

# 187th AVIATION

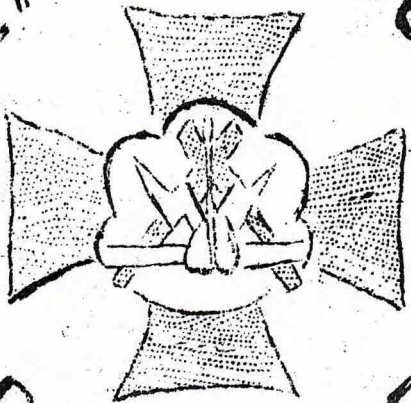
spot awards given

for action on 7 aug

Major General George P. Seneff, Commanding General of the 1st Aviation Brigade, presented a total 117 spot awards to the members of the 187th Assault Helicopter Company, 269th Combat Aviation Battalion, and to personnel from other units involved in the August 7th action.

The Awards Ceremony took place at the 187th "Black Hawk" (Cont on pg2)

## BLACK BARON



## RELEASE

Vol 16 AUG 1967 No 3

### Black Market Fraud

Recent developments indicate that a significant number of articles and products appearing in Black Market channels are counterfeit because of reuse of US labels, trademarks, and containers. Such materials represent an outright fraud, constitute a serious health hazard, and reflect adversely on the US image in Vietnam. One of the goals of (Cont page 5)

### 3d TOUR LTC IS NEW XO

The 269th Combat Aviation Battalion has gained the beneficial experience of a career officer presently serving his third tour in the Republic of Vietnam.

Lieutenant Colonel Irwin K. Cockett Jr recently assumed the position of Executive Officer of the "Black Barons".

Originally from Koloa, on the island of Kauai Hawaii, LTC Cockett entered the service as an enlisted man in 1949. He served with the 5th Regimental Combat Team at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii and deployed with the unit to Korea in 1950.

He attended Armor OCS at Ft Knox, Kentucky, and was commissioned a (Continued on page no. 4)

## 7 CHOPPRS DOWN 12 OTHERS HIT

What started as a routine combat assault mission for the 187th Assault Helicopter Company, 269th Combat Aviation Battalion, suddenly erupted into a violent air-ground battle six miles north of Saigon, and scrambled several other aviation units into action. A total of seven craft were downed at the Landing Zone area, six more made a one time flight to safe areas, and six others continued the mission despite multiple hits.

On the approach to the oblong landing zone, near the Saigon River eight slick troop carrying Huey Helicopters from the 187th Black Hawks began taking intense small arms and automatic weapons fire. The lead ship went down from multiple hits. A second ship, the tail rotor shot off spun and crashed next to it. Two other heavily damaged craft dropped their 199th Light Infantry Brigade troops, but went down just outside of the LZ from damage sustained in the initial approach. The remaining ships took several hits, but flew out of the area bringing wounded and rescued crews with them.

Fire teams consisting of two gunships each, from the 120th, 116th, 187th, and 162d Assault Helicopter Companies, scrambled to the area, blasting it with rocket and machine gun fire.

A slick from the 68th "Top Tigers" attempted a resupply of the infantry soldiers on the ground. The craft took a direct hit from a heavy weapon and crashed to the right of the Landing Zone.

A smoke ship from (Cont page 4)

### VIETNAMESE TO ELECT SOON

The government of Vietnam will conduct an election on Sunday 3 September 1967. Prior to that date, an election campaign now in progress, will run until September 3rd.

This is a free Vietnamese election, and the United States or other (Continued on page no. 3)

