

TOUR 365

HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES MILITARY ASSISTANCE COMMAND, VIETNAM
Office of the Commander
APO San Francisco 96222

Now that your tour of duty with the United States Army, Vietnam has ended, you can look back with perspective on your experiences. You now know the difficult tasks inherent in fighting to help protect the freedom of peace-loving people against Communist invaders. As a veteran, you understand better than many of our countrymen the meaning of North Vietnam's aggression against South Vietnam.

You have seen the horror and destruction created by North Vietnamese soldiers and the local Viet Cong terrorists who kill and maim their own neighbors. You have fought beside soldiers of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Vietnam and other Free World nations in a common struggle of defense. Many of you have worked in hamlet improvement and pacification programs as teachers and builders as well as fighters.

People at home will want to hear your story of the war. Tell it. Regardless of the role you played, part of your story is reflected in the pages of this magazine. I hope this publication will assist you in relating your experiences.

I extend my sincere appreciation for your help in accomplishing our task in Vietnam and my thanks for a job well done. May your trip home and reunion with your family and friends be the pleasant, happy occasion you anticipate.

Creighton W. Abrams

CREIGHTON W. ABRAMS
General, United States Army
Commanding



RICHARD M. NIXON, 1969

It is beyond question that without the American commitment in Vietnam, Asia would be a far different place today. . . . Asian leaders know why we are in Vietnam . . . and urge us to see it through to a satisfactory conclusion.



LYNDON B. JOHNSON, 1965

The central issue of the conflict . . . is the aggression by North Vietnam. . . . If that aggression is stopped, the people and government of South Vietnam will be free to settle their own future—and get on with the great tasks of national development.



JOHN F. KENNEDY 1961

. . . The United States is determined to help Vietnam preserve its independence, protect its people against Communist assassins, and build a better life through economic growth.



DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER, 1959

The loss of South Vietnam would set in motion a crumbling process that could, as it progressed, have consequences for us and for freedom.

TOUR 365

For Soldiers Going Home

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Vietnam

in Retrospect

The cathedral at Tay Ninh is the Holy See of the Cao Dai Church. Cao Daism is a blend of Buddhism, Confucianism and Christianity, the major religions of Vietnam.



TO understand the war it is best to understand Vietnam's past. The Vietnamese people have been struggling for independence for nearly 2,000 years.

In 938 A.D., after centuries of Chinese domination, the Vietnamese drove the invaders from the Red River Delta at the Battle of Bach Dang. Attempts to retake the area were repelled. In 946, though by no means out of danger, an independent Vietnam became a reality. With the exception of a 20-year interlude of reoccupation in the early 15th Century, Vietnam remained independent for the next 900 years.

The Ly Dynasty, established in 1009, was the first great Vietnamese reign and, after an interval of confusion, ushered in a period of cultural development, territorial expansion and prosperity. The Ly rulers gave the government the form it retained until the French conquest in the 19th Century.

The role of the emperor was dominant. He was the father of the nation-family—the absolute temporal monarch in whom all power of state resided. And he was the religious head of the realm acting as intermediary between it and heaven. A civil bureaucracy, called the mandarinate, performed the functions of administering the country.

In mid-13th Century, Kublai Khan tried to invade Dai-Viet, as Vietnam was then called. Three times his armies were repelled—the last time in 1287 by an army under General Tran Hung Dao.

The Vietnamese realized that their independence and survival depended on their relationship with China. Knowing their own weakness and making the appropriate gestures to the Chinese, the Vietnamese were allowed to enjoy the maximum degree of independence, but always as a tributary state to China.

European influence reached Vietnam in 1535 when Portugese Captain Antonio de Paria arrived in Da Nang Bay. For a century the Portugese dominated commerce in Vietnam, but they were unable to impose their will on the Vietnamese as they had the West Indians.

The first Catholic missionaries entered Vietnam during the 16th Century. Confucian-oriented officials had their misgivings about the new religion. They suspected it as the forerunner of conquest, and feared its effect upon the traditional order which had been the foundation of the state for centuries.

Missionary activities spread, despite a loosely enforced ban. Christianity was embraced by a substantial portion of the Vietnamese population over the years.

Toward the middle of the 19th Century, pressure mounted in France for the government to take positive action to establish a position on Vietnam. This pressure resulted from an envy of the power other European nations were establishing in Asia and a desire to protect missionaries who were, at times, being persecuted.

In 1858 the French captured the city of Da Nang and in July 1861 they took Saigon. The Vietnamese court at Hue ceded Saigon and the adjacent area to the French and agreed to pay an indemnity. In 1867 the western part of the southern delta was annexed, and the area known as Cochin China (the extreme southern portion of Vietnam) was under French control.

For the next 30 years the French expanded their control over all of Indochina, or what today is North and South Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia.

The basic political structure of French Indochina was completed by 1900. Each of Vietnam's three regions were treated separately although basic policy decisions were made in Paris.

The emperor and the mandarinate remained in both central and north Vietnam; Cochin China was administered directly by the French. The old structure of government remained; however, all major decisions were made by French authorities.

French rule demoralized the emperors and mandarinate, tending to turn them into self-seekers and yes men.

French colonialism also had profound economic effects on the region. Absentee ownership grew as large scale agricultural and rubber plantations appeared. Prosperous Vietnamese moved into the cities, and more and more of the land was tilled by peasants who did not own it. Largescale canal systems were dug in the Mekong Delta to exploit rice production. By the early 20th Century the French had managed to produce a rice surplus.

European ideas and culture permeated the country, especially among the mandarin classes. Western thought also stimulated another movement—growing Vietnamese nationalism.

Early in the 20th Century nationalist movements began to develop, initially among urban intellectuals. Numerous anti-French secret societies developed, however most were loosely organized and had no well-defined political objectives.

Leadership of the clandestine nationalist movement in Vietnam was eventually taken over by the Indochinese Communist Party (Dong Duong Cong San Dang). Formed in Hong Kong in 1930, it united several existing independent Communist groups under the leadership of Nguyen Ai Quoc—later known as Ho Chi Minh.

When France fell to Germany in June of 1940, the Vichy government ceded all of French Indochina to the Japanese. However, the French administration was permitted to remain intact with many lucrative agreements being made between wealthy French interests in Vietnam and the occupying forces.

Meanwhile, Ho Chi Minh had become the leading national political figure in Vietnam. His party

adopted a policy of collaboration with all non-Communist nationalists to broaden the social and political base of its activities. This united front organization was known as the Vietnam Independency League (Viet Nam Doc Lap Dong Minh) or the Viet Minh.

One of the first actions of the Viet Minh was to form guerrilla bands under the direction of Vo Nguyen Giap, operating in Vietnamese territory against the Japanese and French. Although Ho Chi Minh was jailed in 1941, the activities of the Viet Minh continued. Working in nationalist guise, Ho effectively strengthened the organization of Communist cells throughout Vietnam.

In August, 1945, Emperor Bao Dai, fearing the French would return once Japan surrendered, abdicated his throne and handed over power to Ho Chi Minh. French troops re-entered Vietnam in September.

The Viet Minh and French conducted negotiations for a year in an effort to assure some form of independence for Vietnam. By December, 1946, the Viet Minh decided that the only way to achieve an independent Vietnam was through a "war of liberation."

For the next eight years the French fought the Viet Minh. On May 7, 1954, the French army was decisively defeated at Dien Bien Phu.

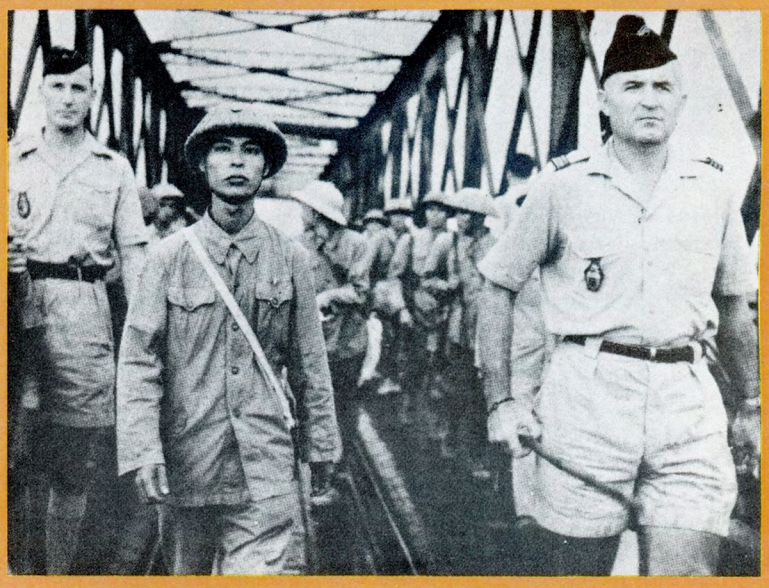
The day after the Battle of Dien Bien Phu the Geneva Conference turned its attention to the French-Indochina War. The conference had been called by the Big Four to discuss the Korean and Indochina problems.

The agreement reached for Vietnam fixed a provisional demarcation line roughly along the 17th parallel and provided for the total evacuation of French military forces, as well as the removal of Viet Minh forces from the South. Freedom of movement between the two sections was guaranteed for 300 days. An international Control Commission was formed to supervise the truce agreements, its members coming from Canada, India and Poland. Finally a provision was made for the holding of general elections throughout Vietnam in 1958.

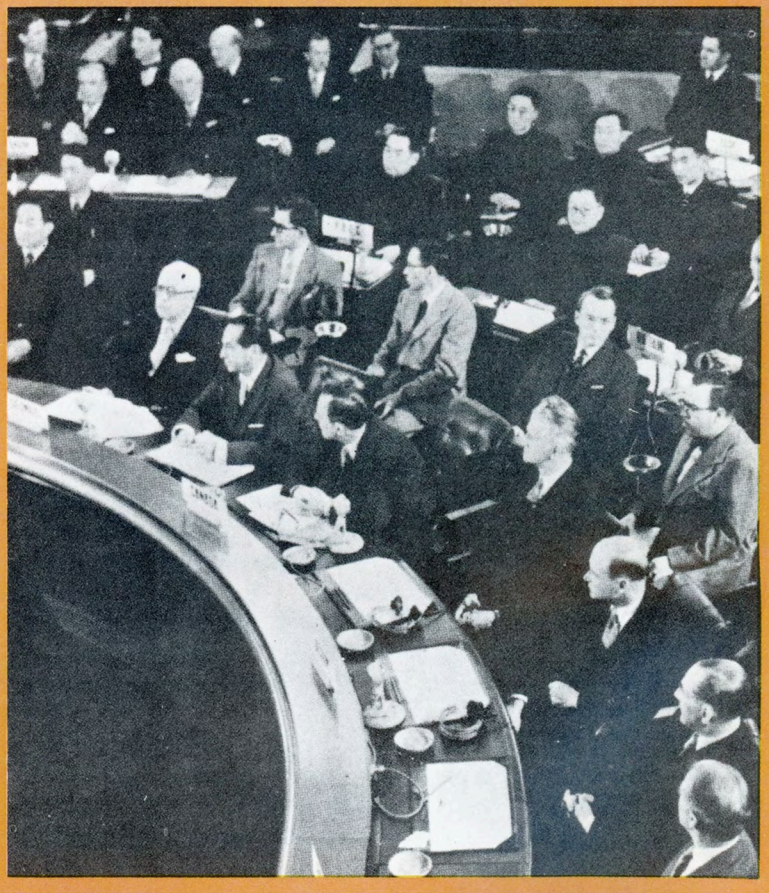
The French proceeded to hand over the controls and administration to the non-Communist Vietnamese with its capital in Saigon. In Hanoi, Ho began the total communization of the nation north of the 17th parallel. He later turned his attention southward.

Despite the cease-fire agreement, a well-organized Viet Minh underground was deliberately left behind in the South. This underground network formed the nucleus of subsequent Communist insurgency originated in Hanoi and directed against the Saigon government.

Vietnam was left divided. The South had a pro-Western government struggling to establish a non-Communist society. In the North Ho Chi Minh was busy organizing a Communist state which would be the base for the realization of his ultimate dream of a unified Communist Vietnam.



The stern faces of victor and vanquished are shown, shortly after the fall of Dien Bien Phu (above). The Geneva Conference opened in April 1954. Participants included Communist China, Laos, Cambodia, South Vietnam and North Vietnam (below).



U.S. Army, Vietnam

. . . and its units



UNITED States Army, Vietnam as we know it on its anniversary, was created on 20 July 1965. But U.S. involvement in Vietnam goes back to the late 1950s with the establishment of the Military Assistance Advisory Group, Indochina.

After committing itself to the defense of Southeast Asia under the Geneva Agreements and the Southeast Asia Defense Treaty, the U.S. set up a Military Assistance Advisory Group in Vietnam to provide economic, technical and military assistance. Military aid and advice was forthcoming until late 1961. Then the Republic of Vietnam declared a state of national emergency on 18 October 1961, and asked the United States for combat troops.

The first complete combat units of American forces arrived in December, together with a support team the 9th Logistical Command on Okinawa. This small team formed the nucleus from which USARV evolved.

As the Army units in country increased, the U.S. Army, Ryukyu Support Group, Provisional, took over logistics control of U.S. units in Vietnam. Further increases in U.S. troops necessitated that the support command be changed to U.S. Army Support Group, Vietnam.

During 1965 the increase of U.S. forces was rapid, and, with the arrival of the additional combat units, the U.S. Army Support Command, Vietnam, was redesignated United States Army, Vietnam. Increased roles in combat operations spurred the creation of two subordinate field commands, I Field Force, Vietnam, and II Field Force, Vietnam. I FFV was located at Nha Trang to command U.S. Army units in II Corps Tactical Zone; II FFV was located in III Corps to command Army units there.

General Bruce Palmer, Jr. then USARV deputy commanding general, paid tribute to the men of USARV on their second anniversary in 1967 when he named USARV "a fighting command of dedicated soldiers, young and not so young, career men and citizen-soldiers, but All-Americans in the truest sense".

The United States Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) was established on 8 February 1962, as a unified command subordinate to the Commander in Chief, Pacific. MACV has the mission of assisting the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces to maintain internal security against subversion and insurgency and to esist external aggression.

With headquarters in Saigon, MACV controls all of the United States Armed Forces in Vietnam. MACV is involved in two basic activities. Its forces constantly seek to engage the enemy in combat on the ground and territorial waters of South Vietnam, to provide assistance to the constitutional government of Vietnam in building and maintaining a free society capable of defending itself.





I FIELD FORCE

I Field Force was organized in August, 1965, as Task Force Alpha to control all US Army forces in Vietnam. Shortly, however, the mission was changed to control over forces in II Corps. In November, 1965, Task Force Alpha was renamed Field Force Vietnam. The command became I Field Force in March, 1966, when a second field force was organized in III Corps.

Currently, the major units under operational control of I Field Force include the 4th Infantry Division; the 173rd Airborne Brigade; Task Force South; the 17th Combat Aviation Group; and Company B, 5th Special Forces Group. The battalions of I Field Force Artillery provide support for all major US and allied combat operations. The complex communications network in II Corps is operated by the 54th Signal Battalion.

Task Force South was organized in July, 1968, to increase pressure on enemy forces operating in the four southern provinces of II Corps. It is a force made up of combat units from the 173d and the 101st, with armor, helicopter and artillery support. Task Force South's command element is co-located with the Light Infantry Command Post of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) 23d Infantry Division. Coordinated operations have resulted.



II FIELD FORCE

II Field Force Vietnam was first welcomed to Vietnam's shores on March 15, 1966. II Field Force traces its lineage to its predecessor, the XXII U.S. Army Corps. Formed in January, 1944, it saw action in World War II in the Rhineland and Central Europe Campaigns. Inactivated at the end of the war, it was reactivated in January, 1966 at Fort Hood, Texas where it received a new name, II Field Force.

II Field Force, Vietnam, had operational control of five major units: the 1st and 25th Infantry Divisions, the 173d Airborne Brigade, the 12th Combat Aviation and 23d Artillery Groups. With exception of the 173d, these units are still with the Force.

The next three years saw the addition of many more U.S. and Free World Military Forces. Attached to and still with the Force are elements of the 9th Infantry Division, the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), the 1st Australian Task Force, the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, the 54th Artillery Group, the Royal Thai Army Volunteer Force, the 3d Brigade, 82d Airborne Division, the 199th Light Infantry Brigade, and a long range reconnaissance company.



XXIV CORPS

A retired veteran of the Pacific fighting of World War II, XXIV Corps is back on the scene. The newest major command to join the Vietnam conflict was reactivated on 15 August 1968, and became operational in the Northern I Corps Tactical Zone. The Corps area of responsibility includes the Demilitarized Zone and all but a small fraction of the two northern-most provinces of Quang Tri and Thua Thien.

Two battle tested divisions—the 3d Marine with the 1st Brigade of the 5th Infantry (Mechanized) under operational control and the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile)—comprise the combat nucleus. Supporting artillery, Marine air units and Naval patrol elements also operate with the Corps. Arrayed with the US teams is the tough and aggressive 1st Vietnamese Army Division.

Spawned from the 1968 Tet Offensive, first as MACV Forward and later as Provisional Corps, XXIV Corps has been continuously on the offensive. Combined operations keynote the action.

Typical of this was an operation conducted on Vinh Loc Island. Elements of the 101st Airborne Division, 1st ARVN Division, paramilitary units, Naval air and police units, all working together, surprised and overwhelmed the enemy. The speed and timing of the onslaught so completely caught the enemy off balance that more than 600 NVA and VC were killed or captured with only three Allied killed.

1ST LOGISTICAL COMMAND



On 20 September 1950, the 1st Logistical Command was activated at Ft. McPherson, Ga., with 15 officers and 35 enlisted men. Its early years were spent at Ft. McPherson and later at Ft. Bragg, N.C.; the command's varied responsibilities during this period included participation in logistical exercises and assisting in the testing and evaluation of new logistics doctrine and organization.

In July, 1958, 1st Log was designated a major unit of the Strategic Army Corps, and during the next three years it was responsible for administrative and logistical support to contingency forces of the corps. During the Berlin crisis, 1st Log deployed to France and became a major unit of the Communications Zone, Europe. After nearly a year of service in Europe, the command returned to the United States and was based at Ft. Hood, Texas. As US military involvement in Vietnam increased, an urgent requirement developed for immediate and responsive combat service support. On 1 April 1965, 1st Log was established in Saigon to meet the challenge.

By the end of 1965, less than a year after establishment, 1st Log's strength had increased to more than 22,000 personnel.

During 1966, 1st Log became the largest single major command in Vietnam as its military personnel strength increased to 50,000.

1ST AVIATION BRIGADE



On the frontless war in Vietnam, more than 2,000 rotary and fixed-wing aircraft from the 1st Aviation Brigade give ground commanders an "extra edge" in closing with the enemy and defeating him in combat. Never before in military history has a ground commander approached the capability with which today he can find the enemy, conduct route and area reconnaissance, deploy infrantrymen where the enemy is, deliver sustained firepower and supplies, control the ground battle from the air, adjust artillery and air strikes, and evacuate the wounded soldiers.

Established in May, 1966, the 1st Aviation Brigade consistently supplies the "extra edge" with which the ground commander can keep pressure on the enemy, maintain contact in fluid situations, cut off the enemy's withdrawal and complete the destruction or capture of his forces. Flying in support of US and allied forces, the brigade has been on all types of missions, including tactical combat assaults, direct fire support, aerial reconnaissance, medevac, troop lift, cargo hauling, evacuation of Vietnamese civilians from battle areas and actions in support of the revolutionary development program.

In 1968, the brigade carried more than five million troops in almost two million sorties, flying more than 1.2 million hours to accomplish this monumental mission.

1ST SIGNAL BRIGADE



From a satellite in orbit 18,200 miles above the Pacific Ocean to a courier on a dusty Vietnamese road, the 1st Signal Brigade passes the word into, out of and within Southeast Asia.

With more than 19,000 men scattered among 274 sites in Vietnam and Thailand, the unit is the largest brigade ever formed. Its mission: furnishing most of the communications-electronics support in Southeast Asia.

Since its organization on 1 April 1966, the brigade has fulfilled this mission by planning, engineering, installing, operating and maintaining both the Southeast Asian portion of the Army's worldwide strategic communications system and extensive area communications systems in Vietnam and Thailand.

