

the operations of the 25th Infantry Division and other allied forces had denied him. Moving rapidly into the path of the main force units which the enemy had mobilized for this major attack, Tropic Lightning soldiers absorbed the full force of the enemy blows and then counterattacked viciously to convincingly smash the offensive and destroy many of the enemy's crack units. In the fierce engagements that raged between 31 January and 15 February, the 25th Infantry Division was credited with killing 1,776 enemy in the fighting in and around Saigon.

PURUSE TET ENEMY—In the aftermath of the historic Tet battles, the Tropic Lightning Division pursued the mauled enemy back into his redoubts and sanctuaries. The Division's alert maneuvering continually frustrated all enemy efforts to mount another mass offensive that might achieve a psychologically significant military victory to influence the peace talks which by then were under way.

In early May the Division maneuvered the full might of its combat forces into blocking positions immediately west of Saigon to meet the threat of a "Second Phase Offensive" against the capital city. Executing a mobile defense to near perfection the Tropic Lightning shield intercepted enemy main force units as they made their approach march into assault positions outside the city. In a pitched battle that raged for ten days across the paddy fields of eastern Hau Nghia and western Gia Dinh Province, the combat effectiveness of three enemy divisions was totally destroyed and the enemy was forced to withdraw far short of his objective.

In late August a summer-long lull came to an abrupt halt as Viet Cong and NVA units launched heavy attacks against military and civilian centers in Tay Ninh Province including the provincial capital itself. Many persons regarded the attacks as a prelude to a "Third Offensive." Tropic Lightning infantrymen, cavalrymen and artillerymen rose to the cause along with ARVN forces in repelling every enemy effort. Divisional units claimed more than 900 enemy dead in one fierce week of fighting during this Communist offensive.

Whether conducting offensive or defensive operations, Tropic Lightning soldiers in Vietnam have lead the way in providing a military shield behind which the government of the Republic of Vietnam could continue its expansive program to pacify the people and develop the economic and social potential within a vital five-province area.

DIVISION UNITS

3d Squadron, 4th Cavalry (MacKenzie's Radiers). The 4th Cavalry was organized June 17, 1855. Its motto is "Paratus et Fideles." It has earned 55 battle streamers from the Indian Wars to the Korean War.



1st Battalion (Mechanized), 5th Infantry (Bobcats). The 5th Infantry was organized April 12, 1808. Its motto is "I'll Try, Sir." The 5th Infantry has earned 38 battle streamers from the War of 1812 to the Korean War.



1st Battalion, 8th Artillery (Automatic Eighth). The 8th Artillery was organized on July 7, 1916. Its motto is "Audacieux et Tenace." It has earned 21 battle streamers from World War I to the Korean War.



4th Battalion, 9th Infantry (Manchu). The 9th Infantry was organized on March 17, 1855. Its motto is "Keep up the Fire." It has earned 45 battle streamers from combat in the Indian Wars to the Korean War.



7th Battalion, 11th Artillery (On Time). The 11th Artillery was organized on June 1, 1917. Its motto is "On Time." The 11th Artillery has 14 battle streamers earned from World War I to Korea.



2d Battalion, 12th Infantry (White Warriors). The 12th Infantry was organized on October 20 1861. Its Motto is "Led by Love of Country." The 12th Infantry has been awarded 24 battle streamers for combat from the Civil War to World War II.



3d Battalion, 13th Artillery (The Clan). The 13th Artillery was organized June 1, 1917. Its motto is "Without Fear, Favor or Hope of Reward." The 13th Artillery has earned 18 battle streamers in World War I, World War II, and Korea.





**1st Battalion, 7th Artillery
(105mm Howitzer, Towed)**

Arrived Vietnam: 10 October 1965
Departed Vietnam: 15 April 1970
Previous Station: Fort Riley
Authorized Strength 1968 1970
Battalion 490 526

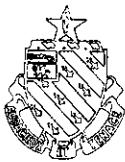
The 1st Battalion of the 7th Artillery (which used the unofficial title of "Pheons") was a towed 105mm howitzer battalion used for direct artillery support to the 1st Infantry Division's 2d Brigade. It served at Bien Hoa until 1967 and then at Di An until it departed Vietnam.



