

HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES MILITARY ASSISTANCE COMMAND, VIETNAM
APO 143, San Francisco, California
Public Information Office

Press

MAGTN-IIC-IO

27 June 1963

SUBJECT: Assistance to Correspondents Visiting II Corps

TO: All Resident and Non-resident correspondents in Vietnam

1. The American advisors and their Vietnamese counterparts in the II Corps Tactical Zone are always happy to welcome members of the press into the II Corps area.

2. At present, Vietnamese units, ground, air, and sea, are engaged in numerous operations all over the six provinces of II Corps. These operations take in a multitude of various activities some of which will very likely meet your particular story needs. American advisors are present in most areas you will visit. These personnel have been instructed to furnish all assistance possible in helping you get your stories.

3. The II Corps Public Information Office is located at II Corps Headquarters in Pleiku and may be reached on Llama 18. If you plan to come into the area and have a particular story in mind, I suggest that you call ahead and make your needs known so we may avoid any delay or unnecessary confusion. If you have a specific story in mind, we will be happy to make advance arrangements for your visit; however, if you have nothing special in mind, let us know your areas of general interest and we'll be happy to plan an itinerary for you.

4. I have attached a list of possible story leads which might interest some of you. Needless to say, there are many other potential stories in II Corps. I hope we'll have a chance to see some of you "up-country" in the not too far distant future. I'm sure you'll find your trip worthwhile.

Robert J. O'Brien
ROBERT J. O'BRIEN
Captain USAF
Information Officer

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- a. Suggested Stories in II Corps
- b. II Corps Background

SUGGESTED STORY LEADS FOR REPORTERS VISITING II CORPS

1. Visit any one of a number of strategic hamlets located throughout the Corps area. These hamlets are both finished and in all phases of construction. In the inland provinces most of the hamlets are Montagnard.
2. Spend a day with any one of the many medical teams which daily operate throughout the Corps area. Some of these teams move into deep mountainous areas by helicopters while others operate along the roads.
3. Visit either the Civil Guard Training Center at Kontum or one of the SDC training centers in the Corps. Many of the troops at these centers are Montagnards. At the Kontum center, troops receive training in attacking simulated VC villages and bunkers.
4. Spend one or two days with the 9th, 22nd, or 25th Divisions. If your time is limited, Corps PIO can arrange for air travel throughout the Division area so you can see as much as possible in a short time.
5. Visit one of the helicopter units in II Corps. Arrangements can be made through II Corps PIO for you to go along on resupply missions and troop drops if such missions coincide with your visit.
6. Visit some of the armor units stationed with each Division.
7. Spend some time with ARVN units on Civic Action missions. These troops help villagers build homes and schools and furnish medical service for them.
8. Visit one or more of the Vietnamese Air Force units in II Corps. These aircraft fly combat missions daily.
9. Visit the center near Quang Ngai where VC captives and defectors are rehabilitated.
10. Spend a day with a sector advisor in any one of the Corps' six provinces. These men are the advisors most directly involved in hamlet and civic action work at the grass roots.
11. Go on a one or two day operation with Corps forces. Such operations are constantly going on throughout the Corps. Arrangements for this should be made with the Corps PIO well in advance.
12. Visit Special Forces units. You must receive permission from both U.S. and GVN Special Forces through the MAC-V PIO. After receiving this permission, we suggest you come first to the detachment at Pleiku before going to a field detachment.

II CORPS ZONE

The Second Corps of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam has jurisdiction over the six central Vietnamese provinces of Quang Ngai, Binh Dinh, Phu Yen, Phu Bon, Pleiku, and Kontum. With the exception of the narrow coastal areas of the first three of these provinces, the major portion of the Corps area varies from high plateau to mountainous with limited means of ground travel available.

Second Corps, with Headquarters at Pleiku, at present has three subordinate infantry divisions under its direct command. These are the 9th Division at Qui Nhon, the 22nd Division at Kontum and the 25th Division at Quang Ngai.

The population of II Corps consists of 2,159,328 persons with 372,249 or 17% of these Montagnards. The bulk of the Montagnard population lives in the mountainous provinces of Kontum, Pleiku and Phu Bon.

While most farming in the area is confined to the coastal lowlands, the highlands of the II Corps area are considered one of the major highland food growing areas in Vietnam.

Although surface transportation in the area is limited, several major roads connect the zone's chief cities. Route one runs the entire length of the Corps area in a north-south direction along the coast while Route 14 also runs north-south throughout the entire inland length of the Corps connecting Kontum and Pleiku. Running east-west from the Cambodian border, Route 19 passes through Pleiku and terminates at Qui Nhon while Route 5 connects Kontum and Quang Ngai.

Inland from the rather flat coastal belt, the II Corps zone is quite hilly with large expanses of area covered by dense rain forest. These areas are the home ground of the Montagnards, and throughout much of the inland provinces the only sign of human habitation is the small burned out clearing of the Montagnards.

Major population centers in II Corps are the province capitals of Kontum, Quang Ngai, Pleiku and Qui Nhon. The majority of the people in the Corps live in or near these cities.

As a result of the government sponsored Strategic Hamlet Program almost 70% of the Corps' population are now living in Hamlets under government protection.

Government forces are at present constantly engaged in a series of clear and hold operations designed to drive the Viet Cong forces further back into the mountains and to deny them their supply of food, recruits and porters.

The varied terrain found in II Corps makes it necessary for ARVN forces to be prepared to fight four distinct types of war: the rice paddy lowland type war found in the low lying coastal areas; the jungle war found in the dense interior rainforests of Binh Dinh and Quang Ngai in particular and in all of the Corps provinces in some degree; the mountain war in the interior highland of Quang Ngai and Binh Dinh; and the land plateau war in the area surrounding the city of Pleiku.

American advisors are present with most ARVN units down to and including battalion. The largest American concentrations are at the three division headquarters in Kontum, Qui Nhon and Quang Ngai and the Corps headquarters at Pleiku. American advisors are also present with the various Vietnamese Air Force and Vietnamese Navy units stationed in II Corps. In addition to the advisors, several American helicopter and air transport units are located throughout the Corps along with Special Forces detachments.

III CORPS