All communications entering or leaving Vietnam must pass through facilities operated by the brigade. The brigade consists of six subordinate signal groups, five in Vietnam and one in Thailand. In the three years of it's existence the 1st Signal Brigade has provided communications of a scope never before achieved in a combat zone. The primary mission is to communicate—but when the situation arises, the 1st Signal Brigade will "fight as infantry."



1ST INFANTRY DIVISION

For 51 years the 1st Infantry Division has lived by its motto, "No mission too difficult, no sacrifice too great, duty first." Organized in 1917 by Major General John J. Pershing, the Big Red One was the first division to see action in Europe during World War I. Again in World War II the Big Red One was the first to reach Britain and land in North Africa, Sicily and France. It was also the first US Army infantry division to reach Vietnam.

The bulk of the 1st Infantry Division reached Vietnam in October 1965 after the 2d Brigade's advance party had arrived in July. The division established basecamps with its headquarters at Di An (later, headquarters was moved to Lai Khe). Operations against the enemy were begun immediately.

The 1st Infantry Division's mission of defending the cities and pacifying the countryside is not being done with weapons alone. The division actively participates in civic action programs aimed at encouraging the Vietnamese to help themselves. At the same time, the civic action program is geared to improving the living, health and educational standards of the people. Together with the Vietnamese people the men of the Big Red One have been fulfilling their mission of protecting life and freedom so that the people can pursue their own future.



4TH INFANTRY DIVISION

The history of the 4th Infantry Division dates back to 1917 when the Famous Fourth was formed at Camp Greene, N.C. During the First World War, Ivymen fought in the campaigns for Aisne-Marne, St. Mihiel and Meuse-Argonne. In the Meuse-Argonne, the Fourth achieved its initial triumph by cracking the Hindenburg line and stopping the Kaiser's all-out drive to Paris. At Normandy the 4th Division smashed ashore on Utah Beach and later spearheaded the drive on Cherbourg. The hard-driving 4th Infantry Division elements were the first US troops into Paris and the first Allied troops to set foot on German soil.

In 1966, the division deployed to Vietnam in four major increments. The 2nd Brigade landed in August and by 13 October the entire division was in Vietnam. Ivymen wasted little time going into action. On 18 October, the Famous Fourth launched Operation Paul Revere IV west of Pleiku. Since that time the men of the division have continued to meet and defeat the enemy, particularly distinguishing themselves in battles at Dak To, Pleiku and Kontum.



9TH INFANTRY DIVISION

The 9th Infantry Division—the Old Reliables—was first organized 18 July 1918 at Camp Sheridan, Ala., but was demobilized in February 1919 shortly after the war ended. It was redesignated a Regular Army unit in 1923, though remaining inactive. Reactivation took place on 1 August 1940 at Fort Bragg, N.C., and subsequently the division took part in action in North Africa, on the Normandy beaches, across France, Belgium and Germany. Following World War II the division underwent a series of inactivations and reactivations, with the most current call to duty being on 1 February 1966 at Fort Riley, Kans.

When the division first began landing in Vietnam at Vung Tau on 19 December 1966, a new chapter in its history opened. The unit's 3rd Brigade became the first American infantry unit to establish a permanent base in the Mekong Delta at Dong Tam in mid-January. During the division's first year it established itself as a tough fighting force in actions at Bau Bang, Rach Kien, and the Ap Bac. In mid-1967 the Mobile Riverine Force was established, to transport infantrymen more easily throughout the river laced Delta.

When the enemy launched his 1968 Tet attacks, the Old Reliables reacted with swift precision to gain decisive victories, accounting for almost 2,000 VC killed. In July, 1968, the 9th Division was presented the Vietnamese Valor Award, Army Level.

25TH INFANTRY DIVISION



On 1 October 1941, the 25th Infantry Division was born. On 7 December 1941. the 25th Infantry Division was mature. It had to be. For the 25th was called to defend the shores of Hawaii after the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor.

Within a year of that day of infamy, Tropic Lightning troops were on the offensive in the Pacific. From Guadalcanal through the northern chain of Solomon Islands to Arundel Island and Kolombangara the 25th penetrated Japanese strongholds.

After World War II. the Tropic Lightning Division helped occupy Japan, remaining until 1950 when they were again called into combat in Korea. It was the division's heroics at Pusan that earned for the division its first Korean Presidential Unit Citation. For three years Tropic Lightning battled seasoned North Korean and Chinese Communist soldiers.

In 1954, the 25th was back in Hawaii. By 1963 the division was providing men for Vietnam and in late 1965 the 3rd Brigade moved. By April, 1966 the division was totally in combat. The present chapter of the 25th's history is still being written. Since the division has been in Vietnam, more than 188,000 Viet Cong and North Vietnamese soldiers have died at the hands of Tropic Lightning infantrymen, cavalrymen and artillerymen.

AMERICAL DIVISION



Born in the steamy jungles and mountains of New Caledonia during World War II, the Americal Division is the Army's only named Division on active duty. It is also the largest infantry division operating in South Vietnam with three light infantry brigades and a squadron of armored cavalry.

The current Americal Division got its start in Vietnam as Task Force Oregon in April, 1967, marking the first time that Army troops were employed in I Corps. The task force initially moved into the Quang Ngai and Quang Tin provinces of southern I Corps to ease the pressure on Marines operating near the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ). On 25 September 1967, Task Force Oregon was reconstituted and redesignated as the Americal Division. The division is under the operational control of the III Marine Amphibious Force and the only division in the Army that works directly for the Marine Corps.

The rugged terrain of southern I Corps, where the Americal Division makes its home at Chu Lai, runs the gamut from marshy, coastal lowlands to triple canopy jungle on steep mountain slopes. Enemy forces operating the area against Americal soldiers include not only Viet Cong guerrillas and main force units, but also elements of the 2nd and 3rd North Vietnamese Army Divisions.

1ST CAVALRY DIVISION (AIRMOBILE)



From 13 September 1921, when the 1st Cavalry Division was formed at Fort Bliss, Texas, until today, when the first airmobile division in the Army has demonstrated its mastery of the terrain and the enemy in Vietnam, the big golden patch with the black horse's head has been worn by members of a combat outfit second to none.

The 1st Cavalry Division arrived in Vietnam on 14 September 1965. Less than two months later it won a Presidential Unit Citation by routing heavy enemy concentrations around the Xa Drang Valley in the II Corps Tactical Zone. In the next 13 months, Skytroopers participated in five major operations.

In January 1968 the division moved north to I Corps, arriving in time to blunt the enemy's Tet offensive. After a grueling struggle to the walls of Hue in February, the Skytroopers moved swiftly in April to relieve the encircled Marine base at Khe Sanh. Vaulting over obstacles by helicopter, they opened communications to Khe Sanh in a matter of days. The enemy was again routed when the division airlifted two brigades into the A Shau Valley, long an enemy sanctuary and supply base, where huge caches of food and weapons fell to allies.

After a summer in which the enemy was regularly defeated. the Cav moved once more—south to III Corps, where it took up positions along the Cambodian border northwest of Saigon.



101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION

The 101st Airborne Division was activated 15 August 1942 at Camp Claiborne, La. Beginning with a handful of volunteers, the division was trained and combat ready a year later with two parachute infantry regiments and two glider regiments. The unit shipped out for England in the fall of 1943.

On 6 June 1944—D-Day—Captain Frank L. Lillyman of the 101st's Pathfinder platoon became the first American soldier to land in occupied France. After 33 days of continuous combat, the division was pulled back to England. It returned to the lines on 18 December with the mission of holding Bastogne, stopping a German thrust toward Brussels. Immediately surrounded, the Srceaming Eagles held Bastogne against the attacks of eight Nazi divisions.

Following World War II, the division's fortunes fluctuated. It was inactivated and reactivated, as a training division, three times in 11 years.

In mid-1965, the 101st's 1st Brigade and organic supporting elements departed for the Republic of Vietnam. The balance of the division completed its arrival in Vietnam on 13 December 1967. The 101st Airborne Division has fought from Saigon in the south to Quang Tri, Hue and Phuoc Vinh in the north, consistantly meeting and beating the enemy.



173RD AIRBORNE BRIGADE

The 173rd Airborne Brigade was formed in May 1963 in Okinawa and the brigade went to work training for the type of warfare it would encounter in Vietnam.

The 173rd, better known as the Sky Soldiers, was deployed to Vietnam in May 1965 and was the first major Army ground combat unit to arrive in country. It is conducting operations east of the central highlands, north to I Corps, south to Tuy Hoa and west to An Khe. The Brigade is also used as a strike force to other spots in the Corps.

Among the responsibilities of the Brigade are: reconnaissance-in-force operations throughout its geographical area; security of Highway 19 from An Khe to Mangyang Pass, the main logistical link between the coastal port of Qui Nhon and the Central Highlands; security of Highway QL 1 from Qui Nhon to I Corps (South Vietnam's only north-south highway), and protection of the villages and rice harvests in the heavily populated agricultural regions along the coast.

The Brigade distinguished itself in the battle of Dak To in November 1967. Brigade elements fought with an entrenched North Vietnamese Army Regiment on Hill 875, and in some of the most bitter fighting of the war, captured the hill on Thanksgiving Day. Over 800 enemy were killed.



3RD BRIGADE, 82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION

The 3rd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division was activated in 1917 as the 156th Infantry Brigade, an element of the 78th Division. In May, 1964, the Brigade was reorganized as the 3rd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division. When the 3rd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division jumped into Florida, 22 January 1968, little did the paratroopers realize that they would be fighting in Vietnam less than one month later. But on 13 February the advance party departed Pope AFB, N.C., for Vietnam. On the afternoon of Valentine's Day the huge airlift began; an operation which was to require 155 C-141's and six C-133's before it was over. The "All Americans" were on the way to Vietnam.

Landing at Chu Lai, the brigade had just begun to muster itself from its deployment when it moved again. The "All Americans" were attached to the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) and given the mission to protect the ancient capital of Hue in the I Corps sector. In the fall of 1968, the Brigade moved again, this time to the Capital Military District, with the task of protecting the western flanks of Saigon from enemy attacks.

1ST BRIGADE, 5TH INFANTRY DIVISION (MECH)



The 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized) is not yet a year old in terms of Vietnam experience but its units have used the organization's unique combination of heavy firepower and mobility to good advantage.

The brigade was reorganized in March, 1968 for Vietnam deployment. On arrival in Vietnam the brigade relieved elements of the 3rd Marine Division in positions along the Demilitarized Zone, and began sweeps and patrols into the buffer area. Action was fierce and fast.

Since November, 1968 the 1st Brigade has been fighting a different kind of war, having moved a few miles south of the DMZ to the Quang Tri area for search and clear, cordon and sweep operations. The brigade spends much of its time working with the Vietnamese Army and is constantly conducting a variety of civic action activities.

199TH LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE



The primary mission of the 199th Light Infantry Brigade is to assist in the defense of Saigon, including the guarding of major infiltration corridors into the capital city. The brigade arrived in Vietnam 12 December 1966. The bitterest and bloodiest battle for the unit in 1967 came 6 December, 5 miles north of Tan Uyen village, when the enemy was soundly defeated.

The 1968 Tet Offensive began 31 January with a 3 a.m. rocket attack against II FFV Headquarters, Long Binh Post, and Bien Hoa Air Base. With several elements of the 275th VC Regiment similtaneously attacking the II Field Force-199th perimeter, the Redcatchers killed over 500 enemy in the first 14 hours of the attack, and after three days had been credited with more than 900 enemy killed.

During the 31 January Long Binh attacks the Brigade's 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry was helicoptered into Saigon to retake the Phu Tho Racetrack from enemy forces who had infiltrated the capital and were using the racetrack as a command post. The track was taken within eight hours and for the next two days, the battalion engaged in house-to-house fighting in the Cholon Sector.

Since May, 1968 brigade action has been characterized by light and sporadic contact with enemy forces during numerous reconnaissance-in-force operations around Saigon.

11TH ARMORED CAVALRY REGIMENT



For 67 years the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment—Blackhorse—has been known for its ability to perform its mission through preparedness of both men and material. From its birth as a horse cavalry regiment at Fort Myer, Va., in 1901 to its present status as a light armored, completely mobile reconnaissance force, the 11th Cav has continuously added to its proud tradition.

Soon after it was formed the regiment won its spurs in the Philippines and it was in these trying first years that the Blackhorse earned its motto, "Allons" (Let's Go). Since then the regiment has served in the Mexican War, World War II and now Vietnam.

The regiment arrived in Vietnam in September, 1966, and has been in almost constant contact with the enemy. It has opened roads and cleared large areas formerly dominated by the Viet Cong. Its variety of missions have taken the Blackhorse from southeast Long Knanh Province to Loc Ninh in northern Binh Long Province.



5TH SPECIAL FORCES GROUP

Since 1962 when the 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), 1st Special Forces began deploying teams to Vietnam on six months temporary duty, the men of Special Forces have been carrying on the tradition of bringing freedom from oppression to the people of South Vietnam. In October, 1964, the 5th Special Forces Group Headquarters moved to the Republic on Vietnam and began a more intensified campaign in carrying out the group's mission to advise the Vietnamese Special Forces and assist them in their operations against the Viet Cong insurgents through the Civilian Irregular Defence Group (CIDG) program.

The group has also been engaged extensively in Civic Action Projects to improve Agricultural Techniques, and build churches, schools, hospitals and recreation centers.

The unit colors of the 5th Group have 22 campaign streamers, six of which were earned in Vietnam. The Group has also received the Meritorious Unit Citation for service in Vietnam from 1 November 1966 to 31 January 1968.



18TH MILITARY POLICE BRIGADE

From escorting mini-skirted singers to guarding strategic military points, from patrolling the streets of Hue to keeping the highways of the Delta open, the role of the 18th Military Policy Brigade in Vietnam is diversified.

Established on 20 May 1966 and sent to Vietnam on 26 September 1966, the brigade controls all non-divisional MPs from the DMZ down to the middle of the Delta. It is the command element for two MP groups, seven MP battalions, seven infantry companies, a criminal investigation group and a transportation company (patrol boat river). The 18th MP Brigade has been used in a combat support role in addition to its normal police function. In this combat support role the MPs provide convoy escorts, highway and bridge security, refugee and detainee evacuation and traffic control.

The 18th MP Brigade also has control of a 22 square mile area as its own tactical area of responsibility. This responsibility covers not only military operations but also civic action programs.



44TH MEDICAL BRIGADE

The 44th Medical Brigade is the Army's major medical command in Vietnam, and it controls 165 medical support units and over 9,000 personnel. The Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment was constituted in the Regular Army on 30 December 1965 and then activated on New Year's Day 1966 at Ft. Sam Houston, Texas, Ordered to Vietnam, the brigade arrived in Saigon and set up its headquarters in a group of villas in April, 1966. Becoming operational in May, the brigade was reassigned directly under US Army Vietnam and one month later moved its headquarters to Long Binh. The mission of the 44th Medical Brigade is to provide medical service support to US Army personnel, Free World Military Assistance Forces personnel, and other categories of personnel as directed.



18TH ENGINEER BRIGADE

The 18th Engineer Brigade was formed 29 July 1921, as the 347th Engineers (General Service) in the Organized Reserves. It was ordered into active military service 6 May 1942, at Camp Clairborne, La., and redesignated the 347th Engineer General Service Regiment. For its service in Normandy, Northern France, the Rhineland, and Central Europe during World War II, the unit received the Meritorious Unit Commendation. After the war, it was deactivated in Germany. Redesignated the 18th Engineer Brigade, it was reactivated at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. on 25 October 1954. On 26 March 1963, it was again deactivated, but on 16 July 1965. was activated at Fort Bragg, N.C., and prepared for deployment to Vietnam. An advance party of the brigade arrived in Vietnam on 3 September 1965, and became operational two weeks later.

Units of the 18th Engineer Brigade have constructed everything from depots to seaports, airfields to orphanages throughout central and northern Vietnam.



20TH ENGINEER BRIGADE

The history of the 20th Engineer Brigade extends back to the Civil War. The unit was constituted on 3 August 1861. Unit designations have changed many times since then but the ancestors of the 20th Engineer Brigade have participated in campaigns in the Civil War, the War with Spain, the Philippine Insurrection, the Mexican Expedition and World Wars I and II.

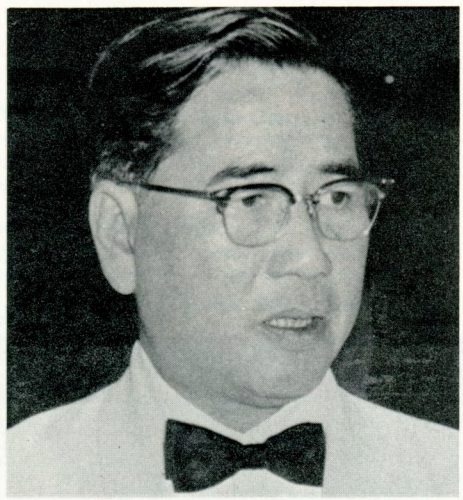
The brigade headquarters was reactivated 1 May 1967 and arrived in Vietnam on 3 August 1967. The 20th Brigade missions are to command assigned and attached units; provide operational support for US and Free World Forces; plan and execute construction, and to provide for physical security of personnel, equipment, facilities, and construction sites of assigned or attached units. Working to accomplish this mission, elements of the 20th Engineer Brigade have accumulated some fantastic achievements in more than 150 locations, having supplied housing or other facilities for most of the 400,000 US and Free World Forces operating in the III and IV Corps Tactical Zones.

In the Beginning

. . . 1954—1961

These people were enjoying a stroll when Viet Cong bombs exploded.





THE result of the Geneva Accords of 1954 was creation of a North and South Vietnam. Although the United States was not an active participant in bringing about the end of the Indochina War, our government worked quietly behind the scenes.

At the same time groundwork for the South East Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO) was being laid. In September the treaty was signed in Manila. South Vietnam was included in the treaty as a "protocol state" with the signatories accepting the obligation, if asked by the government of South Vietnam, to take action in response to armed attack against South Vietnam and to consult on appropriate measures if South Vietnam were subjected to subversive activities.

President Eisenhower instituted economic aid for the new country in late 1954 and thus began active American interest in South Vietnam.

To understand the events following we must look at the development of North Vietnam; the rise of the Viet Cong and their assistance from the North; and the increased economic and military aid to the South furnished by the United States.

Ho Chi Minh began an immediate consolidation of forces. Many Communists moved north of the 17th parallel—an estimated 90,000—while thousands of selected party members were ordered to remain behind. They were told to hide their weapons and wait for the call.

Hanoi presumed the South would fall by subversion and force would not be necessary. When the South became more and more prosperous, in spite of Communist penetration of South Vietnamese government agencies and attempts at agitation and propaganda, it came as a shock to the Communists.

Agitators and agents were being exposed by the people, causing morale to drop in the Communist ranks and many defections to occur. Compounding the problems of the North, per capita food output dropped by 10 per cent, as the South's improved by 20 per cent. Authorities in the North openly admitted that food production goals were not being reached.

Despite North Vietnam's vastly larger industrial complex, the South's per capita gross national product was more than 50 per cent higher—$110 per person versus $70 per person (1960 estimate). The North's failures coupled with the South's successes caused a major revision in overall strategy. Military forces would have to be employed to take over the South!

By 1958 the plan became obvious. In 1959 the pace of terrorism accelerated, and recruiting for the Viet Cong was stepped up.

Communist propaganda tried to exploit the confusion by stating the South's government was falling apart and was unable to protect its people. The entire campaign was being directed from the North.

The National Liberation Front appeared on December 20, 1960, announcing its foundation and program. It called for the overthrow of the "disguised colonial regime of the United States imperialists and the dictatorial Diem administration."

Communist propaganda tried to establish that the acts of terror were from popular discontent with Ngo Dinh Diem and his palace regime. It insisted the Viet Cong obtained their weapons by capturing them from American and French sources.

Elaborate precautions were taken to prevent discovery of North Vietnam's support of the southern Communist organization. Reliable sources estimate 40,000 trained military personnel infiltrated from

OPPOSING LEADERS

President Ngo Dinh Diem of South Vietnam was a constant target of Communist propaganda.



Ho Chi Minh felt that North Vietnam could subjugate the south through subversion.

North to South Vietnam through Laos in the five-year period from 1959 through 1964.

