subway line in New York City's Woodside neighborhood, we were walking to St. Sebastian's Church when a neighborhood kid we knew confronted us. It was about the war and this fired-up little hophead actually spit at my brother. Eddie, resplendent in officer dress blues, wife and

two little boys in tow, was open-mouthed astounded. How could such cruel derision be? Like most

Vietnam veterans, he had no way of defending himself, no way at all. He shrunk within.

The years went by. The sword tarnished, it's glimmer of virtue vanishing. Divorce came. Then another. At a wedding, a man

asked my brother, "How could you fight for something you didn't believe in?" Assault charges filed. One of Eddie's sons married into another Irish family and the new in-laws preferred not to associate with baby killers like us. Hard living had declined Eddie's health and he was hunched over when we walked into a new-generation Irish bar in New York City's Maspeth neighborhood. The young Irish bartender, polished and stern, took one look at my brother and with a heavy brogue said, "Sir, I cannot serve you."

Some years later when I visited Eddie

in North Carolina, the sword was on the wall, it's handle broken, the scabbard dirty. Then the aneurysm came and Eddie was committed to the North Carolina State Veterans Home in Fayetteville, NC.

Cub a contract of the contract

PFC Terrence Dunne and 1st Lt. Edward Dunne aboard the USS Guadalcanal at Guantanamo Bay Naval Base

I'd drive up from Florida to visit him, pack him into a wheelchair, and take him to the downtown Fayetteville street mall for lunch and cocktails. Our last **Memorial Day** together, we watched the city of Fayetteville's **Memorial Day Parade**.

It was cold for Fayetteville and, to keep my brother warm in the wheel-chair, I wrapped a camouflage poncho liner around his shoulders. As the parade went by, a high school marching band appeared, a big American flag in front. Eddie saw it, wanted to stand up and salute, but couldn't make it out of the wheelchair.

Then, tender mercies.
As the marching band came abreast, stopped, and marked time in place to the rat-a-tat-tat of the drums, the **Drum Major** pointed his baton at my brother's creaky efforts and Ed-

die strengthened. Four Majorettes, smiling young high school girls, turned, stepped up and faced my brother with twirling batons, nodding at him in salute. He strengthened more, tried to get all the way up, but couldn't make it. The poncho liner slipped from his shoulder.

One of the majorettes stopped, stepped toward my brother, and pulled the poncho liner close around his neck. With a musical southern accent, this lovely young woman said,

"God Bless you Marine." Somehow Eddie made it all the way up as he snapped a smart Marine officer's salute.

Seeing my brother momentarily tall and straight, knowing what I knew about his honorable combat service, and understanding how he'd been treated by his fellow American citizens, I couldn't help but think:

"There's nobody tougher than the Americans."

- Terrence Britton Dunne

Page 6 Page 7

may good luck

BE with you

WHEREVER YOU GO.

and your Blessings

outnumber the

ShamRocks that

GROW.

RAIDER TALES, Spring 2023 RAIDER TALES, Spring 2023

HURRICANE IAN



Sgt B Hit Hard By Ian

"We lost everything in our home that was not solid wood. We lost both cars and our RV"



Sgt B Col Jim Bathurst, USMC (ret)

When Nancy and I moved to Ft. Myers in 2019, it was my 29th move and Nancy's 15th with me.

Why Florida? Well, we were snowbirds every winter for at least 20 years in our RV's, but this old, worn out, beaten up body could no longer handle cold weather. When the temps get below 50 degrees, I ache all over.

Did we know about hurricanes? For me growing up on Chesapeake Bay, they were part of my early

life—not so for Nancy. However, we "thought" we were taking necessary precautions by buying a place far inland from the **Gulf** of Mexico—about 15 miles as the crow flies.

> However, we are about 5 miles from the Caloosahatchee River, which flows from enormous



Pieces of our house

Ian gave new meaning to "Salt Pool"

Lake Okeechobee to the Gulf. Okeechobee is the second largest freshwater lake in the US.

On 29 September, 2022, Hurricane Ian at the very last minute turned and came right up the Caloosahatchee River.

Daughtrey's

Creek which flows into the Caloosahatchee, ends at our

property. The creek is affected by the tide, as is the Caloosahatchee, and at low tide I could jump over the creek. By now you are surely seeing the picture.

The storm surge pushed water up the Caloosahatchee River, which

pushed water up Daughtrey's Creek and put two-and-a-half

feet of water into our

house.

Ours is a one-story concrete block house so I was not about to leave it. We were sitting on folding chairs on the coffee table in the living room and the water was almost to our knees.

If you have never witnessed steady 155 MPH winds up close and personal, you cannot imagine

such force. Our neighborhood is shrouded in 70-80 year old

Live Oak trees-many Hurrileane Lan now looking Hurricane Ian destroyed some like cactus with 8,000 homes, causing nearly twisted broken \$113 billion dollars in damage branches. and 152 deaths.

> We lost everything in our home that was not solid wood those pieces I can sanitize and rework if needed.

We lost both cars and our RV. The reclamation company we hired removed all drywall four-

> from the floor, dried everything out for several days, and treated all exposed

feet-up

Anything below the four-foot level went curbside for FEMA to haul away.

