

Yellowstone

(f) Operation YELLOWSTONE was initiated on 8 December 1967 with the primary objective of neutralizing the enemy C and interdicting known invasion and escape routes to and from War Zone C. The task organization included major elements of the 25th Infantry Division, 1/49 ARVN Battalion, 3/49 ARVN Battalion and 3/17 Cavalry (less one troop). This operation also provided security for the relocation of civilian Irregular Defense Group camps at Trại Bì and Trại Mì and to the new fighting camps at Thien Ngan and Khatu. During the latter part of January, contacts became light and sporadic in War Zone C as the enemy infiltrated south. On 7 February, the Combined Reconnaissance Intelligence Platoon received small arms and automatic weapons fire from an estimated 80-100 enemy. Friendly forces employed organic weapons fire and were supported by light fire teams and artillery. Twenty-six enemy were killed, only one US wounded. On 16 February, 2/22 Infantry

(Mechanized) received small arms and automatic weapons fire from an enemy force of unknown size one kilometer south of Tay Ninh. Friendly forces employed organic weapons fire and were supported by light fire teams, A-47 (Spooky), artillery and airstrikes. This contact resulted in two US killed and 30 wounded; enemy losses were 70 killed. On 17 February, Operation YELLOWSTONE was reduced in scope to a two-battalion operation. During this reporting period, enemy forces initiated harassing mortar and rocket fire against friendly installations. Although attacks were frequent in the Tay Ninh and Dau Tieng area, they resulted in light damage and few casualties. Operation YELLOWSTONE terminated on 24 February. Significant enemy losses were 1,254 killed, 1,438 detainees and 146 small arms, 68 crew served weapons and 583 tons of rice captured. Friendly losses were 135 US killed and 1,094 US wounded.

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