When an infiltrator arrives at the Laotian border, his North Vietnamese army uniform is exchanged for a Lao "neutralist" uniform. He must give up all personal effects of an incriminating nature. A local guide takes him halfway to the first of a series of way stations along the infamous Ho Chi Minh Trail. There he is met by the next guide until the process has led the infiltrator into South Vietnam.

In South Vietnam he receives a black pajama-like uniform, two unmarked uniforms, rubber sandals, a sweater, a hammock, mosquito netting and waterproof sheeting. After being issued a three- to five-day supply of food and medicines, he is assigned to a unit for operations.

The other infiltration route was by sea. Agents departed from ports just north of the 17th parallel with false identity papers of innocent-looking fishing vessels. However, this route has become virtually closed with improved patrolling by the South Vietnamese with U.S. Navy assistance.

The Geneva Accords called for a general election in 1955 to unite the two parts of Vietnam. In that year the South Vietnamese government under Diem rejected the possibility of a free election. The North protested loudly, but without sincerity. After the Geneva Accords, a high North Vietnamese official, Pham Van Dong, was asked who he thought would win such an election. He replied, "You know as well as I do that there won't be any elections."

Hanoi was determined to conquer the South with classic guerrilla tactics. The plan called for the three-phased warfare outlined in Mao Tse-tung's early writings. One, the enemy is harassed and weakened by guerrilla attacks. Two, he is engaged in mobile warfare by units up to battalion size. And finally, in all-out warfare by regular forces, the ultimate victory is won.

Phase one of the battle occurred from 1954 to about 1960. During this period the United States had first assisted the Vietnamese government with economic aid and then added military advisors to assist the country's military and police forces.

Other countries of Europe and Asia and the Americans had economically helped the fledgling South. U.S. aid totalled about $1.5 billion between 1954 and 1961.

In 1960 the guerrilla warfare intensified and by 1961 had reached a point of open warfare. By now the Viet Cong was reinforced by practically the entire 325th North Vietnamese Regular Army Division. Communist arms and equipment had standardized the supply system of the Viet Cong.

The American advisory forces had grown to approximately 700 men by 1961. It was apparent more assistance was needed to meet the expanded Communist military threat.

In that year President Kennedy made the decision to increase America's commitment to South Vietnam by increasing the number of advisors and by adding pilots and supporting personnel. The President felt he could not abandon South Vietnam without undesirable consequences throughout Asia and the world.

The decision had been made. South Vietnam would not be abandoned. The United States would assist in stopping the spread of aggression in Southeast Asia. In the next three years more decisions would be made. Decisions that would prove America, indeed, was not allowing a "Red wave" to sweep over Asia. A decision that would lead to your tour of 365 days in Vietnam.



A hard core Viet Cong soldier is taken into custody by Vietnamese Army Rangers (right). South Vietnamese forces under attack by VC unload supplies from a U.S. helicopter in early days of the conflict (below).



The Darkest Era ... 1961—1964



Vo Chi Cong—Born 1921 in Quang Nam Province, Vo Chi Cong joined the Communist revolutionaries in his teens. He is one of the major founders of the National Liberation Front and probably a key figure in the People's Revolutionary Party—yet he is a relative unknown.



Tran Nam Trung—Born in North Vietnam in 1913, Tran is a militant revolutionary. He is formerly an NVA officer, but is now secretary general of the People's Revolutionary Party, which claims to represent the South Vietnamese people.

THE situation was becoming critical in South Vietnam. The Diem Government asked for increased U.S. assistance in October 1961. The American government responded immediately.

Advisors were increased. Supply personnel and helicopter units were also sent to assist the struggling nation. A small logistical team arrived in December 1961, followed by two Army aviation companies. The entire group numbered fewer than 500 men.

The first aviation company, the 57th Transportation Company (Light Helicopter), to arrive was put into operation immediately. Ten days after arrival the unit's Shawnee helicopters were flying Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) troops into combat.

The 57th was quickly followed by the 8th Transportation Company. Both units were later redesignated; the 57th became the 120th Aviation Company and the 8th was renamed the 117th Aviation Company.

The remaining new troops were assigned directly as advisors to ARVN units or to the U.S. Army Support Group, Vietnam, the forerunner of the United States Army, Vietnam.

Each ARVN Corps had U.S. Army advisory teams attached. They brought their specialized knowledge in aviation, logistics, planning, ordnance, medical services, communications, artillery and use of paramilitary forces to assist in the battle.

Advisory teams and detachments were dispatched down to battalion level. The arrival of the first elements of the 5th Special Forces Group in 1962 saw special warfare detachments assigned to remote or primitive areas to teach Montagnards and similar groups how to defend themselves.

South Vietnam was in serious danger of being overrun by Communist forces in 1961. Approximately 65 per cent of the country was completely or partially under Viet Cong control.

Warfare was leaving the terrorist stage and was now entering into the stage of small unit attacks on strategic hamlets and lightly defended villages, although terror attacks were still common as a psychological weapon against the people.

The Communist party in South Vietnam, called the People's Revolutionary Party (PRP), claimed



A giant Buddha overlooks a Vietnamese youngster and the harbor at Nha Trang.

Phato by Spec. 5 Gordon Gahan

nearly 100,000 members. The PRP overtly asserted it was "the vanguard of the National Liberation Front (NLF), the soul of the NLF."

Although denying any ties with Hanoi, Peking or Moscow, beyond the "fraternal ties of Communism," Radio Hanoi announced the PRP's formation on January 18, 1962.

Claims were being made that the NLF was the true government of South Vietnam. In the countryside, the PRP and its military arm, the Viet Cong, were extracting taxes from the peasants, forcibly impressing thousands into their services and requiring families to provide food, clothing and shelter for them. Whole villages were sometimes required to build bunker and trench systems for guerrillas.

Delegates from the PRP were sent to 30 Asian and African nations, and semi-official diplomatic relations were established with eight Communist countries and three non-Communist governments. These delegates traveled on North Vietnamese passports and used northern currency, although they claimed to represent the South Vietnamese people.

Despite American assistance, the terror attacks were causing an appalling number of casualties. During the period 1959 through 1964 about 20,000 South Vietnamese military had been killed, over 12,000 captured and 35,000 wounded.

On the civilian scene equally shocking devastation was taking place. During 1963 alone, 17,710 civilian casualties resulted from Communist terrorist activities. This figure breaks down as follows:

Assassinated:	
Civilian population	1,558
Local government officials	415
Civil servants	100
Injured	8,375
Kidnaped	7,262

Between January 1, 1961, and August 10, 1964, 181 Americans gave their lives in combat alongside the Vietnamese. More than 900 were wounded during the same period.

The situation was gradually growing more serious. In November 1963 the political scene was disrupted by the overthrow of the South Viet-

namese government and the assassination of President Diem. Almost two years of political unrest and turmoil followed before the crisis was resolved.

The Viet Cong increased their attacks on the people. Refugees flowed into the cities in ever increasing numbers. Saigon's population increased spectacularly. With the refugees were Communist agents.

No longer were the North Vietnamese denying their support of the Viet Cong. It was evident the screen of "civil war" was being cast aside. The North anticipated victory and was striking out in all directions.

Emboldened by their success the North Vietnamese attacked the 7th Fleet in the Tonkin Gulf. On August 2 and 4, 1964, U.S. destroyers were attacked in international waters off the Vietnamese coast by North Vietnamese torpedo boats.

The attack in the Tonkin Gulf proved to be a major blunder on the part of the North. America was quick to react to the attack. President Johnson asked for and received from Congress approval to use all available means to defeat the aggressor in South Vietnam.

The August 7th resolution reads:

"The United States regards as vital to its national interest and to world peace the maintenance of international peace and security in Southeast Asia. Consonant with the Constitution of the United States and the Charter of the United Nations and in accordance with its obligations under the Southeast Asia Collective Defense Treaty, the United States is, therefore, prepared, as the President determines, to take all necessary steps, including the use of armed force, to assist any member or protocol state of the Southeast Asia Collective Defense Treaty requesting assistance in defense of its freedom."

Preparations were made in the United States for the buildup of U.S. forces in South Vietnam. It was apparent that to reverse the Communist threat, ground combat troops would have to be deployed to Vietnam.

Thus, with aggression met by resolve, the darkest era of South Vietnam's history drew to a close. America, joined by other SEATO countries, would respond to South Vietnam's call for assistance.

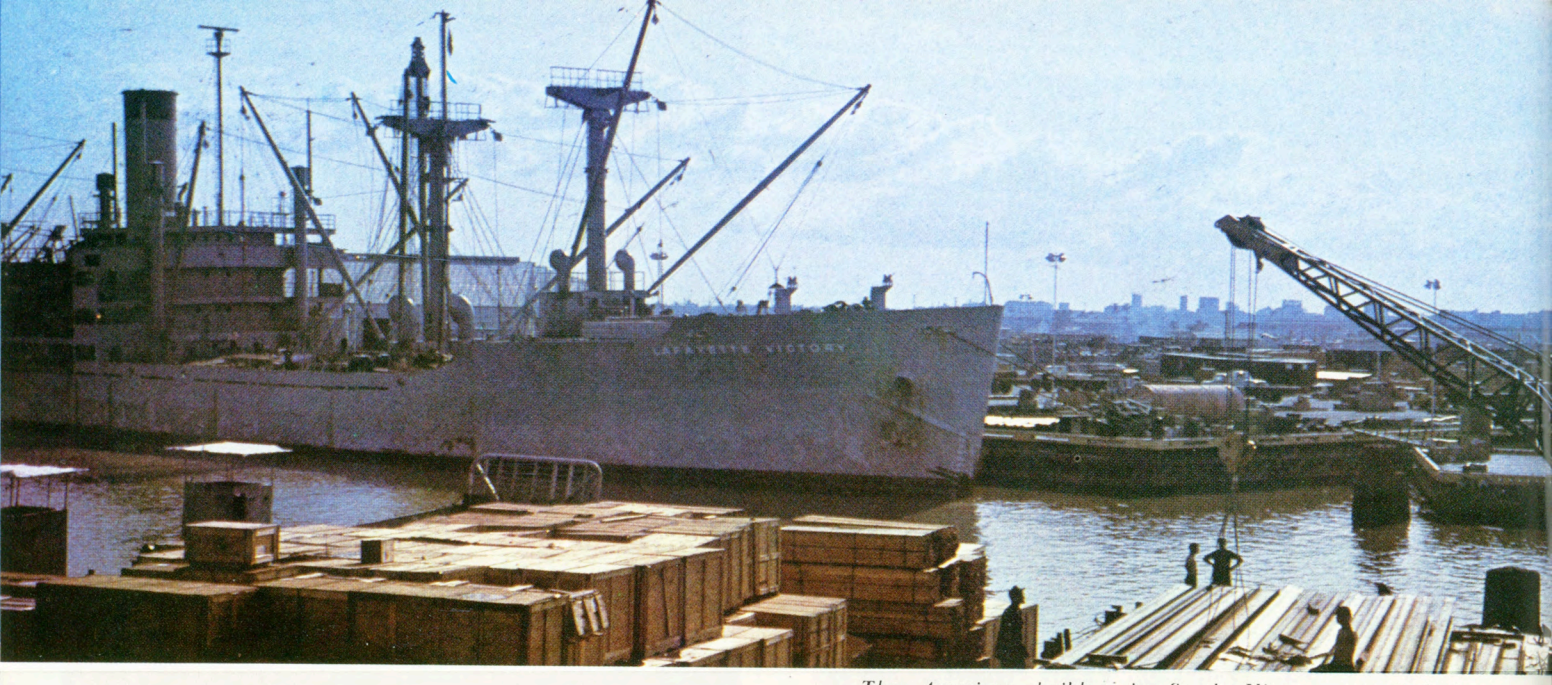


President Johnson requested and received the consent of Congress to use armed force to protect Southeast Asia.



The USS Maddox was attacked off the coast of North Vietnam on August 2, 1964, thus leading to the Tonkin Resolution (above). An Army sergeant aids a wounded Vietnamese child during a savage VC terror attack (below).





The American buildup in South Vietnam required huge amounts of supplies and equipment. Saigon port was a major unloading point.

From Buildup to Counteroffensive

. . . 1965—1966

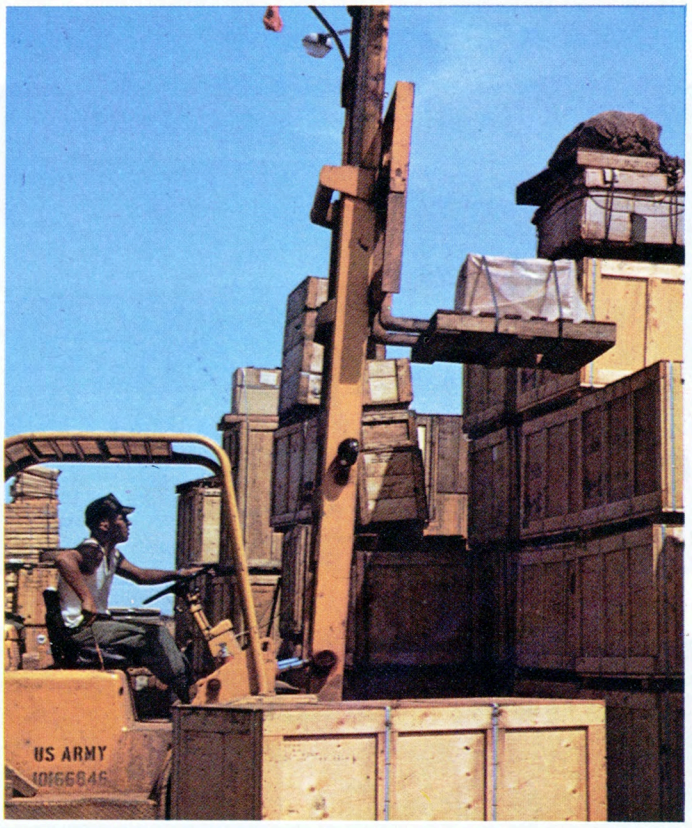
UNITED States involvement in South Vietnam increased sharply during 1965. Other Free World Forces joined in the commitment of ground combat troops. Australia, New Zealand and Korea responded with the United States during the year in answer to the challenge of Communist aggression.

The complexion of the war developed from guerrilla warfare and terrorism to large unit actions on the part of the Viet Cong, reinforced by North Vietnamese regular army units. The South Vietnamese Army and the Communists were now engaging in battalion and larger force actions. Guerrilla actions occurred from time to time, and terror still played a prominent part in the Viet Cong strategy.

On February 7, the Viet Cong attacked a U.S. compound at Pleiku and Camp Holloway nearby. Later that same day U.S. aircraft struck the NVA military barracks just north of the 17th parallel in North Vietnam. Americans were now definitely a Communist target and America was bombing North Vietnam for the first time.

With the war intensifying, President Johnson ordered immediate evacuation of all U.S. dependents in Vietnam. His concern for their safety was warranted, for two days later the VC blew up a hotel in Qui Nhon that housed American enlisted men. Twenty-three died in the attack and 21 were injured. Fourteen Vietnamese were also injured by the attack.

The Viet Cong also suffered a serious loss in February. A supply ship attempting to smuggle



Logistics personnel "humped" supplies from docks to depot and then to the field.



Aerial resupply is one of the jobs performed by the Chinook helicopter, carrying goods either inside or by sling load.

80 tons of arms and ammunition was sunk at Vung Ro Bay.

By mid-March Air Force and Navy aircraft were striking regularly at Communist targets in North and South Vietnam. March also saw the first ground offensive unit from the United States arrive. It was the 3rd Battalion, 9th Marines of the 3rd Marine Division.

Little significant ground action took place during the two months of March and April; however, terror attacks on the Americans continued. A car filled with explosives was driven next to the U.S. Embassy in Saigon. When the explosives detonated a few moments later two Americans and 11 Vietnamese lost their lives while 143 others were injured.

While killing and maiming scores of civilians, the Communists were keeping a steady barrage of propaganda flowing into the international press decrying the American bombing of North Vietnam, claiming hundreds of civilians were becoming casualties from American raids.

In May U.S. forces began to buildup in earnest. The Army's 173rd Airborne Brigade was landed in-country and immediately went into tactical operations around Bien Hoa. They were followed by additional Marines and Seabees landing at Chu Lai in the I Corps Tactical Zone (I CTZ).

The buildup continued in June with the arrival of Australia's first combat troops, the 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment. U.S. combat engineers arrived in force to begin the construction of a deepdraft port and airfield at Cam Ranh Bay. The port was needed to ease the congestion of supply ships at Saigon port.

During this time the VC had been active. A week-long battle around Quang Ngai City resulted in about 500 ARVN casualties. A four-day battle 55 miles northeast of Saigon, resulted in 650 friendly casualties. A bomb exploded in Tan Son Nhut civilian air terminal, injuring 46 persons.

Another terrorist incident occurred at the My Canh floating restaurant in the Saigon River. Two claymore mines cost 44 persons their lives and injured 81 others.

A multi-battalion attack on Duc Hoa showed the Communists were settling into conventional warfare in an attempt for complete victory in 1965. They thought they could overcome the Free World and South Vietnamese Forces before the buildup could be accomplished.

American troops continued to arrive. In July the 2d Brigade, 1st Infantry Division and elements of the 1st Logistical Command added to the strength of military forces in the southern portion of the country. Two Marine battalions bolstered forces in the northern provinces.

Communist forces were increasing on a large scale also. The North Vietnamese Army's (NVA) 101st Regiment was definitely identified as being in South Vietnam and the 18th and 95th NVA Regiments were also believed to be completely within South Vietnam's borders.

In the central section of the country, a tactical headquarters was placed at Nha Trang to control new units arriving in the II CTZ. Originally des-





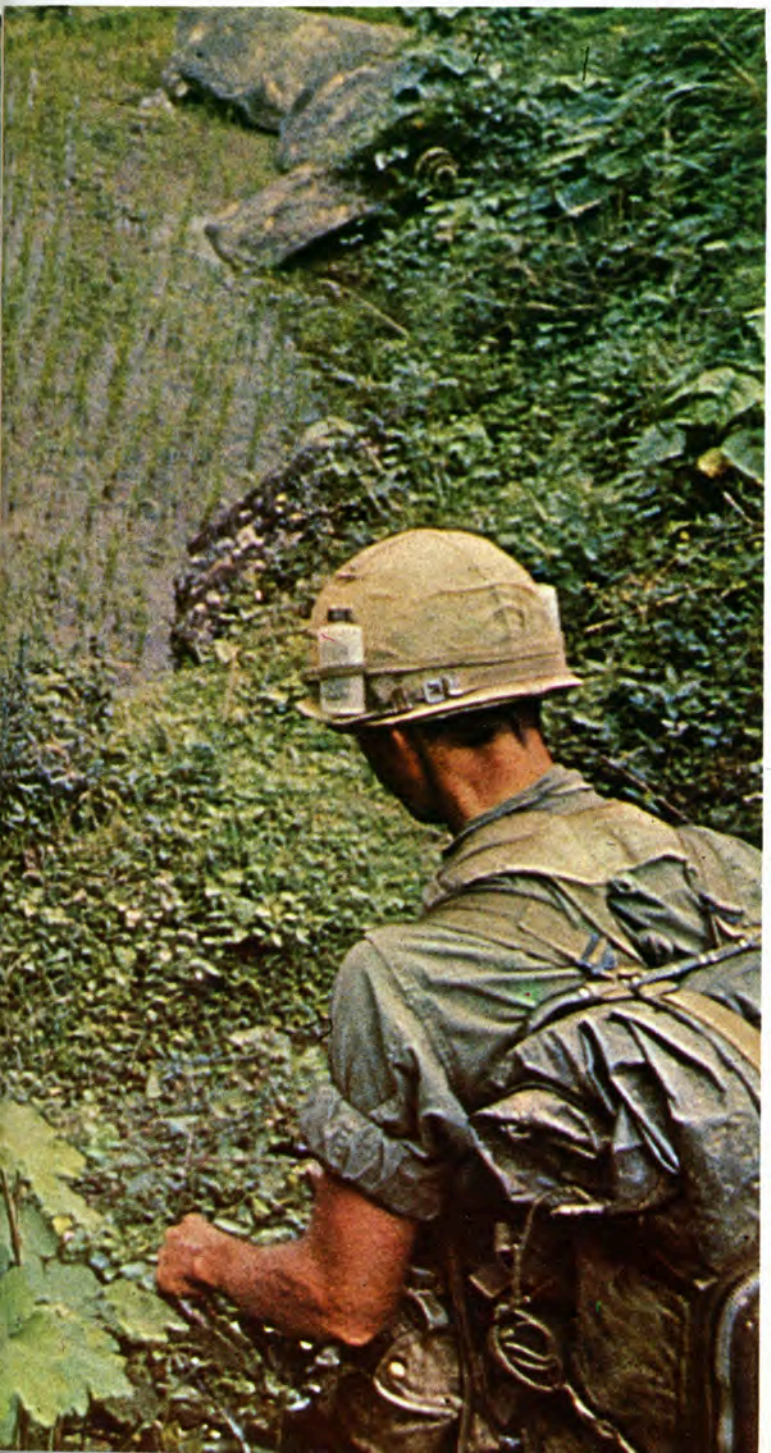
A patrol winds its way through fertile fields in a constant search for the enemy. (below). Nguyen Van Thieu is sworn in as President of South Vietnam (right), and is honored at a parade celebrating the inauguration and National Day (left).



ignated Task Force Alpha, the headquarters later became I Field Force Vietnam (I FFV). The 1st Cavalry Division moved into An Khe while the 173rd Airborne Brigade protected the arrival with Operation Gibraltar in the immediate vicinity. The September operation resulted in 226 Viet Cong killed in three days.