This was not something a couple of our age needed, but it is what it is and we shall overcome. At this stage—almost six months

If you have never witnessed steady 155 MPH winds up close and personal, you can-

not imagine such force.

Daughtry's Creek after Ian

were partially underwater and they are older 1984 single pane windows.

replacing the windows since they

Some furniture is on order and we replaced Nancy's car—may not replace mine.

While this was quite an experience, I am by no means complaining — there are some folks down here still living in tents because they lost their entire house and everything in it.

However, this is Florida, a state that takes care of their own, and our Governor is on top of everything.

I took some pictures but should

> Our wish is that we are back to the new normal by Christmas.

more.

have taken

The tangled twisted back of the house

later—we are back in the house, not quite a "home" yet, as we are

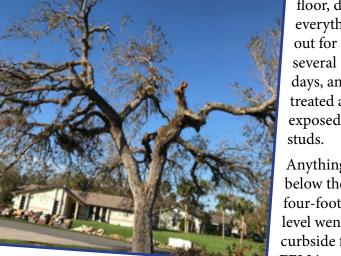
sitting on lawn chairs in the living room.

The only major repair still to be done is the replacement of windows, which are installed my steel shutters

on order. I beforehand

so we lost no glass, but I am

Sat B



Once a beautiful Live Oak

Page 8 Page 9 **See**: The Phantom of the Rice Paddies

F-100

The Sgt Tony Arrigo, USAF Crew Chief F-4 Phantom 12th Tactical Fighter Wing Cam Ranh Bay, Bien Hoa

horn blasted us Vietnam out of

tents, a call for close air support. Infantry heavily engaged, needing help. Our F-4 was prepped and armed. Time to fly.

Readying the F-4 Fighter

The **Assistant Crew Chief** climbs the ladder to the rear seat of the cockpit:

- 1. Harnesses up the Rear Seat Pilot
- 2. Pulls the last safety pin from the ejection seat (5 pins already pulled)
- 3. Slides up to the forward seat and harnesses up the Pilot.
- 4. Comes down the ladder, pulls

the chock from the F-4's left wheel. There's no right wheel chock.

The **Crew Chief**

hand signals the Pilot to start engines. The F-4 used a gunpowder cartridge to fire up each engine.

With both engines running, the **Crew** Chief hand signals

the Assistant Crew Chief to pull the remaining chocks. Chocks pulled, the Crew Chief gives a

First Person Account

Readying the F-4 For Combat

Thumbs up to the Pilot who taxis the aircraft to the

runway and takes off — loaded with napalm and bombs, afterburners drowning the night with awesome, crushing power. The entire procedure from the horn blaring to takeoff was less than two minutes. We prided ourselves on our speed and accuracy.

I liked being on the Alert Pad, which was away from the flight line and its own little unit. Watching the afterburners at night heading off to "Kill the Cong" was as close to combat as us Airmen could get. We thought.

> "Rocket City"
> 3rd Fighter Wing Bien Hoa Air **Base**

> > In February

'67, there was a The most intense duty in the need for Crew 12th Tactical Fighter Wing Chiefs at Bien was the Alert Pad. It was Hoa Air Base. designed to offer a speedy I went TDY response for Close Air Sup-(temporary port (CAS). The goal was duty). Bien to have an **F-4** in the air in Hoa was the under two minutes. When only Vietnamthe infantry called, time ese Air Base in was precious. We drilled to South Vietnam make it perfect. and the Vietnam Air Force

Alert Pad

(VNAF) flew out of there. It was in **III Corps** about 15 km northeast of Saigon. They flew the **F-100 Super Sabre**.

"We prided ourselves on our speed and accuracy"

> used extensively for close air support in **III Corps** and **IV Corps**. Some friends of mine at my American **Legion** that were stationed in **IV**

Corps thanked us years later for, as they put it, the

F-4 Phantom

"Huns that killed the VC."

The F-100, aka **THE HUN** or Lead Sled, flew more combat missions than all of the other Fighter Jets combined. The F-100s flew 360,283 sorties (missions) during the Vietnam war. It is an extraordinary number and unknowable how many American lives it saved and how many enemy lives it took but, trust me...many.

Bien Hoa housed families of the VNAF as well as American GIs and it was an open base replete

lin. The VC would tunnel under the rubber trees and mortar or rocket the base at will, hoping to hit an aircraft which they did too often (see the story on the right about Noel Lovellette getting a Bronze Star). The Alert Pad at Bien Hoa was a bit hairy since you were

with stores, barber shops, and

Hoa was

verv

houses. It was not

named Rocket City

nights. My hooch was

rounded by a 7-square-mile

rubber plantation owned by

secure. It was nick-

and was attacked many

hit (see photo below). I

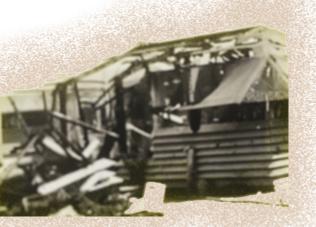
lost all my belongings

including my high

school ring.

