

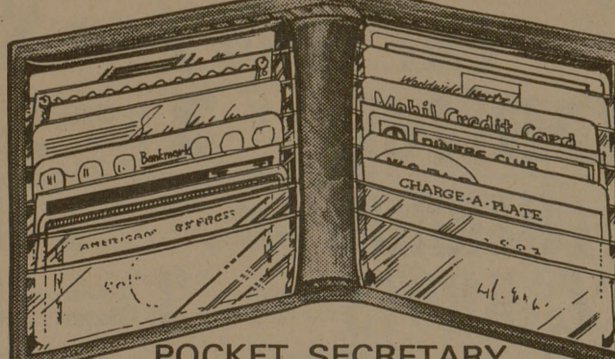
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Aggie-ex gives account of patrol

Editor's Note: The following is an account of one of the many reconnaissance patrols led by American soldiers in Vietnam. The author, Capt. Judson F. Rogers, is a journalism graduate from A&M.

"Gentlemen, as you know, during this time of year the enemy is stepping up activity in our area. We have reports of increased activity near the post, possibly bringing up supplies in preparation for sapper activity." The briefing by the intelligence officer is short and to the point as he discusses operation plans with the assembled platoon leaders.

At first light the next day their task is to locate enemy caches of food and ammunition in an area northeast of the post. The patrol consists of four platoon size elements each searching an area about a mile and a half long by a mile wide, with coordination effected by a helicopter overhead.

As each platoon leader exits the briefing, thoughts turn to the organization and selection of personnel for the patrol. Our sector is bordered on the east by a creek and on the west by a dirt road. According to the map, there is dense undergrowth with high elephant grass near the creek, so the going might be slow. On the right flank, there is high elephant grass, a swampy area and a couple of hills, probably good for observation and machinegun emplacement.

At 4:30 a.m. the alarm jangles the soldiers to drowsy consciousness and clothes are hurriedly pulled on by memory. Men mutter to each other as they wind their way among hootches on their way to the mess hall, in the inky pre-dawn for a light breakfast.

At 5:15 a.m. the men begin assembling for a final check of equipment and weapons before departure.

Suddenly explosions are heard nearby and those who have been in the country for any length of time recognize the sounds of incoming 107 mm rockets. Minutes later, the alert siren begins its high-pitched wailing. A call to the defense network is placed and

word is passed that four of the rockets came from the direction of the sector to be searched. Intelligence data seems to be about enemy activity, and chances should be good for finding enemy caches in the area.

At 5:30 a.m. the men scramble into two-and-a-half-ton trucks and begin the bone-jarring trip to the perimeter. Upon arrival, a check is made with the guard tower to make sure they know a friendly patrol is to pass through their area. Word has been received and the bunker nearest the exit road is expecting the patrol.

One trooper manning the bunker line, in an effort to be helpful, volunteers: "We been hearing people outside the perimeter all night. Sounds like they been driving stakes in the ground or something. A couple of flares went off, but we didn't see movement close enough to effectively engage."

Taking into consideration this last bit of information the departure through the perimeter is delayed about 15 minutes, until visibility improves.

"Let's move out." The word is given as the first rays of sun began creeping over the horizon, trucks exit the perimeter belching clouds of thick black smoke.

Five minutes later the men leave the trucks as the rutted road gives way to dense undergrowth. The platoon must walk about half a mile yet to reach the line of departure.

After several minutes of walking through dense foliage, heavy automatic fire erupts about 1,000 meters away. The patrol freezes and watches as tracers arch and ricochet into the sky. Many look back as if to say, "What next?" The patrol begins its forward movement as the fire died down. Moments later fire erupts again, punctuated with heavier explosions like that of handgrenades or a grenade launcher. This time there is no looking back and the patrol continues its forward movement through dense undergrowth.

Twenty minutes later the patrol crosses a waist deep creek and radios that the line of departure has been reached. The platoon is beginning its mission as the sun comes into full view overhead.

Soon the command helicopter appears to begin its job of tracing the location of each platoon-size element. Three of the four units will meet near the center of the search zone and it is important that each unit be able to monitor the movements of others via the helicopter.

The men sweat profusely as the sun continues its swift climb overhead. The going is rough through the elephant grass and many times men are mired waist deep in muddy water with slime clinging to fatigues.

While awaiting pickup, flank security is established and personnel relax with small talk as the tension built up during the patrol slowly dissipates.

Student says effects can be minimized

(Continued from page 1)
 tee, though supporting an \$80 million appropriation for fiscal 1970, said in its report that it "unequivocally... is not willing to buy aviation leadership at further costs to our environment."
 "The boom does not aerodynamically affect an aircraft's performance," Collier stated. But its extreme effect on the general public is drawing the aerospace engineer into areas of consideration other than his plane, the pilot, crew and passengers.
 A currently-produced Boeing 2707, flying at standard speed and altitude of nearly 12 miles, causes a one pound per square foot pressure rise behind the shock wave.
 According to research, this approximates the sound of thunder which is tolerable, Collier stated.
 The same plane, climbing at 27,000 feet only 15 minutes after takeoff, produces a pressure rise of 3.75 pounds per square foot, he calculated, "damaging windows and equally susceptible materials directly below the flight path."

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 Final Examination for the Doctoral Degree
 Name: Gheen, W. Lloyd
 Degree: Ph.D. in Industrial Education
 Dissertation: THE ADEQUACY OF CERTAIN CREATIVE CLASS METHODOLOGIES IN SELECTED TEXAS INDUSTRIAL ARTS TEACHERS TRAINING INSTITUTIONS.
 Time: June 22, 1970 at 3:00 p. m.
 Place: Room 8 in the M.E. Shops Bldg. George W. Kunze
 Dean of the Graduate College

THE GRADUATE COLLEGE
 Final Examination for the Doctoral Degree
 Name: Russell, Tom E.
 Degree: Ph.D. in Plant Pathology
 Dissertation: COMPARATIVE CYTOPATHOLOGY OF CULTURED CELLS OF A SYSTEMIC HOST NICOTIANA TABACUM L. VAR. SAMSTUN) AND A LOCAL REGION HOST (NICOTIANA TABACUM L. VAR. SAMCUNNUN MICRO-INJECTED WITH TOBACCO MOSAIC VIRUS HELIOTHIS VIRESCENS (F.)
 Time: June 11, 1970 at 2:00 p. m.
 Place: Room 216 in the Plant Sciences Bldg.
 George W. Kunze
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THE GRADUATE COLLEGE
 Final Examination for the Doctoral Degree
 Name: Talal, Govind Motilal
 Degree: Ph.D. in Entomology
 Dissertation: COMPARATIVE BIOLOGICAL, BEHAVIORAL AND BIOCHEMICAL INVESTIGATIONS OF THE COTTON BOLLWORM HELIOTHIS SEA (BODDIE) AND THE TOBACCO BUDWORM HELIOTHIS VIRESCENS (F.)
 Time: June 15, 1970 at 2:00 p. m.
 Place: Room 203 in the Old Biological Sciences Bldg.
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THE GRADUATE COLLEGE
 Final Examination for the Doctoral Degree
 Name: O'Hara, Peter John
 Degree: Ph.D. in Veterinary Pathology
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