A regimental force of VC attacked the Phu Co outpost near Qui Nhon and before the battle was complete, ARVN troops mounted a staggering toll on the attackers. Seven hundred Viet Cong died in the encounter.

Another Free World Force entered Vietnam in October. The Republic of Korea sent its Capital Division into South Vietnam to help aid a country invaded from the north by Communists, as was Korea 15 years earlier. During the same period



the remaining elements of the 1st Infantry Division arrived.

By November the 1st Cavalry Division was conducting tactical operations. The prelude to one of the largest-scale actions of the war took place during the first 12 days of the month when the cavalry tangled with a large force west of Plei Me.

To the west of Plei Me, Communist forces were moving into the Ia Drang Valley intent on engaging the 1st Cavalry and winning a victory over the "green" troops. The enemy met the 3rd Brigade of the division, and stood and fought, rather than melt into the jungle after initial contact. When the smoke of battle cleared 1,238 enemy soldiers had died while only one-fifth as many Americans were killed. The "green" troops and the airmobile concept had proven themselves.

The Communists had suffered a stunning defeat against the Americans in the Ia Drang Valley, but they overran an ARVN unit at the Michelin Plantation in Binh Duong Province, inflicting heavy casualties on the South Vietnamese. The VC also countered with terror by detonating a truck laden with explosives at the Metropole Bachelor Enlisted Quarters in Saigon. Eight Americans were killed and 137 injured.

Before the year closed, the 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division deployed from Hawaii. This raised the total strength of U.S. and Free World Military Forces in Vietnam to 181,000. Meanwhile enemy forces had increased from 103,000 at the beginning of the year to an estimated 230,000.

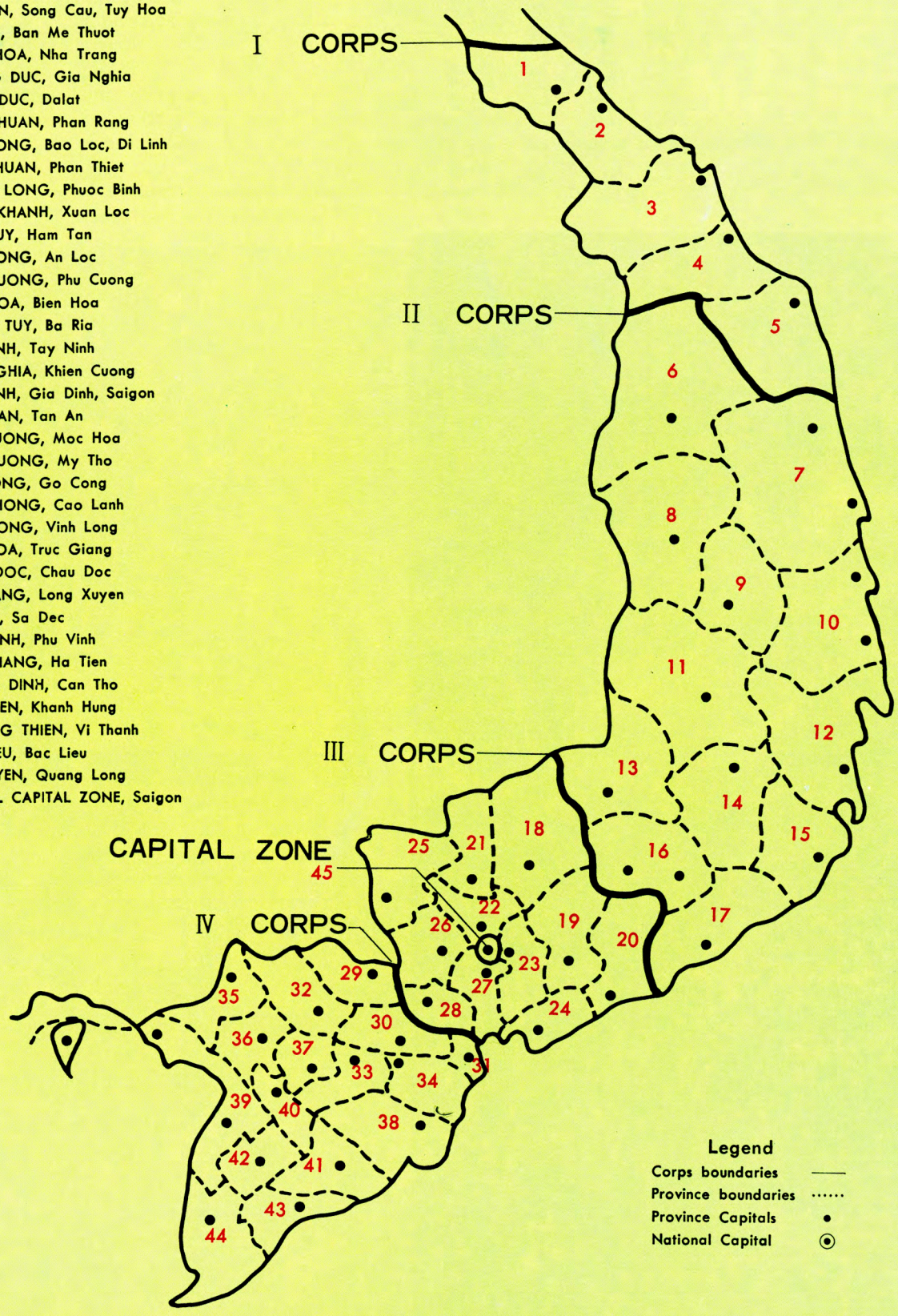
The year had seen U.S. troops penetrate into areas Communists had controlled for years. With the aid of saturation bombing by B52 bombers, the 1965 monsoon offensive the VC had promised was little more than a small splash. Superior firepower, rapid artillery and air response, plus with the helicopter's mobility, were proving that the Communists' attempt to wrap up the war by 1966 would not materialize.

On the diplomatic scene Hanoi scorned America's peace overture of a 37-day pause in air strikes over North Vietnam. In Saigon the governmental turmoil was eliminated by the emergence of a military National Leadership Council. Air Force Commander Brigadier General Nguyen Cao Ky became premier, bringing long-needed calm to the government.

The year 1966 was marked by military, political and diplomatic changes in South Vietnam. For the first time, Free World Military Assistance Forces (FWMAF) of America, Australia, Korea and South Vietnam were actively entering Viet Cong strong-holds, breaking the enemy's stranglehold on the people. Charlie was losing his rice, ammunition and weapons caches. The FWMAF were beginning the first phase of the counter-offensive.

During January the 173rd Airborne Brigade and the 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment launched a seven-day sweep into an area near

1. QUANG TRI, Quang Tri
2. THUA THIEN, Hue
3. QUANG NAM, Hoi An
4. QUANG TIN, Tam Ky
5. QUANG NGAI, Quang Ngai
6. KONTUM, Kontum
7. BINH DINH, Bong Son, Qui Nhon
8. PLEIKU, Pleiku
9. PHU BON, Hau Bon
10. PHU YEN, Song Cau, Tuy Hoa
11. DARLAC, Ban Me Thuot
12. KHAN HOA, Nha Trang
13. QUANG DUC, Gia Nghia
14. TUYEN DUC, Dalat
15. NINH THUAN, Phan Rang
16. LAM DONG, Bao Loc, Di Linh
17. BINH THUAN, Phan Thiet
18. PHUOC LONG, Phuoc Binh
19. LONG KHANH, Xuan Loc
20. BINH TUY, Ham Tan
21. BINH LONG, An Loc
22. BINH DUONG, Phu Cuong
23. BINH HOA, Bien Hoa
24. PHUOC TUY, Ba Ria
25. TAY NINH, Tay Ninh
26. HAU NGHIA, Khien Cuong
27. GIA DINH, Gia Dinh, Saigon
28. LONG AN, Tan An
29. KIEN TUONG, Moc Hoa
30. DINH TUONG, My Tho
31. GO CONG, Go Cong
32. KIEN PHONG, Cao Lanh
33. VINH LONG, Vinh Long
34. KIEN HOA, Truc Giang
35. CHAU DOC, Chau Doc
36. AN GIANG, Long Xuyen
37. SA DEC, Sa Dec
38. BINH BINH, Phu Vinh
39. KIEN GIANG, Ha Tien
40. PHONG DINH, Can Tho
41. BA XUYEN, Khanh Hung
42. CHUONG THIEN, Vi Thanh
43. BAC LIEU, Bac Lieu
44. AN XUYEN, Quang Long
45. SPECIAL CAPITAL ZONE, Saigon



A Hoi Chanh asks his trapped comrades to surrender during a 101st Airborne Division cordon operation (top). A monk uses a loudspeaker to talk to a crowd during Buddhist demonstrations throughout the country (bottom).





the Cambodian border in search of two VC battalions. The penetration resulted in more than 400 enemy deaths.

The 25th Infantry Division teamed up with the 173rd and the Australians to uncover an enemy headquarters complex with extensive tunnel systems. In the operation large quantities of weapons and ammunition were captured.

Korean troops began an operation in Binh Dinh Province that resulted in 250 enemy killed.

In the past VC tax collectors had bled off large percentages of the rice harvest. The 101st Airborne's 1st Brigade and Korean Marines were sent into Phy Yen Province to secure the rice harvest and prevent VC taxation of the 30,000-ton crop.

Prior to Tet's 84-hour truce, the Viet Cong were busy attacking targets ranging from the airfield at Da Nang, a Special Forces camp, and a Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) outpost, and even exploding a claymore mine outside the main gate of Tan Son Nhut Air base. They detonated two charges at a U.S. Bachelor Enlisted Quarters in Dalat. The Vo Khia New Life Hamlet was attacked, and USAID representative Douglas Ramsey was kidnaped in another action.

The truce was marred by more than 100 violations by the Viet Cong.

Later in January the 1st Cavalry Division joined with Vietnamese and Korean units for a 42-day operation near Bong Son that resulted in nearly 2,400 enemy dead.

Military action in the next two months took a heavy toll of the enemy's ranks and base camps. The 1st Infantry Division's Operation Rolling Stone resulted in 150 VC killed. The 101st's Operation Harrison in Phu Yen Province; the 3rd Brigade, 25th Division's Operation Garfield in Darlac Province; and the combined force in the Song Be River operation all uncovered enemy camps, weapons and ammunition.

At Bien Hoa, II Field Force Vietnam (II FFV) was activated to control U.S. forces in the III Corps Tactical Zone.

A program designed to bring the Viet Cong back to the government, called the Chieu Hoi (Open Arms) Program, met with spectacular success in March when a record-setting 2,336 former enemy soldiers rallied during the month.

With the increase of troops in the Saigon area, Headquarters Area Command (HAC) was activated to provide support functions for all services in the capital city. The 1st Signal Brigade was also activated in early April.

The expansion of forces continued with the arrival of the USS Corpus Christi Bay at Cam Ranh Bay to provide a floating maintenance facility for Army helicopters, and the Royal Australian Task Force entered the country.

As mid-year approached, the threatened VC monsoon offensive was blunted by several opera-

tions. One found the 1st Infantry Division pushing deep into War Zone C near Tay Ninh, where no friendly troops had been for five years. Large quantities of supplies were captured. In Pleiku Province along the Cambodian border, ARVN and 25th Division troops killed 546 of the enemy.

In III Corps Tactical Zone a sweep through Binh Long Province by the 1st Infantry Division and 5th ARVN Division cost the Viet Cong 855 men in a little over a month. In Kontum Province the 101st and ARVN units accounted for 531 more enemy deaths. This action was near a city to become famous 18 months later—Dak To.

Terror attacks included a mine explosion at the Brinks Hotel in Saigon and attacks on Regional and Popular Forces outposts and small CIDG units.

U.S. planes faced an increasing number of Russian-made surface-to-air (SAM) missiles over North Vietnam. In Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh announced a partial mobilization of the country.

Units continued to arrive to support the counter-offensive. In August elements of the 4th Infantry Division landed at Qui Nhon, and the 196th Light Infantry Brigade and the first of a 2,000 man Philippine Civic Action Group (PHILCAG) arrived.

In September the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, a Spanish Medical Team and the German hospital ship Helgoland arrived, plus the 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division.

Two U.S. operations, Attleboro and Irving, kept the enemy off balance. The 1st Cavalry accounted for 230 Viet Cong killed in Binh Dinh Province, while the 196th Light Infantry Brigade and elements of the 1st, 4th and 25th Infantry Divisions and 173rd Airborne Brigade mauled the 9th VC Division, killing more than 1,100 in Operation Attleboro. The force also captured 2,243,000 pounds of enemy rice.

October action saw a combined force of 1st Cavalry, Koreans and Vietnamese kill 681 Viet Cong in Operation Irving. To avoid the superior firepower of the allies, the enemy tried to break contact as quickly as possible. The enemy confined his raids to the northern provinces near his supply lines.

Operation Paul Revere whittled another 1,000 from the enemy's ranks and cost him 300 weapons. Viet Cong losses were running high and the enemy brought in the North Vietnamese 5th Division to bolster their forces.

November was marked by increased VC raiding. The 4th Infantry Division, operating west of Plei Djereng, withstood a mortar barrage of more than 500 rounds. National Day celebrations in Saigon were interrupted by two dozen 57mm recoilless rifle rounds; the 196th's base camp near Tay Ninh was hit; and a portion of the Long Binh ammunition dump was blown up by satchel charges.

The dump was struck again in December, and Tan Son Nhut Air Base sustained a raid in which guerrillas penetrated the perimeter.

At the close of the year the first elements of the 9th Infantry Division arrived to bring U.S. troop strength to 361,000.

The year was marked by harmony on the diplomatic front. To set the stage for high-level discussions, then Secretary of State Dean Rusk visited the country in January. This was followed the next month by Premier Ky, Chief of State Thieu, and President Johnson meeting in Honolulu for a two-day conference on political, social and economic aspects of the war. Vice President Humphrey visited South Vietnam later in February.

Another conference for the heads of state was held in Manila in October. Then Secretary of Defense McNamara visited Vietnam prior to the Philippine meeting.

On the political front Premier Ky headed off a military coup with the arrest of several junior officers. He also announced general elections would be held in 1967 after a constitutional referendum in October 1966.

The political calm was shattered in April, when the I Corps commander, Lt. Gen. Nguyen Chanh Thi, considered a potential political rival of Premier Ky, was relieved from his command. A demonstration of 2,000 persons in Da Nang was followed by Buddhist protests in Hue, Saigon and Hoi An.

A call for a general strike closed the port of Da Nang and 20,000 Buddhists rallied to demonstrate in the historic capital city of Hue. The unrest continued into early April, resulting in anti-government groups forming in the major cities of the republic. Government troops moved into Da Nang in a show of force while turmoil and demonstrations continued in Hue, Dalat, and Nha Trang. By April 12, the situation appeared resolved as anti-government forces pledged to fight against Communism alongside the government.

The National Political Congress announced that a constituent assembly would be elected in five months.

In late May, however, the political waters were again muddied by Buddhist and anti-government factions rising in Da Nang and Hue. A Buddhist nun burned herself to death in protest against the government. This was the first of several acts of self-immolation. In Hue the U.S. consulate was sacked and burned.

Marine operations in I Corps Tactical Zone were delayed by Buddhists placing altars in the streets of Hue. Government troops and riot police finally cleared the streets and arrested some of the dissident leaders to bring an end to the protests.

Relative calm prevailed for the remainder of the year, broken only by the Saigon dock strike, and the new constitution's first three articles were approved.


The Squeeze
. . . 1967

THE year 1967 saw the Free World Forces tighten the screw on the enemy. His manpower was slowly whittled down by many operations. His weapons and food caches were seized, blunting many planned raids and offensive actions. Increased-air strikes made his supply routes difficult to use, curtailing his operations further. His cause was weakened by thousands of Viet Cong, political cadre and North Vietnamese who rallied to the government.

During the latter months of 1967, the enemy made spectacular tries at propaganda victories at Loc Ninh and Dak To. These battles alone accounted for nearly 3,000 enemy dead.

His losses for the year included 87,534 killed in action and more than 31,000 weapons captured. He lost almost 14,000 tons of rice and 162 tons of salt. His ammunition supply was reduced by almost 2.5 million rounds. His ranks were depleted by 27,178 to the Chieu Hoi Program, 17,671 of whom were fighting men. He was found to be recruiting boys from 12 to 16 years old.

He was feeling the pinch, yet he continued to fight. Civilians in South Vietnam were his victims almost as often as the military. Communist terrorists slaughtered more than 4,000 South Vietnamese and wounded more than 8,000 in their attacks. Kidnaping accounted for another 5,454 persons, all in an attempt to control the people.

Meanwhile more civilians moved into government protected resettlement areas than ever before. The enemy's source of labor, recruits, food and shelter was slipping away.

During the spring, hamlet and village elections were conducted and in the fall the upper and lower houses were filled and the president and vice president were chosen. Despite threats of death and destruction, the people turned out in large numbers to vote.

On the political and diplomatic side of the war, a constitution was submitted to the Constituent Assembly for debate. Elsewhere, Thailand announced it would allow bases within its borders to be used for support of Vietnam operations, and Premier Ky visited Australia and New Zealand.

By February the American military strength had risen by 20,000 men. The increased manpower permitted the U.S. forces to enter the field for long periods of time.

The four-day truce for the Lunar New Year, Tet, provided a stand-down period in which many operations were terminated. The truce itself was marred by 272 violations.

Operation Lam Son II in Binh Duong Province and Operation Thayer II were terminated with a combined kill of slightly more than 2,000 enemy soldiers.

Tunnel rats (preceding page) play an important role in searching out Viet Cong caches, and locating enemy attempting to hide.

By mid-month elements of the 9th Infantry Division started Operation Enterprise in Long An Province and other 9th Division units began operations in the Mekong Delta with U.S. Navy units. This marked the beginning of the allied squeeze on Viet Cong domination of Delta waterways.

Other 9th Division units joined elements of the 1st, 4th and 25th Infantry Divisions plus troops from the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 196th Light Infantry Brigade, and 173rd Airborne Brigade in what was to be the largest operation of the war, Operation Junction City. The gigantic force was supported by the 11th Combat Aviation Group and 7th Air Force planes.

U.S. troops in War Zone C north and west of Saigon formed a giant horseshoe enclosing 250 square miles of enemy-held territory. Heavy fighting characterized the operation, and large stores of ammunition, weapons, clothing, food, documents and utensils were confiscated.

After eighty-one days 2,728 enemy lay dead from the operation and War Zone C was no longer a VC stronghold. Their bases were destroyed; many of their supplies were gone.

Further north the 1st Cavalry Division had begun Operation Pershing and the Communist pounded the Da Nang Airbase with more than 50 Russian-made 140mm rockets, killing 43 and wounding 137. A few days later in March Da Nang was hit by 10 more of the huge rockets.

The February-March period was also active diplomatically. The Manila Conference countries and their ambassadors met in Saigon in preparation for a two-day conference in Guam with high Vietnamese leaders and President Johnson. The Constituent Assembly had approved the draft constitution for South Vietnam a few days prior to the meeting. Premier Ky presented President Johnson with a copy of the new constitution, which was ratified a few days later.