Bien

Miche-



Tony's hooch after a Rocket attack



F-100 On Fire

One night in June, during a rocket attack, an F-100 loaded with bombs got hit and caught fire. It was close to the bunkers where we were hunkered down. If it blew, forget about it.

Suddenly one of the Crew Chiefs, Sgt Noel Lovellette, left the safety of the bunker and ran to the burning **Hun**. He kicked the chocks, jumped in the cockpit, and taxied the Hun to a place far away from the bunkers. I heard about this the next day and thought it was cool.

Noel Lovellete was awarded the Bronze Star w/Combat V for his valiant actions that day.

away from the main flight line

and open to rifle fire or mortar

and rocket rounds. If I wanted to

be where the action was, I found

it at Bien Hoa. Knowing that our

sorties were in support of ground

troops who relied on us lent to

the high morale of the place. We

knew that we were relatively safe

on the base as compared to the

I ended my TDY in October '67

and flew back to Cam Ranh Bay

for my processing and flight back

to the states. My year in Vietnam

was exciting, exhilarating, and

scary. I never compare it to the

grunts (0311's) and know that

men humping the boonies.

End of Tour

- Anthony Arrigo



Bronze Star w/Combat "V"

they faced death everyday. However, being a Crew Chief in Vietnam and completing over 1,000 sorties to support the ground troops has given me a sense of pride that I still maintain.

We all had a job to do. Whether a ground pounder, a fly boy, or a REMF, it was one team, one fight. I'm 75 years old and as proud of my service as I was when I enlisted at 17.

God Bless all our troops, past and present.

> Anthony Arrigo Rancho Santa Margarita, CA



Page 10

Page 11

RAIDER TALES, Spring 2023 RAIDER TALES, Spring 2023

Fleet Marine Force Pacific

Sea Tiger News



Sqt. Steve Berntson

Sea Tiger Reporter, Embedded w/Echo 2/1 The **Sea Tiger** was the **III Marine Amphibious Force's** weekly newspaper that covered the U.S. Marine units in Vietnam's I Corps area. **Sgt. Steve Berntson** was assigned to the **1st** MarDiv Informational Services Office (ISO) but spent most of the time out in the field with the 1st & 5th Marine regiments.

He was embedded (long before the term was developed) with 2nd Bn/1st Marines and Echo 2/1 was his favorite company to go out with because Captain Pratt, the commanding officer, "let me go where I wanted and sent Gunny Weathers looking for me when something was coming down."

Crack Units Join

The majority of his Sea Tiger 2/1 stories were about the exploits of Echo Co. The first issue was published on 10 November 1965 and the last issue on 14 April 1971.

'Gunny' Epitomized SNCO Duties

was a real tough one.

"It just seemed that there
wasn't a question in the world

Lt. Lee Suydam

SEA TIGER 5



Money from Uncle Ho. North Vietnamese currence from the backpack of an NVA trooper



An Echo mortar team fires up with incoming showing in the distance

Final Patrol **Squad Leaders Close** Tours with VC Kills

DA NANG—Two squad leaders, from the same-platoon, finished their tours in Vietnam with success as-their units combined for seven Viet Cong kills on their

their units combined for seven (Norchester, Mass.) and last patrol.

Cpls. John B. McGovern (Worchester, Mass.) and Eugene R. Brooke (Philadelphia, Pa.), and "E" Co., 2d Bn., First Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, members of a platoon of them drop. We went to check-the area, but we couldn't find the body. A little while later, a couple of my men found a blood trail and followed it to where 'Charlie' had dragged himself," Brooks said.

McGovern: s squad was pre-paring to sweep a village on the morning of July 12.

"I sent my M-60 machinegun team in on an ambush on the northern end of the village over-looking a wide rice paddy," said McGovern.

McGovern.
"I took the other fireteam and went to the southern end to begin sweeping. Before we could sweep, the machinegun opened up and we moved back to see what was happening," he said.
When McGovern arrived at the ambush site, he found that a Victnamese Army man at-

etnamese Army man at-ched to their platoon had been ounded along with one Marine, medevac was called in. "After the medevac, we went lown to where the ambush took

down to where the ambush took place and searched the area. About 30 meters from the site, we found six VC bodies that the snemy had dragged that far and then left," said McGovern. The following morning, Brooks set his squad in a village and segan running patrols.
"We were coming down a trail when we saw a man come out of a hut and quickly go back in. Before we could get to the hut, wo men ran out of the back nto the surrounding brush,"



Cook Volunteers, **Rescues Marines**

By: Cpl. Steve Bernston

DA NANG -A cook who volunteered to carry ammunition to a pinned down platoon and ended up rescuing four wounded Marines in an open rice paddy has been presented the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V".

Sgt. Bobby Lenor, (Houston, Tex.) a mess sergeant with 2nd Bn., First Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, received the award Aug. 10. LtCol. Archie Van Winkle, battalion mander, 2nd Bn., presented the medal to Lenor during ceremonies at the battalion command post near Da Nang.

Sgt. Lenor was cited for his actions April 21, while serving as a cook for "F" Co. on an outpost located 25 miles south of the Da Nang Air Base.



Page 12