



COL. HACKWORTH
Blasts Vietnamization

Top Colonel Quits, Irked By Vietnam

SAIGON — (AP) — A much-decorated U.S. Army colonel, quitting in disgust, has blasted the South Vietnamese army, the way the Americans trained it and the Vietnamization program.

"If we were going to get involved, and I think we never should have," said Col. David H. Hackworth, "we should have come over and organized the South Vietnamese army into a guerrilla posture, instead of as a direct reflection of the U.S. corps with its divisions and all that junk..."

Motivation

Hackworth, who was wounded four times in Korea and four more times in 5½ years in Vietnam, said in a wide-ranging interview he found a great difference between the Saigon government's troops and their Vietnamese adversaries.

The North Vietnamese or Viet Cong soldiers are "properly prepared for war,"

—Turn to Page 4, Col. 6

Disgust Over Vietnam

Top Colonel Quits

—From Page 1

said Hackworth. "Most of their training is on political indoctrination, which results in a highly motivated soldier who really believes in what he's doing."

By comparison, he continued, "these jokers in the South Vietnamese army are motivated by a new Honda, a Rolex watch, a refrigerator or a fan, or how many goodies you can get them from the PX. That's it — not, 'Goddam, we're going to win this thing because it's important.'"

Hackworth called Vietnamization, the Nixon administration's plan of turning the fighting over to the South Vietnamese so U.S. combat troops can pull out, "a public relations man's dream, from some guy on Madison Avenue."

"I just don't see the improvement that everybody else sees. Maybe I am just too close to the trees and can't see the forest. I think it's cosmetic surgery, and the people who are way out there making all those broad statements don't know what's going on."

Hackworth, who lied about his age and enlisted when he was 15, has served for 25 years and is in an excellent position to make general. But he said he's quitting because he's "just disgusted" with the Army in Vietnam, an Army he said was commanded by "amateurs, these ticket-punchers, who run in for six months, a year, and don't even know what the hell it's all about."

Wrong Tactics

The United States had all the assets to win the war, he said, but failed because it tried to fight a guerrilla war with conventional tactics.

"We came in with a conventional army, led by conventional people, and all the tactical concepts, if there were any, were conventional."

"We thought we would steamroll our way through this war as we have every other war, World War I, World War II, Korea. We've won by the output of the assembly line, not by a tactical skill on the ground."

"And you have this tremendous grouping of shallow dilettantes who were running the Army. I'm talking about

battalion and up, who didn't know anything about the situation.

"They were saying, 'It'll be over in a few months, we've got the enemy on the run.'"

"We should have come with real professionals, absolute studs, who would stay until the thing is over, all volunteers. There are many guys who felt like me, who would have stayed over here, who didn't care about going home in a year."

Hackworth is believed to be the most decorated U.S. officer now on active duty. He holds two Distinguished Service Crosses, the Army's second highest award for valor; nine Silver Stars, nine Bronze Stars with V for valor, and eight Purple Hearts.

He has twice commanded U.S. combat battalions in Vietnam, served as senior operations adviser in the central highlands, was deputy senior adviser to the South Vietnamese airborne division at the time of the Cambodian invasion last year and has just completed a year as a senior adviser in the Mekong Delta.