In Thailand, B52s began to arrive at bases in accordance with a previous agreement with the kingdom. The huge bombers were used mainly against enemy complexes in South Vietnam in early April. Previously they had flown from Guam to South Vietnam in a 5,000-mile round trip.

U.S. forces in Vietnam climbed to a strength of 470,000, a few thousand from the year-end peak of 490,000 servicemen in-country.

In April, an eight-week election period began for thousands of villages and hamlets throughout the country. About 77 per cent of the eligible voters turned out to elect their local leaders despite constant threats from the Viet Cong. Many of the threats were carried out as 12 candidates were slain by terrorists and 31 others kidnaped.

The government also announced that fall elections would take place to select the upper and lower houses of the new government and to choose

"Medic," hollers a 173d Airborne Brigade soldier to get aid for a buddy (bottom). A sniper firing on U.S. soldiers draws a return blast (left). After landing in a clearing, soldiers charge from their assault chopper into the tropic jungles (right).







Photos by Spec. 5 Gordon Gahan

a new president and vice president.

In Saigon Ellsworth P. Bunker assumed duties from Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge who was retiring from public life.

Enemy pressure was mounting near the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) and the I Corps Tactical Zone. Marine units were moved to counter the threat. The 196th Light Infantry Brigade was moved into the Chu Lai area to replace the relocated Marine units. This was the first of many major ground combat units from USARV to operate in the northern provinces.

Other units soon joined the 196th. They were the 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division and, in May, the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. The Army troops in the zone were placed under the operational control of Task Force Oregon (TFO) which was controlled by the III Marine Amphibious Force.

In Saigon, Premier Ky announced his candidacy for president on May 12. Four days later the assembly approved the presidential election law.

In July Thailand announced that it would send a 2,200-man regiment to the Republic of Vietnam. This force was the first ground combat unit contributed by the Thais who had already provided airlift of supplies on several occasions.

Meanwhile Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara conducted high-level conferences at USARV's Tan Son Nhut headquarters. The day after the secretary left the country, President Johnson announced the United States would increase its troop commitment to Vietnam.

During the month, USARV moved to its new headquarters in the Long Binh complex and MACV moved to its new buildings opposite Tan Son Nhut civilian air terminal. Other units moved out of the capital area during the following months, including 1st Logistical Command, 1st Aviation Brigade and the 1st Signal Brigade headquarters.

Enemy action during August was heavy. An enemy company struck the Edap Enang Montagnard resettlement village in the Central Highlands. The tank farm at Nha Be City, 10 miles southeast of Saigon, was hit by communist fire causing extensive damage. And the Ban Me Thuot airfield in Darlac Province was struck by mortars twice during the month.

In I CTZ the Marine bases at Gio Linh and Con Thien began to receive heavy artillery and mortar attacks. These attacks reached a peak during September. Marine and Army artillery, plus Air Force bombers lifted the siege from the DMZ bases.

On September 3 the presidential elections were held. About 83 per cent of the voters turned out. Nguyen Van Thieu and Nguyen Cao Ky were elected president and vice president respectively. The voters also chose an upper house for the new government.

New operations during the month included Task Force Oregon's Operation Wheeler in I CTZ, accounting for nearly 2,000 enemy killed; the Mobile Riverine Force's Operation Coronado V in the Delta, costing the enemy 330 dead; Operation Bolling, conducted by the 173rd Airborne Brigade and elements of the 1st Cavalry Division; and the 1st Infantry Division's Operation Shenandoah in Binh Duong Province, which took 956 enemy lives and 100 weapons.

At Chu Lai, Task Force Oregon was redesignated the Americal Division, becoming the only named division on active duty in the U.S. Army.

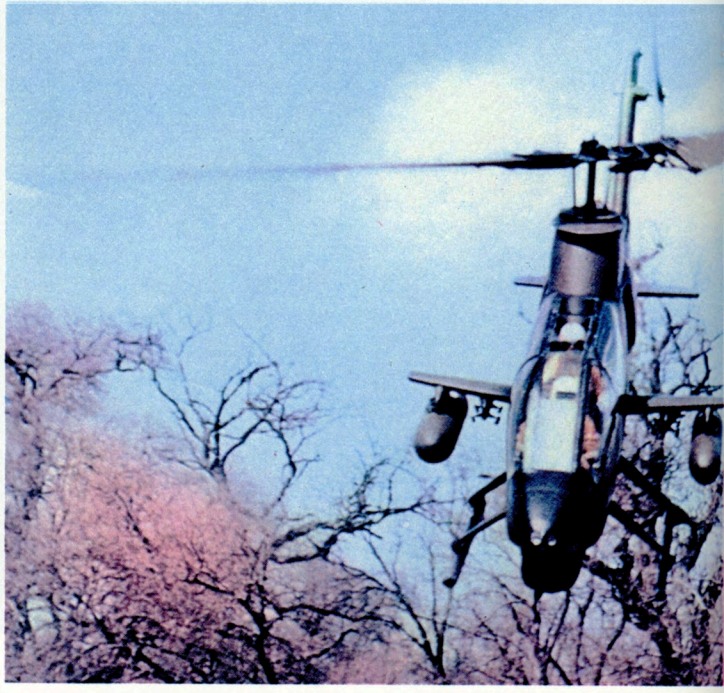
Russia made a late September announcement that a new military assistance agreement had been signed by the U.S.S.R. and North Vietnam whereby the Russians would furnish "airplanes, antiaircraft and rocket equipment, artillery and small arms ammunition and other military equipment . . ."

Early in October the Vietnamese National Assembly validated election results. This was followed by the installation of the 60 newly elected members of the upper house of the government. Later in the month the lower house elections were held with 73 per cent of the electorate turning out to complete the last round of elections. On the last day of the month the inauguration ceremonies were conducted in downtown Saigon.

In I CTZ Army forces were increased as the 3rd Brigade of the 1st Cavalry Division joined the Americal Division. The brigade immediately began Operation Wallowa, which was later combined with Americal's Operation Wheeler.

October also saw the introduction of a helicopter especially designed for ground support—the Huey

HueyCobra gunships were introduced into the conflict in October, 1967.



Cobra. This gunship, with advanced weapons systems, slim silhouette, high speed and maneuverability began combat operations in 1st Aviation Brigade units.

In 4th Infantry Division started Operation MacArthur in Pleiku Province and the 7th Squadron, Highlands during the month. Also the 3rd Battalion (Airborne), 503rd Infantry arrived at Qui lion (Airborne), 503rd Infantry arrived at Qui Nhon to further increase U.S. strength in Vietnam.

Communist activity included a North Vietnam Army regiment's attack on an ARVN regiment at Song Be with the North Vietnamese coming out on the short end of the battle. ARVN losses were only 10 killed to the Communists' 130.

At Loc Ninh, near the Cambodian border, two battalions of the 273rd VC Regiment attacked the permimeter where CIDG and ARVN troops were lodged. The Viet Cong broke through the perimenter and entered the village. The 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry was one of the first of the 1st Infantry Division units rushed to help push the enemy force from the area.

Fighting broke out again when the Viet Cong attacked across the landing strip at the district headquarters. This attempt was broken up, but not before the VC had tried to scale the walls of the outpost. Enemy forces made sporadic attempts to get back into Loc Ninh, but they withdrew from the area, losing more than 1,000 men in the overall action.

In the Central Highlands the rumblings of the biggest battle of the war were resounding in the hills around Dak To. For several weeks intelligence reports showed increased enemy activity in the vicinity of Dak To, astride the natural infiltration route along Route 312 north of Pleiku and close to the Laotian-Cambodian border. The town was normally garrisoned by ARVN troops and elements of a U.S. Special Forces-trained Civilian Irregular Defense Group.

When it became apparent the enemy was preparing battlefield positions for an assault on the town, the 4th Infantry Division's 1st Brigade was deployed into the area. Two companies from the 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry made initial contact with a strong North Vietnamese Army force. The battle grew in ferocity. The NVA regulars pinned the Americans down. The 3rd Battalion commander called in air support against positions astride the steep hill. Artillery and mortar fire combined with the bombs to stem the enemy fire. Morning reconnaissance patrols found the enemy so well entrenched he was barely hurt by the tremendous pounding. It was apparent the enemy was not going to give up easily or melt away into the jungle.

Additional American and South Vietnamese troops were called to reinforce those locked in combat. The 173rd Airborne Brigade and later elements of the 1st Cavalry were brought in to assist the 4th Division troops. Besides artillery and helicopter gunship fire support, C47 Dragonships and giant B52 bombers flew supporting missions for the ground troops. Artillery and airstrikes pounded the hills for hours before infantry assaults on the enemy positions. The soldiers found the enemy still capable of delivering effective fire to slow their advance. Casualties mounted on both sides, but gradually the NVA troops were forced back toward the Cambodian border and sanctuary.

Continued on page 34

In spite of the warfare, farming continues in the traditional manner.



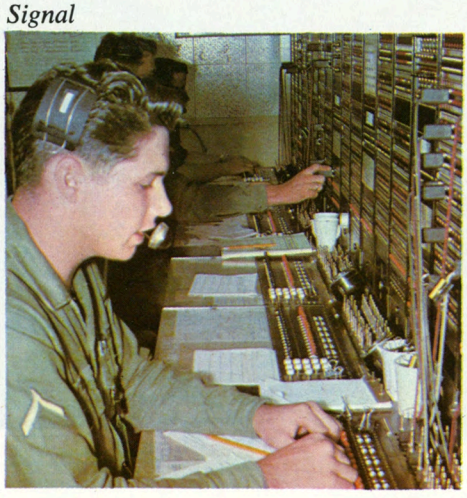


Infantry

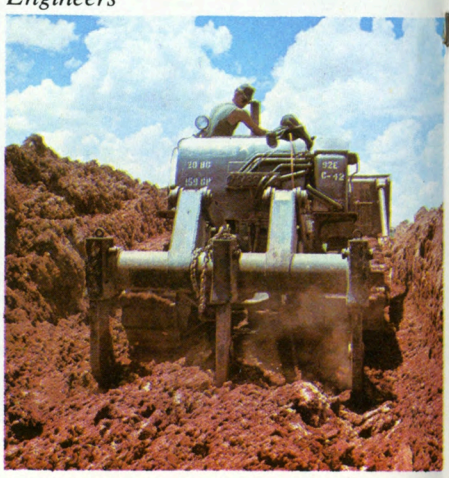
Artillery



Signal



Engineers







★ Vietnam Advisory Campaign—March 15, 1962 to March 7, 1965

★ Vietnam Defensive Campaign—March 8, 1965 to December 24, 1965

★ Vietnam Counteroffensive Campaign, Phase I—December 25, 1965 to June 30, 1966

★ Vietnam Counteroffensive Campaign, Phase II—July 1, 1966 to May 31, 1967

★ Vietnam Counteroffensive Campaign, Phase III—June 1, 1967 to January 29, 1968

★ Tet Counteroffensive—January 30, 1968 to April 1, 1968

★ Current Campaign—April 2, 1968 to date to be determined

Any member of the Army who is serving or who has served in Vietnam or contiguous waters or air space in accordance with AR 672-5-1, is authorized to wear a battle star on the Vietnam service ribbon for each period in which he served in Vietnam.

Armor and air support



Moving through the dense jungle, tense soldiers keep a wary eye for the enemy.



One of the bloodiest battles was fought for Hill 875. The remnants of the 24th, 32nd, 66th and 174th NVA Regiments stood and fought off American and ARVN soldiers for four days. But when Thanksgiving Day arrived, Americans had claimed the hilltop and their turkey dinner was served them amidst the shattered bunkers and trees.

The enemy had paid a terrible price for the Dak To battle. His known losses were 1,641 men killed; how many more had been killed or seriously wounded and dragged from the battle area would be impossible to estimate. He had been subjected to fantastic bombardments during the 26 days of battle. Almost 138,000 rounds of artillery had been fired; 1,101 Army helicopter gunship sorties were flown against him, combined with 1,869 Air Force sorties and 32 strikes by B52 bombers. Many hills were decked with jumbled piles of splinters where great trees had been felled by the battle.

Year-end saw one of the most atrocious terror attacks in Vietnam's history. In the Montagnard village of Dak Son two battalions of Communists pushed the local defense force into a small area, then rampaged up and down the hamlet streets, systematically burning down more than half of the 150 thatched homes. With flame throwers and grenades the Communists slaughtered persons in their primitive homes and bunkers. Seven out of every 10 of the 252 victims were either women or children; some burned beyond recognition. An unknown number of men were kidnaped and led away by the 300-member Communist force.

At Saigon the Constituent Assembly disbanded as its activities were completed. The newly elected National Legislative Assembly convened to begin functioning as the lawmakers under the new constitution.

New U.S. troops continued to arrive in country during December, mostly from the 101st Airborne Division. The 3rd Brigade arrived at Bien Hoa on December 8; the command group on December 13; and the 2nd Brigade came five days later to complete the huge airlift from Fort Campbell by giant C141 Starlifters.

Just before Christmas the 11th Light Infantry Brigade completed its movement from Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, to join the Americal Division at Chu Lai. The 11th brought the total U.S. troop strength to more than that of the Korean War.

The Communists again showed their disdain for truces by violating both the Christmas and New Years truce periods. The Christmas truce was marred by 40 major incidents and the New Years by 63 major and 107 minor incidents.



Flares and smoke mark sites of combat in Saigon during the 1968 Tet attacks.

Tet and the Aftermath ... 1968

"The year ahead is destined to be one of great challenge and opportunity."

New Year's Day Message
Lieutenant General Bruce Palmer
January 1, 1968

A DOZEN names: Paris . . . Saigon . . . Hanoi . . . Tet . . . the Demilitarized Zone . . . Khe Sanh . . . the New Jersey . . . Hue . . . Abrams . . . these and many more studded the world's headlines during 1968.

And the names of thousands of Americans were printed in newspaper pages, etched on tombstones, whispered in lonely, tearfilled nights.

Seldom has a statement about the future been more prophetic than the one made on that New

Continued on page 34

Rockets like the captured one fired back at the Viet Cong (right) slammed into Saigon during Tet and again in May (center). Identification was checked on all persons traveling (bottom left), and sampans—often used by VC—were carefully observed (bottom right).





Photo by Major Charles B. Moore





THE 1968 TET OFFENSIVE

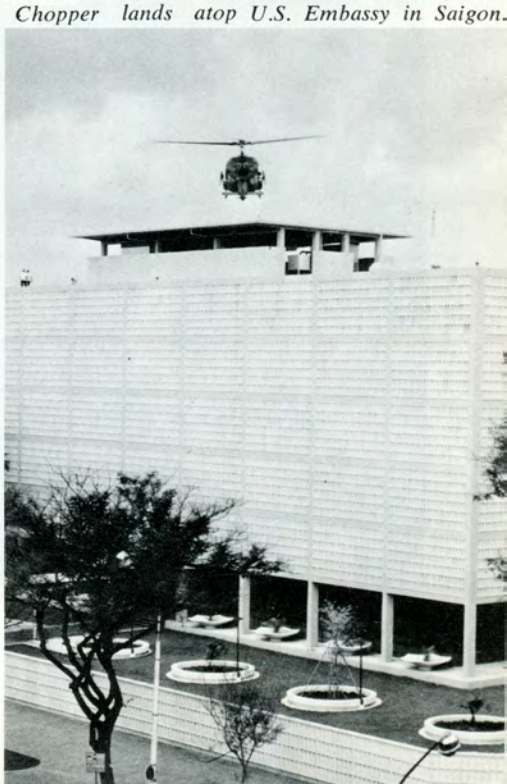




During Tet 4th Infantry Division soldiers clear Kontum. Photo by Spec. 4 James Doyle



Alone in her VC destroyed home in Song Be.



Chopper lands atop U.S. Embassy in Saigon.

MPs hustle a Viet Cong detainee apprehended near the American Embassy during Tet to a detention point. Corporal George Moyer (left) and Spec. 4 James M. Singer were among MPs rushed to the Embassy to assist guards in repelling an assualt on the compound.

Photo by Spec. 5 Donald A. Hirst



Year's by the deputy commander of the U.S. Army, Vietnam.

This was, without question, the most eventful year completed during America's agonizing war in Southeast Asia. It saw the most savage series of attacks, the most brutal fighting and a strong glimmer of hope for an honorable end.

The most violent part of the war year was the Communists' winter-spring offensive. It began even before 1968 did, with a 36-hour New Year's truce that was violated by the Reds 177 times—"the bloodiest holiday truce of the Vietnam War," the papers called it, 30 days and several thousand deaths before Tet.

The bombers flew north to begin the fourth year of raids above the Demilitarized Zone on Tuesday, Jan. 3. There were dogfights and Air Force Phantom pilots bagged two MIG 17s that day.

There were rumors that Ho Chi Minh was seriously ill, but it didn't make much difference to Americal Division troopers—they beat off attacks by elements of two NVA regiments on Jan. 3 and began a massive sweep of their southern I Corps area of operation. About 200 Reds were killed that first day, and by the time the fighting was over, more than a week later, Skytroopers of the 1st Cavalry Division's 3rd Brigade had joined in to help kill more than a thousand North Vietnamese.

As January neared its end it began to look like an offensive was coming near the DMZ, where a string of artillery, rocket and ground attacks were unleashed on Allied posts all along the buffer zone. Khe Sanh and neighboring Lang Vei were hit—hard—for the first time on Jan. 21, beginning a three-month drama that would focus the eyes of the world on a small Marine garrison in the rolling, rusty-red hills of the Lao border country.

The U.S. command rushed 3,000 1st Cavalry Division troops as reinforcements into northern I Corps, and infantrymen from the 101st Airborne Division soon followed. A total of 10,000 Marine and Army troops were poured, in less than a week, into areas near the DMZ to guard against an expected "major offensive" there.

American intelligence reports indicated that a fresh North Vietnamese division had been infiltrated into I Corps, to make a total of between 40 and 50 thousand NVA soldiers—three full divisions—poised for a general attack.

On Saturday, Jan. 27, the Communists began their "unilateral seven-day truce" during the Tet holiday season in South Vietnam, which the North Vietnamese completely ignored in the northern part of the Republic. The carnage there went on. On Wednesday, Jan. 31, the Allies began their 36-hour version of the Tet truce. It lasted 15½ hours, until 9:30 Thursday morning when rockets began

slamming into Da Nang Air Base. Wild street fighting broke out in the peaceful seaside resort of Nha Trang and Communist sappers breached the security of the U.S. Embassy grounds in Saigon.

One senior American officer said of the northern provinces: "It is something I would label an invasion. It is no longer just an infiltration."

In Saigon, on Jan. 31, the government was distributing "Tet tote bags," little gift packets of soap and other hard-to-get necessities. In each was a printed horoscope that predicted the new year, beginning that day, would be "favorable to the government be unfavorable to its enemies."

"VC Hit Saigon," screamed the headlines on Thursday, Feb. 1.

Street fighting raged in all eight major cities and at least 30 towns and provincial capitals. That first day, the U.S. command acknowledged full-scale attacks on Kontum, Ban Me Thuot, Nha Trang, Hoi An, Tuy Hoa, Qui Nhon and Pleiku, and, of course, in the capital itself.

But many towns, such as My Tho and Can Tho in the Mekong Delta, were ripped with battles that at first went unreported in Saigon because of the confusion.

There was more fighting in Quang Tri, Dalat and Bien Hoa. The North Vietnamese virtually occupied Hue—they assassinated more than 1,000 civilians in that city alone. They held half of Kontum. Terrorist slaughter was reported everywhere—foreign missionaries were slain, and anyone who worked for the Americans was murdered or tortured.

The Reds had lists of names marked for assassination in nearly every city. Those who waited too long, or who had no place to hide, were killed without compunction—men, women and children—by the "liberators."

General William C. Westmoreland, U.S. commander in Vietnam, stated the attacks were "a diversionary effort to draw attention from the northern part of the country."

Communist snipers were operating within 200 yards of his Tan Son Nhut headquarters. The Philippine Embassy residence had been destroyed by terrorists, the ambassador and his wife barely escaping death or capture. Tanks ringed the Saigon home of U.S. Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker.

Five thousand Reds had died in savage, confused fighting in the first of the Tet Offensive—that name was already burning itself into front pages and TV screens around the world. More than 650 enemy deaths occurred in Saigon alone.

By Feb. 9, 920 U.S. soldiers had died in the Tet fighting; 4,561 were wounded. Newsmen were reporting that "countless civilians perished in the fighting"—the final count was almost 20,000 killed or wounded.

