

SCOUTS TAKE INITIATIVE

SELF-HELP UNDER WAY

The boys and girls in this impoverished countryside have taken on a man-sized job.

Every Sunday afternoon an artillery captain who heads his battalion's civic action project bumps along rubber plantation roads and into dusty hamlets carrying a truckload of fruit and vegetables to give away.

The helpers, who distribute food to needy Montagnards, are brightly-clad Boy and Girl Scout troops he has organized.

The artilleryman, Captain Merle E. Hoffman, civic action officer for the II Field Force Artillery's 6th Bn, 27th Arty at Quan Loi, explained that food is distributed throughout the Binh Long and Phuoc Long provinces. But this new project in the Quan Loi area is unique in that the Vietnamese he once helped are helping their own countrymen. Using their own initiative, the scouts assumed a major role in the civic action program in the area.

"Watching the Vietnamese help their own cause is gratifying," said Hoffman. "These kids are the country's potential future leaders, so

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This year's "cache" promises to include everything from jig-saw puzzles to beef jerky and will arrive shortly before Christmas.

The campaign started on October 15 and lasted for approximately three weeks before the goal was attained.

we are giving them every possible opportunity to become responsible."

Captain Hoffman's efforts to make the South Vietnamese self-reliant is soon to become the task of Captain Bruce Bailey, assistant S-3. Captain Hoffman is scheduled to depart Vietnam 19 January.

Captain Hoffman's work has received both civilian and military recognition and his superior performance was recently awarded the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross with Bronze Star.

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Bronze Star Medals were awarded to: LTC Reed, CPT Cole, CPT Spear, CPT Wey, 1SG Hendren.

Army Commendation Medals were awarded to: CPT Dieterlen, CPT Askman, SFC Garrett, SFC Stallworth, SSG Michura, SP6 Bobby Veteto, SP 5, Dennis Camp, CPL Anders, SP4 Morton, SP4 Brown, and SP4 Harper.

BEST SOLDIER AWARD

TOP EM

PFC Willie Wilson of Dekalb, Miss., a cannoneer in Battery B, was chosen Soldier of the Month in the battalion's second month of competition. Wilson, selected by a board on Nov 8, will receive a \$25 bond plus a three-day in-country R&R at Vung Tau. The top soldier was chosen by the battalion XO and first sergeants.