

#10
ops

TET '68

The enemy disposition in III CTZ prior to the TET Offensive ~~was believed to have been as follows for VC and NVA regular units:~~

9th VC Division HQ
271st VC Regiment
272nd VC Regiment
273rd VC Regiment

NE Bin Long Province
vic "Fish Hook"
vic "Fish Hook"
Bu Nho area, ~~vic YT 0296~~, with one Bn possibly SW of Phuoc Vinh.

7th NVA Division HQ
165th NVA Regiment
141st NVA Regiment
101st NVA Regiment

NE War Zone "C"
W of Highway 13, ~~vic XT 6887~~
Security for COSVN HQ, central War Zone "C"
vic Michelin Rubber Plantation

5th VC Division HQ
274th VC Regiment
275th VC Regiment

unlocated in Phuoc Long Province
Hat Dich area, Phuoc Thuy Province
Unlocated in Phuoc Long Province, last contact immediately south of Song Be with 31st ARVN Rangers on 25 Nov 67.

88th NVA Regiment

Northern Phuoc Long Province, with possibly one battalion in the vic of the "Fish Hook"

Elements of the 9th VC Division and the 7th NVA Division did not participate in the attacks in the Saigon-Bien Hoa-Long Binh areas. The TET Offensive in these areas was conducted by Local Force elements, except for the 274th and 275th VC Regiments. It is conceivable that the VC plan of attack was as stated by PW's: Local Forces to grab hold in the populated areas with the aid of civilians, and then the entry of Main Force units into Saigon to add support and firepower to the Local Forces in order to seize the cities. The 1st US Inf Div made heavy contact with the 273 VC Regiment north of Saigon in Binh Duong Province near Phu Cuong City, killing over 200 and thereby preventing the 273d from entering Saigon. The 25th US Div contacted both the 271st VC Regiment and the 272d VC Regiment, inflicting heavy casualties upon both of these units and preventing them from gaining access to the city. Elements of the 165th NVA Regiment and the 101st NVA Regiment later moved south towards Lai Khe-Ben Cat with the obvious objective of containing the 1st US Inf Div to that area in order to enable elements of the 9th VC Division to gain entrance to Saigon. They were too late since elements of the 9th VC Division had been severely hampered from initiating offensive operations in Saigon. Eventually, the 141st NVA Regiment and the 88th NVA Regiment joined the other enemy forces in the area in order to maintain pressure on Saigon, and thereby force concentration of friendly forces. The K-1 and K-2 Battalions of the Dong Nai Regiment attacked Tan Uyen District HQ's as anticipated, but the K-3 Battalion detached itself from its sister battalions and engaged friendly forces south of Saigon in Long An Province.

It can be surmised that if the 1st US Inf Div and the 25th Inf Div had not interdicted the move of the 9th VC Division towards Saigon, the VC TET Offensive would have come much closer to accomplishing its goals.

Source: Operational Report of the 101st Airborne Division for the period ending 30 April 1968