Dive bombers and rocket helicopters were raining destruction on Red troops entrenched in the suburbs of South Vietnam's capital, the city that the world had considered "secure" until the morning of Feb. 1.

That's how it began. It went on, in Saigon, until mid-February, when fighting still flickered in the suburbs of Cholon and around the Phu Tho race track.

Who won the battles of the Tet Offensive? It's a hard question to answer. Certainly, the Communists were deprived of their every major goal, with the possible exception of publicity.

It was by no stretch of the imagination a military win—27,706 Reds died in the Tet fighting. For this, the Communist high command had not one single prize to show.

It was not a psychological victory. In no clearly defined instance did any of the civilians in the areas of fighting join or support the Reds—unless at the point of a gun.

On the other hand, no one will deny that South Vietnam's city populace suffered terribly. There are scars of destruction that will last a long time—and scars of the mind that will last longer. As Dean Rusk said, "This is a time of trial for the South Vietnamese and their Allies. It may well be the climactic period of the struggle in Southeast Asia."

As the cleanup began in mid-February, a drama was unfolding in Hue. Some 4,000 Reds had died there in the first three weeks of February, but an estimated 500 North Vietnamese had holed up in the old imperial Citadel, from which Vietnam's ancient emperors ruled. They decided to die there, and the Allies had no choice but to oblige them. A Communist flag had been raised on Jan. 31, and it fluttered for nearby a month over the Citadel as U.S. Marines pushed grueling street fighting back toward the center, step by step. On Feb. 24, a company of South Vietnamese soldiers charged the last holdout—and the flag came down. The enemy were at last dead, but Hue lay in ruins.

There was one bright spot in the gloomy month of February—Hanoi, as a "goodwill gesture," released three captured U.S. pilots on Feb. 16.

Friday, March 1, saw 4,000 paratroopers of the 82nd Airborne Division arriving in Vietnam, part of the 10,500 men that Washington had decided to rush to the Republic as reinforcements, acting on Westmoreland's request.

The first day of March also saw Clark Clifford sworn in as the new Secretary of Defense.

By the first week of the month, there were so many Army troops in the Marine bailiwick of the northern provinces that Westmoreland sent Army Lieutenant General William B. Rosson to assume a new command in I Corps, which was to serve as "a tactical echelon between General Cushman (Marine Lieutenant General Robert E. Cushman, senior I Corps commander) and the commanders of the U.S. Army and Marine divisions in the

northern area." It was called at first Provisional Corps, Vietnam, but is now XXIV Corps.

In mid-March, Operation Quyet Thang (Resolved to Win) was kicked off around Saigon. More than 50,000 Allied troops—including the 1st, 9th and 25th Infantry Divisions, the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, and elements of the 7th and 25th ARVN Infantry Divisions, an airborne task force and the 5th Ranger Group plus National Police forces—swept and re-swept the provinces around the capital, searching for Communist troops and arms caches. Before it ended on April 9, 2,658 Reds had been killed.

On Thursday, March 21, the U.S. command announced it was kicking off five more general operations across South Vietnam "to regain the initiative." Ten thousand U.S. troops were committed, and 799 Communist soldiers were reported killed in the early fighting.

On Friday, March 22, President Johnson announced in Washington that General Westmoreland would be promoted to Army Chief of Staff. Replacing General Westmoreland as commander of U.S. Forces in Vietnam would be General Creighton W. Abrams, then deputy commander. General Palmer would become the new Army Vice Chief of Staff, with Lieutenant General Frank T. Mildren replacing him as deputy commander of U.S. Army, Vietnam.

On the last day of March, the President made his famous "I won't run" speech and cut back the bombing in the north to below the 19th Parallel, marking America's broadest appeal to Hanoi for peace.

On Monday, April Fool's Day, Operation Pegasus/Lam Son, a massive aerial-assault, began the several days of sweeping near Laos that would lift the siege of beleaguered Khe Sanh Marine camp—where up to 1,300 Red shells had been falling every day, but the promised tidal-wave ground assault that would relive Dien Bien Phu never came.

On the same day, President Nguyen Van Thieu told his nation that general mobilization, which would place more than 200,000 additional South Vietnamese under arms by the end of the year, was coming.

Operation Quyet Thang had been so successful that another mass Allied sweep, Operation Toan Thang (Complete Victory) was launched on April 8. Fifty thousand soldiers began a drive through 11 provinces around Saigon, with the same objective that the earlier operation had, but on a scale twice as large.

It was not as spectacular in results, but the Allies were to learn in the coming May Offensive how well both sweeps had done their jobs.

The Air Force and the Navy were doing their work, too. On Friday, April 19, the highest number of missions over North Vietnam for the year were logged—160. And on the Tuesday before than, B52 Stratoforts, South Vietnam's "man-made thunder," socked over a million pounds of explosives into the A Shau Valley in a single day, softening that area for Operation Delaware, a sweep by 1st Cavalry and 101st Airborne Division troops in which the major Communist stronghold and supply route was shattered.

On Friday, May 3, there was an announcement the world had been waiting for—the United States and Hanoi agreed to begin preliminary peace discussions in Paris.

The war was not, though, by any stretch of the imagination, ending in May—that was the month of the second Communist city offensive. The fighting was bitter, but the Red effort was a faint echo of the Tet campaign.

It began the night of May 4, with the near-simultaneous shelling of 119 cities, towns and villages in the Republic. There were ground attacks in Saigon and Bu Dop, three miles from Cambodia. The Bu Dop attackers were driven off in hours. It took longer in Saigon.

There was wild, confused street fighting in the western and southern suburbs of the city. The first secretary of the West German Embassy was assassinated. Brigader General Nguyen Ngoc Loan, chief of the National Police, was wounded badly in a leg leading a charge against a machine gun position near the big Newport Bridge, in Gia Dinh. Two hundred VC were killed in the first day of the fighting.

But no U.S. installations in Saigon were even attacked this time, and there was absence of the wide-spread terrorism and sniping that had marked the Tet fighting. On Monday, May 6, the Reds were turned back when they tried to break into Tan Son Nhut Air Base from the western perimeter—but the South Vietnamese commander of the base was killed by a Red rocket.

By the end of the week, the resistance had been localized into pockets in the western and southern suburbs, but they still had to be rooted out. This meant treacherous house-to-house fighting and more heavy damage to Saigon's badly needed housing areas. By Sunday, May 12, it was over—the last pocket of Reds surrendered, en masse. Enemy losses had reached a total of 2,982 killed. They had never entered the heart of the city itself. An intended 26 ot 30 battalions had never gotten close enough to take part in the second assault on Saigon—the two big sweeps had cut them off or wiped them out.

The next day, May 13, the Paris peace talks began.

Fighting trailed off at this time. Although there were minor skirmishes in the Saigon suburban areas until mid-summer, there were no more "Tet Offensives." But on Ho Chi Minh's birthday, May 19, 20 big 122mm rockets slammed into downtown

Saigon, killing 11 and wounding 51. It marked the start of a scatter-shot terror campaign of rocketings against Saigon and other cities that killed only innocent civilians and lasted till the fall.

The shellings did more to turn the population against the VC than to terrorize them into the Communist line. There were 12 straight days of rocketings in the worst period, in June. More than 100 civilians were killed and 400 wounded during those dozen days alone. Massive, close-in Allied sweeps turned up scores of Red rockets and put a stop to most of the shellings.

The last half of the year saw a switch in combat accent away from the cities and back into the countryside. The war tended to decentralize, although there was no lack of "significant" contacts, and the fury of the fighting was not for a moment abated by the on-going peace talks.

While 1968 brought the hardest fighting of the war to South Vietnam, it also brought a sweet, delicate breath of peace—and America took the first step away from escalation. President Johnson, after months of bitter wrangling with Hanoi's representatives in Paris, told the world he was ordering a total halt to the bombing of North Vietnam on the first of November, five months after he initially limited the bombing.

The great carriers in the Tonkin Gulf headed southward in silence.

In late summer, fall and winter, the other big news stories were:

—Defense Secretary Clark Clifford arrived for a four-day "complete review" of the war on July 14, promising South Vietnamese forces new equipment, including M16s.

—Three more U.S. pilot-captives were released by Hanoi on Aug. 3. They went home, saying they were "well-treated" while in prison.

—The 4,500-man 27th Marine Regiment was withdrawn from Vietnam and sent back to the U.S. on Sept. 10. It had arrived during Tet as "temporary reinforcements."

—Major General Keith L. Ware, commander of the U.S. 1st Infantry Division, was killed near the Cambodian border Sept. 13, when his helicopter was shot down by enemy fire.

—Brigadier General Frederick E. Davis, commanding the 199th Light Infantry Brigade, became the third Negro in U.S. history to win general's stars, given him on Sept. 13.

—The 56,000-ton battleship New Jersey, first dreadnought to fire in combat since Korea, returned to war, off the coast of Vietnam, Sept. 30.

—General Duong Van (Big) Minh, leader of the coup that overthrew the Diem regime in 1963, returned from exile in Thailand at President Thieu's invitation, Oct. 5.



Looking Toward Peace

. . . 1969

WITH the New Year's Day release of three American soldiers captured during 1968 by the Viet Cong, 1969 opened on a hopeful note. There was also hope that the Paris peace talks would produce substantive negotiations.

The three prisoners, Specialists 4 Thomas N. Jones and James W. Brigham and Private First Class Donald Smith, were handed over to a five-man II Field Force, Vietnam, discussion team at a meeting six miles southeast of Tay Ninh City during a temporary stand-down in that area. Brigham was to die later in the month at Walter Reed Army Hospital, Washington, D.C., from complications arising from VC surgery on a head wound.

On December 31, 1968, Special Forces Major James Rowe, a VC captive since 1963, overpowered an armed enemy guard and escaped to allied forces 38 miles south—southeast of Rach Gia in the Mekong Delta.

In Paris, Ambassador Averell Harriman, chief U.S. negotiator at the peace talks, said at a New Year's interview that "we have started on the road toward peace." He added that he hoped the forthcoming negotiations would lead to an end of the fighting in 1969.

During the first 10 days of January, President-elect Nixon announced his appointment of Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge to head the U.S. negotiating team at the Paris peace talks. Lodge had served twice as U.S. ambassador to South Vietnam. In another appointment, Nixon asked Ellsworth Bunker to remain as the U.S. ambassador to South Vietnam, a post he had held since May 1967.

On January 5, two major sweeps into Viet Cong-contested battlegrounds were reported by the U.S. Command. One was a 5,000-man Marine thrust around the old fortress of Khe Sanh, the other an Army-Navy push into the vast Plain of Reeds west of Saigon. The Marines met with little initial resistance in their action, described as an effort to keep the guerrillas stirred up and to check any preparations for an end-run offensive around the Demilitarized Zone.

U.S. 9th Infantry Division elements and Navy forces also found relatively light opposition meeting their sweep to cut a major VC supply route west of Saigon. ARVN forces, meanwhile, probed the tangled U Minh Forest of the Mekong Delta, supply dump and headquarters for the VC's Third Military Region that commanded an estimated 19,000 guerrillas. By January 6, the operation had resulted more than 400 enemy dead and more than 200 Hoi Chanhs.

On January 14, President Johnson delivered his State of the Union message, saying that "The prospects for peace are better today than at any time since North Vietnam began its invasion with its regular forces more than four years ago." The President also said, "I cannot speak of Vietnam without paying a personal tribute to the men who have carried the battle for us there. I have been honored to be their commander-in-chief. The nation owes them its unstinting support while the battle continues—and its enduring gratitude when their service is done."

Elements of the Americal Division, ARVN troops and U.S. Marines began Operation Russell Beach on January 13 to cordon the Batangan Peninsula, an area considered to be a major enemy storage area dating back to the war with the French. The operation ended February 10 with 139 enemy killed.

January 20, and the United States had a new President; U.S. servicemen, a new commander-in-chief: Richard M. Nixon.

Despite the hopeful political and diplomatic signs, the war continued. The U.S. Command announced that American artillery pounded the Demilitarized Zone for the first time in two weeks. It was a response to Communist firing on U.S. reconnaissance plane, which was described as the first significant incident in the six-mile-wide buffer zone since January 3.

On January 30, negotiators met again in Paris but the optimism that surrounded their initial talks was waning.

Over the January 25 weekend South Vietnamese Forces and U.S. aircraft, killed an estimated 320 Communists between Pleiku and Dak To in two days of heavy fighting. Further south, elements of the 1st Air Cavalry Division forged through an infiltration corridor to Saigon and destroyed a Communist underground hospital complex 60 miles north of Saigon and 10 miles from Cambodia. The complex was capable of supporting 3,000 troops in battle. Also during the last week in January, two wounded helicopter crewmen were rescued 35 miles northwest of Saigon when the 1,000th American helicopter of the war was shot down.

The first week in February brought hard fighting in a number of areas as the Americans made a determined effort to put down any offensive before it got started. At least 48 Communists were killed when South Vietnamese troops and U.S. gunships sprung an ambush on a road southeast of Saigon, while another 65 were killed when U.S. forces guarding approaches to Saigon made contact with the enemy in three different battles—without an American loss.

On February 13, the U.S. Command announced that since the new year, the allies had captured enough arms to equip 20,000 Communist soldiers for a month and enough rice to feed nearly three 1,000-man Communist units for 40 days.

The Communists proclaimed a seven-day ceasefire for Tet, but, predictably violated their own ceasefire on a number of occasions.

Alert, ready U.S. and allied troops fully expected a Communist offensive and it was launched by NVA and VC elements with attacks by rockets on about a 100 military targets, cities and hamlets on February 23.

At least 577 enemy died on the first day of the Post-Tet assualts, when their efforts were blunted by U.S. units. Significantly, the 5th VC Division launched an attack on the Long Binh headquarters of the U.S. Army, Vietnam. An estimated 78 rounds of mixed rocket and mortar fire hit the post in the opening minutes of the attack which was followed by enemy ground probes. Combined elements of military police, infantrymen, cooks and clerks manning perimeter bunkers, supported by helicopters and Air Force tactical aircraft, killed 131 enemy. U.S. casualties included 7 killed and 30 wounded.

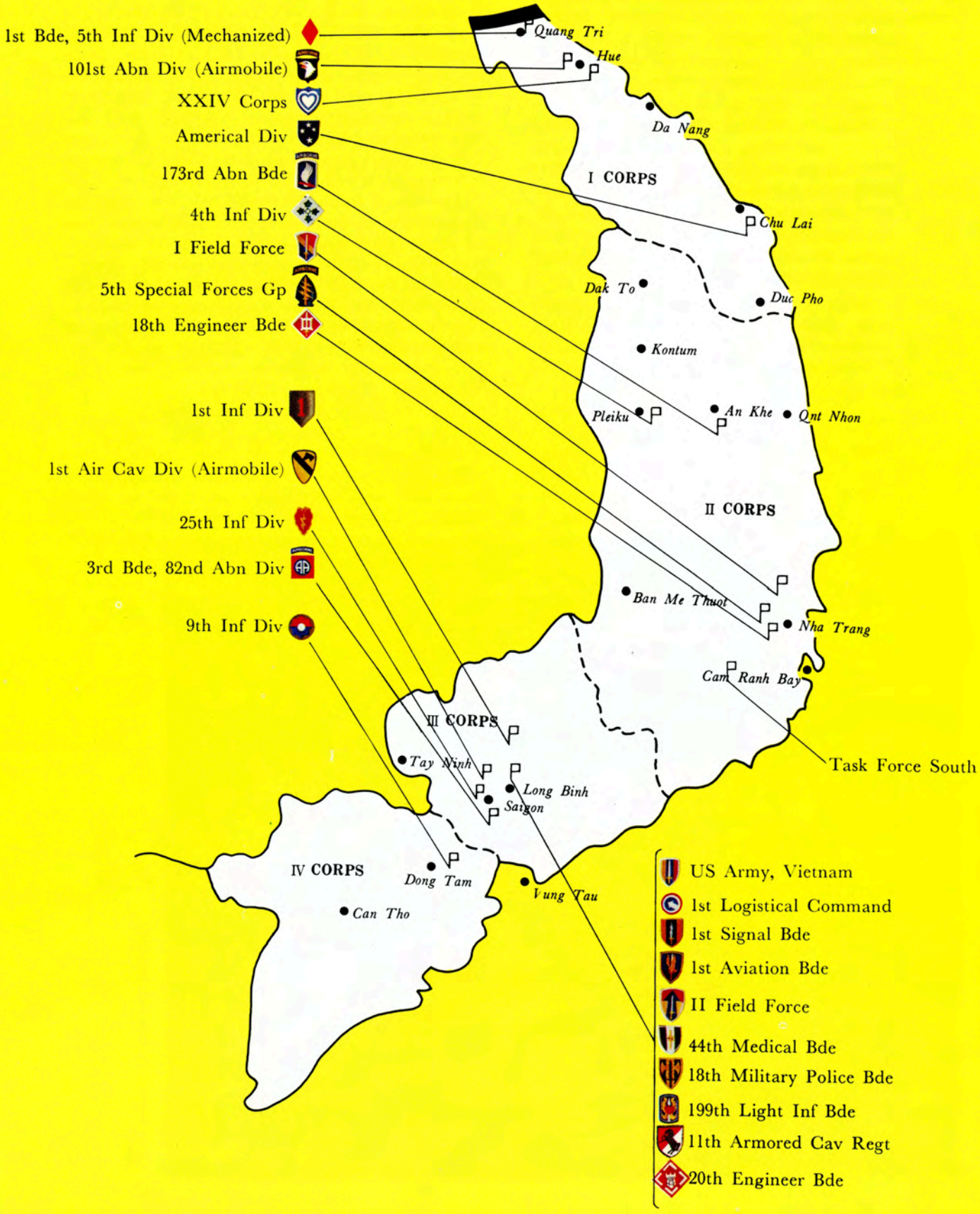
The enemy attacks by rocket and mortar fire continued through the first week of March, with from 25 to 50 allied targets in all four corps being hit each night—usually only by stand-off fire. Several rocket attacks took place on Saigon—the first since November 1968—killing many innocent civilians.

In the first two weeks of attacks, enemy losses were estimated at more than 7,000 killed.

Riverine forces of the 9th Infantry Division and U.S. Navy elements keep the enemy off balance in the Mekong Delta.



Major Unit Locations



Pacification = Nation Building

A FAMILY slipped out of a Viet Cong controlled village and joined a resettlement community a few miles away, but a world away from the Communist tyranny they had known for so long.

Ralliers traveled many miles to a government outpost carrying their North Vietnamese political cadre tied on a pole. Each received a small plot of land and help in building a new life.

A few miles away, a farmer worked his field using age-old out-moded methods to eke out a living for himself and his family. Now, thanks to better equipment and more modern methods he is able to reap larger and more frequent harvests and provide a higher standard of living than his family had ever known.

These are but a few of the many individuals who have profited from the Republic of Vietnam's pacification program—a program designed to give every citizen the opportunity to live free of fear.

At this time, at least 40 nations have responded to the needs of the Republic of Vietnam with equipment and advisors. Most of this non-military assistance falls into one of five categories: (1) medical aid, (2) educational and vocational aid, (3) technical assistance program, (4) agricultural

A Vietnam Railway System train speeds over tracks between Nha Trang and Ninh Hoa. Locomotive, U.S. provided, is preceded by flat cars to take brunt of possible mine explosion.







aid programs and (5) resettlement programs.

The shortage of trained medical personnel has been a serious problem in the Republic of Vietnam. Currently 13 Free World governmental and private organizations are helping meet this need.

To bring medicine to remote areas of Vietnam, medical teams from New Zealand, Korea, the United Kingdom, the Philippines, Australia, the Republic of China, Germany, Japan, Spain, and the United States are stationed throughout the Republic. Here are a few examples:

★ A Spanish medical team is now operating in a provincial hospital and in Go Cong.

★ A Korean mobile medical unit works in the coastal city of Vung Tau.

★ New Zealand has a surgical team at Qui Nhon.

★ Philippine teams have operated in several provinces, including Tay Ninh Province.

★ Quang Ngai clinic and Quang Ngai hospital both have Canadian doctors and Cuban refugee doctors on their staffs.

★ The Republic of China has sent a medical team to work at the Phan Thiet hospital.

★ The United States has medical teams serving in many of the provinces of Vietnam.

