

# DROP ALPHA-BITS WSTO

by: SGT John Wavra

## FAREWELL

Alpha Battery personnel said their farewells 11 April after a change of command ceremony at Ft. Defiance to Captain Donald P. Albers, who has completed his tour and will return to Ft. Sill for a 39-week Career Course. Captain Arthur R. Wilkerson was welcomed as the new battery commander. Hailing from Marion, Ala., he is married and has two children. Captain Wilkerson arrived at Quan Loi after attending the same 39-week Career Course at Ft. Sill that Captain Albers will attend. Captain Wilkerson expressed his appreciation for the reception he received and noted he was impressed with the high degree of cooperation exhibited by all battery personnel and he hoped this cooperation would continue. He noted further that there may be some changes, as is the case when all units change commands, but he saw no major changes at the time.

## JONES KING PLASTER LAUNDRY

A new franchise was recently started here at Quan Loi with the opening of the JONES KING PLASTER LAUNDRY. SSG Archie L. Jones, the Number 4 Gun Section Chief, scrounged together parts from various sources and designed a "whirlpool" washing machine for his section. The machine consists of two 55 gallon barrels and a water pump. To everyone's surprise--the system works and the clothes are much cleaner than those washed by the old "foot stomping" method employed by the local Montagnards. Plans are now on the drawing board to build an automatic dryer in order that the section will have a complete "home" laundry during the rainy season.

## THE HEADCOUNT DROPS

The battery headcount noted a definite drop in numbers in the past month. Leaving the battery were: SSG James Cook for reassignment to Germany; SSG Antonio Martinez for Ft. Riley, Kansas; SP5 Richard Kassar, SP4's Gerald Hill and Michael Heitert, and Lloyd Huck were all reassigned to Ft. REFRAID (Release from Active Duty). The battery welcomed PV2 John Rasnick and PFC John T. Edwards. Don't worry Alpha--replacements are on the way.

## PROMOTIONS

Alpha saw three of its personnel promoted to the grade of E-5. They were Richard Kassar and Dan Smith to SP5 and yours truly to "Hard" Five, Sergeant. Gerald Morse and Glen Pussell were also promoted to SP4.