

To date, Operation TOAN THANG has been divided into two phases: Phase I terminating on 312400 May and Phase II continuing through the end of the reporting period.

Most significant in the activities of the division between 1 May and 31 July were its counteroffensive operations to defeat the "2nd Phase Offensive" of the enemy against SAIGON-CHOLON and its search and destroy maneuvering to thwart and upset the enemy preparations for his "3rd Phase Offensive" of late July or early August.

The "2nd Phase Offensive" (the "1st Phase Offensive" being the TET Offensive of 31 January-18 February) commenced 2 May and continued until 15 May. Alerted by intelligence sources in late April of the impending enemy attacks into the capital region, the 25th Infantry Division maneuvered the bulk of its combat forces into the southeastern quadrant of its tactical area of operational interest to establish a screen beyond the western environs of SAIGON-CHOLON. Deploying itself in depth in western GIA DINH Province, eastern HAU NGHIA Province and northern LONG AN Province during the first few days of May, the Division effectively executed a mobile defense to block the enemy's main avenues of approach from the northwest, west and southwest. When the enemy main force units of the 5th and 9th VC/NVA and the 7th NVA divisions committed themselves to their approach marches beginning on 2 May, the 25th Infantry Division moved in force as required to successfully intercept and destroy the advancing enemy before he could reach his assault positions into SAIGON-CHOLON.

With his main ground thrust broken and turned back, the enemy then mounted his boastful "100 rockets a day" 122mm rocket-mortar assaults against the capital region. Mounting extensive day and night, ground/air patrol throughout a "rocket belt" 10-15 kilometers west of SAIGON, the "Tropic Lightning" Division systematically crushed this threat within a few days of its initiation.

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Inclosure 1

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A general statistical analysis of the Division's operations between 1 May and 31 May 1968 reveals the following results:

- U.S. killed in action - 218
- U.S. wounded in action - 1,156 (893 evacuated)
- U.S. equipment destroyed - 22 armored personnel carriers
 - five tanks
 - one helicopter
 - one 8" howitzer
 - two 155mm howitzers
 - one trailer
 - seven trucks

- U.S. equipment damaged (deadlined 24 hours or longer)
 - one 175mm howitzer
 - one tank retriever
 - ten trucks
 - 31 helicopters
 - two 155mm howitzers
 - two 105mm howitzers
 - ten tanks
 - 21 armored personnel carriers
- U.S. equipment captured
 - five individual weapons
 - two crew served weapons

- Enemy killed in action (confirmed by body count) - 2,275
- Enemy prisoners-of-war - 77
- Detainees - 237

- Enemy equipment and supplies captured
 - 478 individual weapons
 - 213 crew served weapons
 - 33.6 tons of rice
 - one star light scope
 - 471 hand grenades
 - 31,026 small arms rounds
 - 511 rocket, artillery or mortar rounds
 - 100 mortar fuzes
 - 183 pounds

- Enemy documents captured
- Enemy equipment and supplies destroyed
 - 1,014 rocket, artillery or mortar rounds
 - 166 mines
 - 53,185 small arms rounds
 - 1,775 hand grenades
 - 151 sampans
 - 12.8 tons of rice
 - 18 crew served weapons
 - 26 individual weapons
 - 32 cluster bomb units
 - 1,600 pounds of salt
 - two bombs
 - 243 mortar fuzes

In general, contact with main force enemy units throughout the 25th Infantry Division's tactical area of operational interest (TADI) diminished considerably in June and July. With his 2nd Phase Offensive on SAIGON and subsequently threatened artillery assaults on the capital city totally defeated, the enemy demonstrated little willingness to fight. Rather in June his main force units that remained outside SAIGON broke contact, dispersed and exfiltrated west into ~~the~~ and northwest into WAR ZONE C. In executing this pull back the enemy avoided contact and when engaged was quick to disperse into smaller groups and disengage as quickly as possible. Intelligence sources clearly indicated the enemy's intent of withdrawing his depleted main force units to these traditional sanctuaries for replacements, resupply and retraining for future operations.

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May 9 - July 30

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 25TH INFANTRY DIVISION ARTILLERY
APO San Francisco 96225

AVDCDA-CO

15 August 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 25th Inf Div Arty for Period Ending 31 Jul 68.
(RCS CSFOR-65)(R1)

SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. Operations: Significant Activities.

Operation TOAN THANG continued from last quarter. The forces deployed to the Capital Military District were successful in spoiling an all out May Day attack on Saigon. Approximately two enemy battalions, unable to consummate their attack on the capital, were trapped in the swamps to the southwest of Highway 1 near Duc Hoa. During the period 3-5 May over 10,000 rounds of artillery were poured into the area inflicting heavy casualties on the combined VC/NVA force.

During the early morning of 9 May, Fire Support Base (FSPB) Maury, vic XT6502, occupied by elements of 7/11 and 3/13 Arty, repulsed a strong ground attack (See Incl 1).

On 14 May, one medium battery was deployed to FSPB Patton (XT5921) and on 15 May, two light batteries were moved to FSPB Pope (XT5430). These moves were made to provide support for TF Daems in operations in the vicinity of the Mushroom.