★ Over 150 private physicians from the United States, on leave from their practices, have volunteered and served in Vietnam under a program sponsored by the American Medical Association.

★ The German hospital ship Helgoland docks at several ports along the coast to provide medical services as a unique floating hospital.

Medical teams could not operate were it not for the existence of adquate medical supplies. By 1967, more than $10,000,000 in vital medical supplies has been donated by 10 different nations. A few examples:

★ Canada provided ½ million doses of anti-polio vaccine for a massive immunization program being conducted by the Vietnamese Department of Public Health.

★ In September, 1966, three tons of medical supplies were donated jointly by the Brazilain government and 14 private organizations.

These are only a few of the varied and extensive medical assistance being given to the people of Vietnam by nations of the free world. In a country engaged in war, good medical services for the civilian and military populations is essential. Thanks to the free world, Vietnam today is enjoying the highest standard of medical treatment in its history.

Key targets of Viet Cong assassins are the teachers of Vietnam. The enemy realizes that the destruction of the schools is necessary for the final subversion of society. To counter these atrocities, and to expand and improve the educational facilities of Vietnam, nations of the free world have been giving various forms of educational aid to



Teaching youngsters in schools (left), and building bridges to improve road communications (center) are typical Army projects to aid pacification activities. Free World Forces contribute, too, such as the Germans providing care to sick and wounded Vietnamese aboard the Helgoland (right).

Photo by Lt. Col. Roy Wells



South Vietnam:

★ More than 1,400,000 textbooks have been provided for all school grades.

★ Free world professors are now lecturing in the Republic, many of them on leave from their universities.

★ Thousands of scholarships have been made available to deserving Vietnamese students for the purpose of study abroad.

★ Australia, New Zealand and Germany are providing technical training aids to Vietnam. Machines and equipment for two technical schools, one at Dalat and one at Gia Dinh, were given by Germany.

Free world educational aid is aimed in several directions. It seeks to give to Vietnamese people technical training in order that they might manage their own specialized industries. It seeks to give Vietnamese students the opportunity to study abroad. Above all, it tries to expand educational opportunities for as many young people as possible. As the military provides security in hitherto insecure areas, it will be possible for the students of Vietnam to pursue their education without fear of Viet Cong terrorism. Free world assistance will provide them with the tools and facilities for a better tomorrow.

There is no greater indication of the free world's belief in the future of South Vietnam than in the long range technical assistance projects now being undertaken in the Republic.

★ South of Da Nang lies the An Hoa/Nong Son industrial complex, where South Vietnam's only coal mine is being developed with the aid of French and German investment. Germany has provided machinery for the construction of chemical plants near this complex and has funded many millions of dollars in long term capital investments. Such a project will not only create jobs for the people in the surrounding areas, but also stimulate many other sectors of the economy and provide benefits far above the initial investment.

★ The United States has given 48 locomotives and 225 freight cars for the Vietnamese national railway, an important contribution in the effort to reestablish communications with all parts of the nation.

★ Australia constructed a 55 kilowatt radio station at Ban Me Thuot. This station helps bring the government's message to remote areas of the Central Highlands.

★ At Thu Duc, the United States has completed a water purification plant which now services the entire Saigon area. For the first time, the Saigon-Cholon area can enjoy the benefits of pure water.

With the improvements and maintenance of Vietnam's communications, it will be possible to keep the country united, and prevent the Viet Cong from isolating portions of the country side.

Industry, communications, power—these are the fields in which free world technical assistance is now being given. When the war is over, these

MEDCAP—medical civil affairs teams—provide health assistance to Vietnamese.



projects will remain to help the Vietnamese people and economy.

Vietnam is one of the richest rice producing nations in all of Asia, and the development of agriculture is of prime concern. Many free world nations are seeking to further the development of cooperatives to promote agricultural development.

★ The Republic of China has had an agricultural mission in Vietnam since 1959. Working through the Ministry of Agriculture and local farmers, the mission has been seeking to promote better crop development in the Hue, Phan Rang, Dalat, Bien Hoa and Long Xuyen areas.

★ Australia has provided valuable material including an experimental dairy farm, irrigation equipment, farm tools, livestock and poultry breeding equipment, a milk plant, rice silos, and animal vaccine production equipment.

★ Germany has provided $4,000,000 in long-term investment for the importation of machine tools and fertilizers.

★ The largest contribution, in terms of money, has come from the United States, whose agricultural aid program by 1966 had totalled $64,000,-000.

Today, an estimated seven per cent of the Vietnamese population are refugees. The South Vietnamese government has been providing for these únfortunate people, but the magnitude of the problem demands much more. Free world governments and agencies are attempting to fill this need.

★ Germany has provided $6,000,000 for the construction of refugee centers and a refugee village for 2,000 people.

★ Australia has donated milk, blankets, roofing materials and earth moving equipment for refugee resettlement.

On a more personal level, the drive to aid the refugees of Vietnam was felt in the Japanese city of Niigata. Hearing of the plight of the refugees of Song Be in Phuoc Long Province, the citizens of Niigata banded together and sent 2½ tons of blankets, clothing and home medicine kits. Soon after this generous donation was made, the mayor of Niigata came personally to Song Be, where he was greeted by the local population. It was a fitting demonstration of Asian brotherhood and free world solidarity in the face of Communist aggression.

The military side of the war is emphazied day after day, on television and radio and in newspapers around the world, but frequently too little is said of the successful fight against poverty, ignorance, disease and fear. This aid, now being given by nations of the free world, is as vital in the struggle against aggression as is the military effort. The Republic of Vietnam, the United States and nations of the free world are not waiting for the war to end in order to help the Vietnamese people. They are building a new nation.



The Enemy We Face

THEY came to my house and told my mother that I had been chosen to be one of them. They wanted me to become a *chien si* (soldier). My mother pleaded that I was too young. The North Vietnamese soldier said, 'He is old enough—the draft age is 15 to 40.' "

This is how 15-year-old Nguyen Van Qui became one of the enemy you faced. His story is typical. He was then taken to a training camp near Com Ninh, in the southern panhandle of North Vietnam. There, he and other recruits were given their khaki uniforms and taught to aim and fire a weapon. The complete training cycle for duty as a regular *chien si* in the North Vietnamese Army (NVA) lasted six days.

After his training, Qui and 1,200 others were sent on a four-week journey down the Ho Chi Minh Trail. They moved in small groups to escape B52 raids. About 700 of them were armed.

"Many died on the trail," Qui recalled. "Some died of malaria and others died of not enough food. It was very hard. Everybody was sick, but they kept pushing us."

The NVA now comprise perhaps over half of the total enemy forces in South Vietnam, with their percentage growing smaller as one travels toward the Mekong Delta. They depend upon infiltrated units for reinforcements and resupply, and few are paid anything more than a bag of salt for their efforts. Each unit has a political officer who tries to maintain morale with a steady flow of North Vietnamese ideology.

Still they often pose a more formidable threat on the battlefield than do the Viet Cong, who fill the remaining ranks of the enemy. This elusive, so-called Liberation Army consists of two basic elements—the paramilitary and the full military.

The paramilitary Viet Cong is generally a local civilian who is a part-time soldier, whose military duties do not take him far from home. In addition, he is not highly indoctrinated politically. The Liberation Front calls this force the Guerrilla Popular Army (GPA).

At the hamlet level the GPA unit is either a cell, a half-squad or squad—three, six or twelve men. The GPA unit at the village level, consisting of several hamlets, is the platoon, made up of three or four squads—36 to 48 men.

There are two basic classes of GPA members. The first is the Viet Cong in the village, frequently an older man, who is generally used as a village defender. He has little training and is armed with scanty or primitive weapons. The second is the Viet Cong combat soldier, who is younger and better trained and armed. He is frequently called upon to aid mobile columns or fill military units



①



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Some of the more common weapons used by the enemy include the Soviet Simonov 7.62 mm carbine (SKS) (Fig. 1); the AK47, Chicom type 66, 7.62 mm assault rifle (Fig. 2); Soviet RPG7 rocket launcher and B41 rocket (Fig. 3); AT grenade launcher, RPG2, Chicom type 56 (Fig. 4), and Chicom type 53, 7.62 mm machine gun (Fig. 5).

in the vicinity of his village or hamlet. The VC combat units also serve as manpower pools for the Viet Cong's fill military units.

The fill military element also is divided into two types—the Regional Forces and the Main Force. They are not organized or operated like an orthodox army. Their units are self-contained, not uniformed and rely primarily on guerrilla-type tactics. They depend on local populations for much of their logistical support.

The Regional Forces, also called Territorials, are units established by Front district committees, which provide their leadership and direct their activities. A Regional Force operates mostly in one area.

The elite units of the Viet Cong are the battalions of the Main Force. They have acquired the name of "Hard Hats" because of the metal or fiberboard helmets that distinguish them from the Regional Forces and paramilitary VC. These battalions are directed by the Front committees at the provincial level and range farther afield in their combat operations.

During the early days of the conflict, the Communists fought with older weapons used in previous wars by the French, Japanese and Americans. But today, largely as the result of aid from Red China and the Soviet Union, North Vietnamese Army troops and many main-force Viet Cong units are equipped with late model weapons comparable to those used by U.S. forces.

The most common of these are the SKS carbine, the Soviet AK47 assault rifle, or—more often—a Chinese copy of either. These weapons use identical 7.62mm rounds, similar to the round fired by the U.S. M14 rifle, but shorter. Both have a maximum effective range of 400 meters. The assault rifle most often captured is the Chicom (short for "Chinese Communist") Type 56, although soldiers in the field usually refer to it as the AK47, since it is a virtual copy of that weapon. It can be fired on automatic at a rate of 150 rounds a minute, or on semi-automatic. Loaded with a 30-round magazine, it weighs 10½ pounds.

The SKS carbine—or the Chicom 7.62 copy—is a semi-automatic weapon. It weighs nearly nine pounds when loaded with a 10-round magazine.

Until three years ago, the only machine guns available to the VC were obsolete French, Chinese and German models. Today, however, each NVA and Main Force VC battalion is allocated 36 light machine guns, usually the 7.62mm Type 56 RPD or the older and heavier Type 58 RD-46. Both can accurately fire 150 rounds a minute up to ranges of 800 meters. These automatic weapons were first supplied to the North Vietnamese in 1965.

A weapon which the enemy has been using with growing frequency, especially in stand-off attacks on U.S. and South Vietnamese military bases, is the mortar. Standard mortars in Charlie's arsenal are the 82mm—backbone of his high-angle fire



support—and the 60mm, normally used in small-scale guerrilla actions.

Ready to fire, the 60mm mortar weighs 45 pounds and its 3.2-pound projectile travels up to 1,500 meters. The 82mm in firing position weighs 123 pounds and hurls a 6.72-pound projectile at targets up to 3,040 meters away. Although much heavier than the 60mm mortar, the 82mm can be disassembled into three parts and carried by the infiltrating North Vietnamese with relative ease. Once in the battle zone, it can be quickly re-assembled.

The 82mm round was designed one millimeter larger than the U.S. 81mm round so the the Communists can employ captured U.S. mortar rounds in their tubes.

During early 1968 a 120mm mortar, capable of hurling a 33.9-pound warhead 5,700 meters, was added to the Communist arsenal. With a total weight of 606 pounds, it is more difficult to transport, and is not widely used.

The enemy also has stepped up his use of rockets within the past year. Charlie employs rockets in stand-off attacks of military installations and as general support artillery.

The simple but effective Soviet-made 122mm rocket launcher, first used in South Vietnam in May 1967, can hurl with area target accuracy a projectile weighing more than 100 pounds up to ranges of 11,000 meters.

Launchers for the Soviet 122mm were originally manufactured in truck-mounted clusters of 40 tubes. To improve mobility and accuracy in rugged South Vietnam terrain, a portable tripod mount for single launching tubes was introduced.

The 140mm rocket, with a carrying weight of 88 pounds and a projectile weight of 70 pounds, has a range of 9,500 meters. This rocket was first employed in an attack on Da Nang in February 1968. Its use thus far has been largely restricted to the northern I Corps Tactical Zone, primarily because of logistical limitations.

The latest type of rocket introduced by the enemy is the Chinese-made 107mm, which weighs less than half as much as either of the others and has an estimated effective range of 9,000 meters.

In 1965 the enemy added to his grenade capability with the introduction of the Soviet-made RPG-2 anti-tank grenade launcher. Two years later the RPG-7 appeared.

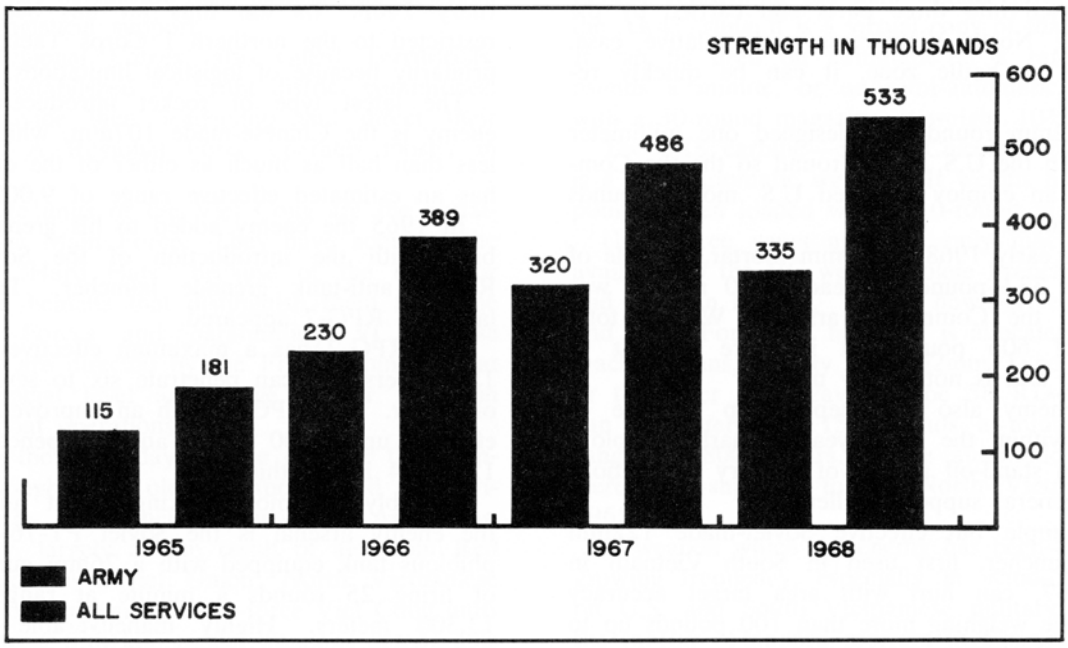
The RPG-2 has a maximum effective range of 150 meters and can penetrate six to seven inches of armor. The RPG-7, with an improved sight, is effective up to 500 meters and can penetrate steel 12 to 14 inches thick.

Probably the most striking recent addition to the enemy arsenal is the Soviet PT-76—an amphibious tank equipped with a 76mm gun capable of firing 25 rounds a minute at ranges up to 13,300 meters. Highly maneuverable with its hydro-jet propulsion system, it can cross waterways at six miles per hour and has a cruising range of 155 miles.

Statistics

ITEM	1966	1967	1968*
Enemy Killed	55,436	83,386	181,146
Hoi Chanhs	20,242	27,178	18,171
Vietnamese Abducted	3,507	5,357	7,776
Vietnamese Civilians Killed	1,618	3,707	5,389
ARVN Casualties			
Killed	11,953	12,716	17,486
Wounded	20,975	29,448	60,928
FWMF Casualties			
Killed	556	1,105	979
Wounded	1,591	2,318	1,997
US Military Casualties			
Killed			
Army	3,073	6,514	9,333
U.S.	5,008	9,353	14,592
Wounded			
Army	18,363	33,556	59,838
U.S.	30,093	62,025	92,820

(*Friendly casualty figures are not available for Feb. 1968)



Free World Forces



Thai soldiers.

FLAGS of eight nations fly alongside that of the Republic of Vietnam at the headquarters of the Free World Military Assistance Forces in Saigon. Each flag represents a nation which has sent military units to assist the Republic in its fight against aggression from the North.

In addition to the more than 500,000 American military personnel, Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Thailand, the Republic of Korea, Spain and the Republic of China have sent men to help win the war against Communist aggression. The number of Free World Forces in Vietnam numbers more than 72,000.

Korea has the second largest non-Vietnamese fighting force in Vietnam, which includes the Capital (Tiger) Infantry Division located at Qui Nhon, the 9th (White Horse) Division located at Nha Trang and the 2nd Marine (Blue Dragon) Brigade. They are supported by the 100th Logistical Command, a construction support group, a Mobile Army Surgical Hospital and Naval and Air Force transport groups. More than 48,000 ROK troops are serving in Vietnam.

Thailand increased her force in Vietnam in 1968 by replacing the Queens Cobra Regiment with the Black Panther Division. The first increment of the division was deployed and operational in Bien Hoa Province with its headquarters located at Bear Cat.

The Australians, who were the first after the U.S. to come to the aid of the Vietnamese people, now have approximately 8,000 fighting men from all three services engaged in Vietnam. The Australian Navy has one guided missile destroyer on station with the U.S. Navy's 7th Fleet. Their Air Force maintains three squadrons in Vietnam. Australian infantry headquarters is located near Nui Dat.

A Special Air Service Troop from the 1st Ranger Squadron was added in mid-December to New Zealand's military assistance forces, which include two rifle companies, an artillery battery and a tri-service medical team. New Zealand has a total force of more than 500 men in Vietnam, which is 10 per cent of her total army.

The Republic of the Philippines is expected to continue its effort in the field with its 1,500-man civic action group. The individual civic action teams have completed 600,000 MEDCAPS and DENTCAPS. The teams are active in the Tay Ninh area. The Philippine group has been active since 1964.

Nationalist China is providing a psychological operations (PSYOPS) group to act as advisors to



Royal Australian artillery battery fires!

various Vietnamese Armed Forces headquarters and schools. Almost all of the soldiers sent by China are field grade officers with a background in education.

Spain has sent a military medical mission which operates in a Vietnamese provincial hospital devoted to the health and well-being of the civilian population. The medical mission operates in Go Cong Province.

While Free World military forces battle the enemy with guns and grenades there is an equally vital, if less publicized, battle underway. No less than 40 nations of the Free World are involved in this battle—the struggle against hunger, poverty, ignorance and fear. Each success in this field makes the enemy's appeal weaker, and makes the job of the fighting man easier.

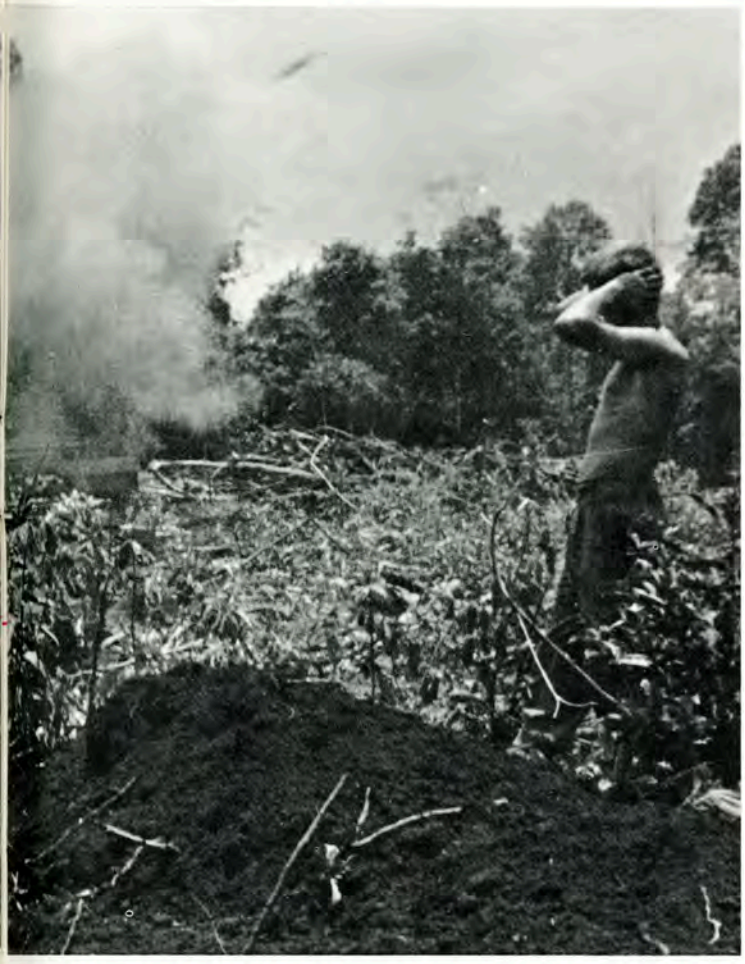
Free World nations are providing medical aid to combat disease, educational and vocational aid to combat illiteracy and expand job opportunities, technical assistance to develop industry to provide more jobs and products for a better standard of living, agricultural programs to provide more, better, and cheaper food, and assistance in the resettlement of refugees.

