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18TH MILITARY POLICE BRIGADE
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Immediate Release

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MAJOR AMICK
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Long Binh, Vietnam

A large enemy bunker was destroyed on an island in the Dong Nai River recently by two men from the 458th Transportation Company (PBR) in recent action near Cat Lai. Major Robert L. Amick, Jr., of Beckley, West Virginia and Spec. 4 William C. Maggiacomo of East Providence, Rhode Island, were the two-man destruction team responsible for the success of the action.

A river patrol boat (PBR) from the 458th received a radio message from a supporting helicopter gunship from the 68th Assault Helicopter Company reporting numerous fresh trails leading to a large, heavily fortified bunker on the island, ominously nicknamed "VC Island".

"We could see 10 or 12 main trails leading to the bunker," said WO Charles R. Campbell of Anco, Kentucky, the pilot of one of the gunships. "Water was still in the footprints on the trails and they all led to the bunker," he added.

The PBR, commanded by Maj. Amick, Commanding Officer of the 458th, proceeded to the area while the two helicopters assaulted the bunker. When rockets from the helicopter and grenade fire from the PBR failed to

destroy the bunker, Maj. Amick and Spec. 4 Maggiascono plunged into the Dong Nai River and swam to the shore.

Advancing through marsh mud, elephant grass and neck-deep streams, Maj. Amick and Spec. 4 Maggiascono located the bunker. It had been marked with smoke grenades by the helicopter.

Maj. Amick, with Spec. 4 Maggiascono covering him, rushed the bunker six separate times, depositing a grenade in the bunker on each trip. The huge bunker was completely destroyed.

"When he (Maj. Amick) retreated from charging the bunker each time, he would dive into the elephant grass and just disappear," said WO Campbell.

After the bunker was destroyed and the two men from the PBR had used up all their ammunition, one of the helicopters spotted three enemy soldiers moving in on them. The three were only 50 meters from Maj. Amick and Spec. 4 Maggiascono when the gunship engaged them with automatic weapons fire, hitting all three of them. Maj. Amick and Spec. 4 Maggiascono withdrew and swam back to their PBR.

Shortly after their return to the PBR, an ARVN Ranger Company was sent into the area and found one dead enemy soldier, one AK-47, one .45 cal. pistol, and a box of enemy documents. The documents were the most valuable find.

"We would have been in real rough shape if the choppers hadn't been there supporting us," said Maj. Amick. "Spec. 4 Maggiascono did an outstanding job covering me and getting us through to the bunker site," he added.

The two men are part of an 18th MP Brigade force that mans PBRs and provides security in deep water ports and inland water routes throughout Vietnam.