**1st Battalion, 8th Artillery
(105mm Howitzer, Towed)**

Arrived Vietnam: 20 January 1966
Departed Vietnam: 30 April 1971
Previous Station: Hawaii
Authorized Strength 1968 1968 1970
Battalion 490 526 641

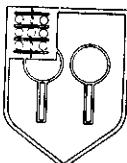
The 1st Battalion of the 8th Artillery ("Automatic Eighth") was a towed 105mm howitzer battalion assigned to the 25th Infantry Division and in direct support of its 2d Brigade. The battalion spent the majority of its service at Cu Chi.



**7th Battalion, 8th Artillery
(8-inch Howitzer,
Self-Propelled)
(175mm Gun/8-inch Howitzer)**

Arrived Vietnam: 29 June 1967
Departed Vietnam: 27 July 1971
Previous Station: Fort Sill
Authorized Strength: 565

The 7th Battalion of the 8th Artillery ("Automatic Eighth") was originally an 8-inch self-propelled M110 howitzer battalion but was later converted in early 1969. It was located at Bear Cat with the 54th Artillery Group but moved to Bien Hoa on 14 October 1967, where it remained until departure from Vietnam. However, the battalion was transferred to the control of II Field Force Vietnam Artillery on 17 October 1969 and served the 23d Artillery Group from May 1971 until redeployment.

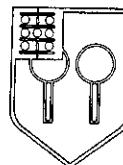


**2d Battalion, 9th Artillery
(105mm Howitzer, Towed)**

Arrived Vietnam: 28 December 1965
Departed Vietnam: 10 April 1970
Previous Station: Hawaii
Authorized Strength 1968 1968
Battalion 490 526

The 2d Battalion of the 9th Artillery ("The Mighty Ninth") was a towed 105mm howitzer battalion which served in the Pleiku vicinity throughout its duty in Vietnam. It arrived as the direct support

artillery to the 25th Infantry Division's 3d Brigade but was re-assigned as the direct support artillery of the 4th Infantry Division's 3d Brigade on 1 August 1967.



**7th Battalion, 9th Artillery
(105mm Howitzer, Towed)**

Arrived Vietnam: 23 October 1966
Departed Vietnam: 1 April 1970
Previous Station: Fort Riley
Authorized Strength: 529 (1968)

The 7th Battalion of the 9th Artillery ("The Mighty Ninth") was a towed 105mm howitzer battalion under control of the 54th Artillery Group of II Field Force, Vietnam during the majority of its Vietnam service. It arrived at Phu Loi and moved on 13 November 1966 to Bear Cat, where it remained until being relocated to Tay Ninh on 15 August 1968, and came under the 23d Artillery Group's control there until departure from Vietnam.



**1st Battalion, 11th Artillery
(105mm Howitzer, Towed)**

Arrived Vietnam: 1 January 1967
Departed Vietnam: 14 August 1969
Previous Station: Fort Riley
Authorized Strength: 468 (1968)

The 1st Battalion of the 11th Artillery ("Dragon Regiment") was a towed 105mm howitzer battalion providing direct artillery support for the 9th Infantry Division. It was first stationed with the 2d Brigade at Bear Cat and in 1968 was located to Dong Tam.



**2d Battalion, 11th Artillery
(155mm Howitzer, Towed)**

Arrived Vietnam: 13 December 1966
Departed Vietnam: 1 January 1972
Previous Station: Fort Campbell
Authorized Strength: 598

The 2d Battalion of the 11th Artillery ("Dragon Regiment") was a towed 155mm howitzer battalion at Dau Tieng which saw service first as part of II Field Force Vietnam Artillery and later with Task Force OREGON. It was deployed to Duc Pho on 19 April 1967, Bien Hoa in January 1968 and on 8 March 1968 to I CTZ and 23d Artillery Group's control at Gia Le. On 10 June 1968 it was assigned to the 101st Airborne Division.



**6th Battalion, 11th Artillery
(105mm Howitzer, Towed)**

Arrived Vietnam: 20 December 1967
Departed Vietnam: 19 September 1971
Previous Station: Hawaii
Authorized Strength 1968 1970
Battalion 526 641

The 6th Battalion of the 11th Artillery ("The Dragon Regiment") was a towed 105mm howitzer battalion, part of the 11th Infantry Brigade (Light) and later of the 23d Infantry Division (AMERICAL). It was stationed at Duc Pho.