The shortage of trained medical personnel has created a serious problem in the Republic of Vietnam. To bring medicine to remote areas of the country, medical teams from New Zealand, Korea, the United Kingdom, the Philippines, Australia, China, Germany, Japan, Spain and the United States are stationed throughout Vietnam. Here are a few examples:

- New Zealand has provided a surgical team at Qui Nhon.
- A mobile medical unit sent by the Republic of Korea works in the coastal city of Vung Tau.
- The German hospital ship Helgoland docks at several ports along the coast to provide medical services as a unique floating hospital.

In a country engaged in war, the existence of medical supplies and good hospitals and clinics for both civilian and military personnel is essential. And, when the fighting is over, these facilities wlil remain to help the people of Vietnam. Vietnam today enjoys the highest standard of medical treatment in its history.

Key targets of Viet Cong assassins are the



teachers of Vietnam. The enemy realizes that the destruction of schools is necessary for the final destruction of society, for Communism thrives on the ignorance of its subjects. While the fighting man battles to free the teachers and students from the fear of enemy terrorism, Free World nations are providing programs to expand and improve the educational facilities in Vietnam.

New schools are being built every day, and nearly two million testbooks for all school grades have been donated to the Vietnamese educational system.

Professors from the Free World are lecturing in Vietnamese collages and universities.

More and more scholarships are being provided for the Vietnamese students so that they may study abroad. Over 4,000 scholarships have enabled young Vietnamese to study in Free World countries other than the United States. Many of these students will return to become teachers and leaders who will further aid Vietnam's development.

There is no greater indication of the Free World's belief in the future of South Vietnam than in the long-range technical assistance projects now being undertaken in the Republic.

South of Da Nang lies the An Hoa-Nong Son industrial complex, where South Vietnam's only coal mine is being developed with the aid of French and German investment. Germany has provided machinery for the construction of chemical plants near this complex and has funded many millions of dollars in long-term capital investment. Such projects not only create jobs for the people in nearby areas, but also help stimulate many sectors of the economy and provide benefits far above the initial investment.

Vietnam is potentially one of the richest rice-producing nations in all of Asia, and the development of agriculture is of prime concern. Many Free World nations are seeking to further the development of cooperatives to promote agricultural development.

The Republic of China has had an agricultural mission in Vietnam since 1959. Working through the Ministry of Agriculture and local farmers, the 74-man mission has been seeking to promote better crop development in the Hue, Phan Rang, Bien Hoa and Long Xuyen areas.

Australia has provided valuable materials, including an experimental dairy farm, irrigation equipment, farm tools, livestock and poultry breeding equipment.

Germany has provided almost four million dollars in long term investments for the importation of machine tools and fertilizers.

Recently the "miricle rice" IR8 has been introduced into Vietnam. This strain of rice, developed by Free World nations, produces a stronger, more nutritious rice in much greater quantities than other varieties grown in Vietnam. As the use of this rice spreads, Vietnam will be able to provide more food for her own people, and may well be able to export quantities to other Asian nations. This effort in particular has the possibility of helping not only the Vietnamese people, but it may also develope a stable base for the nation's economy.

It took the United States nearly 300 years to develop from a youthful frontier to the most powerful nation in the world. Vietnam, like many developing nations, is trying to modernize in much less time. The Republic of Vietnam is faced with the additional problem of trying to progress in the wake of constant war. She is fighting on two difficult fronts at the same time, but she is not alone in the fight. Free World nations are providing many types of assistance: military, medical, educational, agricultural, technical and economic.

All this has one common purpose: to enable the people of Vietnam to enjoy the fruits of freedom and prosperity.

Vietnamese

Armed Forces



ARVN soldier guards Presidential palace.

THE Republic of Vietnam Armed Force (RVNAF) increased in strength by more than 29 per cent in 1968. RVNAF strength by year's end exceeded 820,000 and included more than 170,000 volunteers who had entered service during the year.

In addition to the regular forces, paramilitary forces, such as the National Police, CIDG and Revolutionary Development Cadre, contribute another 180,000 service members.

More than 17,000 Vietnamese military were killed in action during 1968 with overall RVNAF casualties up 32 per cent from 1967. At the same time, South Vietnamese troops inflicted more than 100,000 casualties on the enemy, including more than 85,000 killed. This record testifies to the greatly increased skill and effectiveness of the South Vietnamese fighting man.

The year 1968 saw the coming of age of the ARVN soldier. The VC/NVA Spring Offensive, which began during Tet, the Lunar New Year, not only was costly to the enemy in men, material and morale but also proved the fighting ability and determination of RVNAF forces.

In many of the cities attacked by the enemy, Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) forces were not only the first forces hit but the major forces available to drive out the enemy.

Within one to two days, the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese regulars were pushed out of most of the cities attacked. Only in Saigon and Hue were there battles of greater duration.

In Hue the enemy retreated into the Citadel, ancient home of the Vietnamese kings. While members of a Vietnamese ranger task force and a U.S. division blocked reinforcements from joining the Communists inside the Citadel, 11 Vietnamese and three U.S. battalions engaged the enemy within the city. The first friendly forces to reenter the Citadel were members of the aggressive Hac Bao (Black Panther) Company of the ARVN 1st Infantry Division.

The enemy launched the final phase of the Spring Offensive in May with Saigon as its main target. Again the Vietnamese forces proved their fighting ability with much of the fighting falling to the ARVN Airborne Division. The Communists were again repulsed with heavy losses.

The Vietnamese also engaged in other operations to destroy the enemy's ability and desire to wage war. Large scale operations increased greatly during 1968 with an average of 118 battalions on combat operations each day. This was a 16 per cent increase over 1967 when an average of 101 battalions were on operations.

Much of the RVNAF toll, however, has been the result of small actions rather than large operations. Comprising almost 50 per cent of RVNAF, Regional and Popular Forces (RF/PF) stationed in villages and hamlets or operating from small bases accounted for a large share of the enemy killed by RVNAF.

During Tet, RF/PF units brunted many of the enemy's attacks and throughout the year RF/PF were largely successful in accomplishing their mission of providing security for the Vietnamese civilian population.

Since the beginning of 1968 and with the Vietnamese General Mobilization Decree in June, all branches of RVNAF have built up and accelerated their training programs and acquired newer and better equipment.

The issue of M16s has been completed to all activated ARVN combat maneuver elements. M16s

Vietnamese Ranger stands guard over captured equipment during an operation in the northern portion of South Vietnam (I Corps).







Vietnamese Air Force ground crewman signals pilot (above), preparing to taxi to runway to join an air strike (top) against enemy forces.

Photos by Spec. 4 Dennis Leake

have also been issued to most Regional and Popular Forces and are currently being issued to paramilitary elements. ARVN units are also being equipped with M60 machine guns and M79 grenade launchers.

Armored commands have added more personnel carriers and other armored vehicles while all ARVN combat elements have increased their transportation capability 50 per cent by replacing old vehicles with new models.

Communications have been bettered by the use of newer, light-weight radio sets.

The ARVN consists of 10 numbered divisions, an airborne division, ranger command and separate infantry, armored and artillery units. The average ARVN division has three-to-four thousand fewer men than a U.S. division.

The 9,500-man Vietnamese Marine Division, although primarily concerned with amphibious operations, often engages in joint operations with the Vietnamese Army and other Free World Forces. They also engage in numerous independent ground operations.

Also supporting the ARVN is the Vietnamese Air Force (VNAF) which is playing an increasingly large role in the war. VNAF currently flies more than 20 per cent of all tactical air missions throughout the Republic and, prior to the bombing halt, participated in numerous strikes over North Vietnam.

All three of the major commands of the Vietnamese Navy (VNN) have, as one of their primary missions, the transportation and support of ground combat elements. The VNN also has a ground responsibility in the Rung Sat Zone, the swampy area between Saigon and the sea.

The Pleasant Moments

MUCH more so than his counterparts in any other war, the American soldier who served in Vietnam was the beneficiary of a myriad of programs designed to maintain his morale at a high level and improve his general welfare.

By far the most popular and important of these programs was the Rest and Recuperation (R & R) leave, which gave every soldier the opportunity to spend five full days in one of ten exciting "fun capitals" of Asia and the Pacific.

The more than 20,000 servicemen who chose Australia will always remember with a smile the bikini-clad "birds" along Manly Beach. And the memory of the warmth with which the Aussies welcomed all "Yanks" will never fade.

In stately Bangkok, one was impressed by the pomp and grandeur of the ancient Court of Siam. And how about those delicate bargaining sessions with enchanting Thai salesgirls who had "a special deal" just for you?

The majority of the Hawaii-bound travelers were joined there by their wives. But a vacation reunion with loved ones was by no means the only attraction. Gleaming beaches and luau delicacies enhanced their Hawaiian stay.

Variety was the watchword for those who chose Hong Kong for R & R. The prices in the world's most famous bargain basement made gift-buying a delight. And the night life ranged from cozy cabarets to colossal stage productions.

Kuala Lumpur had a magnetic appeal all its own. The soaring spires of the National Mosque, and spectacular religious celebrations were sights not to be forgotten. At mealtime, budding gourmets received their introduction to savory Eastern cuisine, including Indian curries and juicy Malaysian "satay."

Manila was sheer joy for the shutterbugs. The harbor hydrofoil ride provided many opportunities for the camera enthusiast in search of the shot, while in the mountains, picturesque Baguio was captured on film for future reminiscing.

Exotic Penang was a tropical paradise. You could have spent your whole leave just backing in the sun on one of many beaches. But there were hills and temples, magnificent waterfalls and lush gardens to explore, too.

People-watchers spent many a pleasant hour at open-air cafes on Singapore's Bugis Street. When they tired of the bustle of this melting pot of the Orient, the "must see" list suggested the Tiger Balm Gardens and the House of Jade.

Taipei's provincial hospitality demonstrated the ancient tradition of service and efficiency. Visitors were thoroughly satisfied, whether it was a pot of tea or a major purchase. Both shopping and sightseeing offered equal attraction, and whatever the day's choice, you came out a winner.

The fast-paced life in the world's largest city stands out in the minds of those who headed for Tokyo. The bright lights and multitude of shops of the Ginza were an irresistible attraction. Electronics dealers offered outstanding buys on cameras, radios, stereos, and more. And in contrast, the cherry blossoms and ancient beauty of old Japan tempered the hectic pace.

Once again, there was plenty of first-rate entertainment for Americans in Vietnam. Working with the USO's Hollywood Overseas Committee and the Department of Defense, Special Services continued to bring top names in show business and sports throughout the country.

The perennial favorite, Bob Hope, made his fifth consecutive Christmas visit—his 18th consecutive overseas tour. Having, as he said, "some idea of what the troops wanted to see," Hope brought along 19 beautiful girls to brighten the Christmas season. Ann-Margret wowed them with her singing and dancing, among other things. Two all-girl singing groups, Honey Ltd. and the Goldiggers, provided good medicine for sore eyes and ears. As a chaperone, Hope brought huge Rosey Grier, former New York Giant football star and now a rock 'n roll singer. In addition to his vocal performance, Rosey played straight man for Hope, while Dick Albers showed that physical fitness can be fun with his antics on the trampoline.

Other big hits were Ohio State football coach Woody Hayes and his films of the OSU-USC Rose Bowl game, and comedian Joey Bishop.

Of course, radio personality Johnny Grant visited Vietnam again, accompanied by several gorgeous young ladies. And there were many others who did their part to make a year in Vietnam go a little faster.

Also not to be forgotten were the military tours sponsored by Special Services. Outstanding military musicians from each Corps were selected to





Photo by Major Donald Blake



"Watch the hands," was the keyword for those on Rest and Recuperation in Hawaii. Regardless of where it was taken R&R was welcomed (left). The chaplain provided guidance (bottom), and Bob Hope and girls—in this case the Goldiggers—provided entertainment (above).

Photo by Major David L. Stanley

give concerts throughout Vietnam. Since they were military men, these musicians could and did visit more remote locations than could other entertainers.

Many men were able to take advantage of the in-country R & R program, and spent three days on the beaches of Vung Tau, enjoying the sun, sand and surf in a picturesque setting.

For the men who wished to expand their educational horizons, Vietnam had plenty to offer. Servicemen could take courses for credit from the United States Armed Forces Institute, or resident credit from the University of Maryland. Those planning an Army career had the opportunity to take extension courses from several service schools.

Exchanges offered everything from razor blades and soap to radios, stereos and cameras. Most stores stocked snack items to offer a change from standard Army fare. A special program was launched to get radios, watches and cameras out to the smaller PXs to give the combat soldier an equal chance to purchase these luxury items.

The snack bars operated by the exchange system were a welcome addition. Situated at division and brigade basecamps, they were always popular with the men. The snack bars at the aerial ports always seemed to have a line of hungry customers in front of them.

The many EM, NCO and officers' clubs supplied a place to relax after a hard day. Many featured live entertainment in addition to snack items and cold beverages. Some of the larger clubs also operated concessions such as the always-popular massage parlor.

In make-shift theaters wherever a projector could be set up, movies were shown. The schedule of productions and the quality of the films varied greatly from week to week, but they were always enjoyed, although many a man cursed a little as the alert siren stopped the show right in the middle of "Dr. Zhivago," or "Madigan."

The chaplain is sometimes regarded as detached from the mainstream of military life, concerned more with the spiritual than the real. But the men who serve in the Chaplain Corps frequently do more than conduct Sunday services. Chaplains have two principal duties. The first is to provide religious services and the second is to counsel the men. Often they accompany combat soldiers on assaults to know what the men experience, check on morale and help the wounded.

From Valley Forge to Dak To, American soldiers have endured the hardships of a thousand battles. In Vietnam, however, unprecedented morale and welfare opportunities help make the burdens of war at least a little more bearable.



THE MEDAL OF HONOR

". . . FOR HEROISM ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY"

CPT Roger H. C. Donlon
5th Special Forces Group, 6 July 1964

SGT Larry S. Pierce†
1st Bn, 503d Inf, 173d Abn Bde, 20 September 1965

PFC Milton L. Olive III†
2d Bn, 503d Inf, 173d Abn Bde, 22 October 1965

1LT Charles Q. Williams
5th Special Forces Group, 9–10 June 1965

1LT Walter J. Marm, Jr.
1st Bn, 7th Cav, 1st Cav Div (AM), 14 November 1965

2LT Robert J. Hibbs†
2nd Bn, 28th Inf, 1st Inf Div, 5 March 1966

SP5 Lawrence Joel
1st Bn, 503d Inf, 173d Abn, 8 November 1965

SP4 Daniel Fernandez†
1st Bn, 5th Inf, 25th Inf Div, 18 February 1966

SGT James W. Robinson, Jr.†
2d Bn, 16th Inf, 1st Inf Div, 11 April 1966

SSG Jimmy G. Stewart†
2nd Bn, 1st Cav Div (AM), 18 May 1966

SGT David C. Dolby
1st Bn, 8th Cav, 1st Cav Div (AM), 21 May 1966

1LT James A. Gardner†
1st Bn, 327th Inf, 101st Abn Div (AM), 7 February 1966

SSG Charles B. Morris
2d Bn, 503d Inf, 173d Abn Bde, 29 June 1966

CPT Joseph X. Grant†
1st Bn, 14th Inf, 25th Inf Div, 13 November 1966

SGT Donald R. Long†
1st Sqdr, 4th Cav, 1st Inf Div, 30 June 1966

PFC Lewis Albanese†
5th Bn, 7th Cav, 1st Cav Div (AM), 1 December 1966

CPT Robert F. Foley
2nd Bn, 27th Inf, 25th Inf Div, 5 November 1966

SGT John F. Baker, Jr.
2nd Bn, 27th Inf, 25th Inf Div, 5 November 1966

SP5 Charles C. Hagemeister
1st Bn, 5th Cav, 1st Cav Div (AM), 20 March 1967

SP4 Donald W. Evans, Jr.†
2nd Bn, 12th Inf, 4th Inf Div, 27 January 1967

1LT George K. Sisler†
5th Special Forces Group, 7 February 1967

CPT Euripides Rubio, Jr.†
1st Bn, 28th Inf, 1st Inf Div, 8 November 1966

PFC Billy Lane Lauffer†
2nd Bn, 5th Cav, 1st Cav Div (AM), 21 September 1966

PFC Louis E. Willett†
1st Bn, 12th Inf, 4th Inf Div, 15 February 1967

SSG Delbert O. Jennings
1st Bn, 12th Cav, 1st Cav Div (AM), 27 December 1966

SGT Leonard B. Keller
3rd Bn, 60th Inf, 9th Inf Div, 2 May 1967

1SG David H. McNerney
1st Bn, 8th Inf, 4th Inf Div, 22 March 1967

SSG Kenneth E. Stumpf
1st Bn, 35th Inf, 25th Inf Div, 25 April 1967

SP4 Raymond R. Wright
3rd Bn, 35th Inf, 25th Inf Div, 2 May 1967

SSG Elmelindo R. Smith†
2nd Bn, 8th Inf, 4th Inf Div, 16 February 1967

PFC James H. Monroe†
1st Bn, 8th Cav, 1st Cav Div (AM), 16 November 1967

1SG Maximo Yabes†
4th Bn, 9th Inf, 25th Inf Div, 26 February 1967

Chaplain (CPT) Angelo J. Liteky
199th Inf Bde, 6 December 1967

SP5 Dwight H. Johnson
1st Bn, 69th Armor, 4th Inf Div, 15 January 1968

SGT Sammy L. Davis
2nd Bn, 4th Arty, 9th Inf Div, 18 November 1967

SP4 Gary G. Wetzel
173d AHC, 1st Avn Bde, 8 January 1968

CPT James A. Taylor
1st Sqdr, 1st Cav, Americal Div, 9 November 1967

SGT Ted Belcher†
1st Bn, 14th Inf, 25th Inf Div, 19 November 1966

CPT Riley L. Pitts†
2nd Bn, 27th Inf, 25th Inf Div, 31 October 1967

PSG Matthew Leonard†
1st Bn, 16th Inf, 1st Inf Div, 28 February 1967

SSG Drew D. Dix
US Senior Advisor Group, IV Corps Military Assistance Comd, 1 February 1968

(† indicates posthumous award)



Distinguished Service Cross



Distinguished Service Medal



Silver Star



Legion of Merit



Distinguished Flying Cross



Soldiers Medal



Bronze Star Medal



Air Medal



Joint Services Commendation Medal



Army Commendation Medal



Purple Heart



Good Conduct Medal



National Defense Service Medal



Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal



Vietnam Service Medal



Vietnam Campaign Medal (RVN Award)



Presidential Unit Citation



Valorous Unit Award



Meritorious Unit Citation

AWARDS GRANTED IN VIETNAM

These are shown in order of precedence, the order in which they should be worn. The unit citations are worn over the right pocket, all others over the left.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMANDING GENERAL
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96375

Your tour in Vietnam is now behind you. It has been a year of hard fighting--certainly a period in which the American soldier has performed in the best traditions of the US Army. You may leave this land of Vietnam--the jungles, mountains, and coastal plains--with that inner satisfaction of knowing you have served the cause of free men everywhere. The Republic of Vietnam and, indeed, our own nation, are greatly in your debt for your efforts.

Now you are going home to rejoin your family and friends. They are proud of you and are anxiously awaiting your return. With you goes a world of knowledge and impressions based on the experiences you have had in Vietnam. Your friends, neighbors, and the people with whom you will work will look to you as an authority on what is happening in the Republic of Vietnam. This magazine, a history of this country and the year you spent here, may help you to tell your story.

You are commended for the fine job you have completed in Vietnam. Warmest wishes for success in your future endeavors.

Frank T. Mildren

FRANK T. MILDREN
Lieutenant General, US Army
Deputy Commanding General


TWA
U.S. AIR FORCE