

**SECRET**

**SO13 521**

**U. S. Marines  
In  
Vietnam**

**Appendice**

*Two appendices  
Close to the  
same except with  
changes noted.  
Chronology same  
~~except~~ starting  
6 July 65 - 30  
December 65*

**Historical Division  
HQMC  
10 April 1970**

**Copy 1 of 25 Copies**

**Group 4 Downgrade To  
CONFIDENTIAL 30 April 79  
DECLASSIFY On 30 April 80**

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## GLOSSARY

A-1 (Douglas Skyraider) a prop-driven attack aircraft.

A-4 (Douglas Skyhawk) a single-seat light attack bomber in service on board carriers of the U.S. Navy and with land-based Marine Squadrons.

A-6A (Grumman Intruder) U.S. Navy and Marine Corps twin-engine, low-altitude, jet attack bomber specifically designed to deliver ordnance on targets completely obscured by weather or darkness. Carries a heavier and more varied load than any other U.S. Naval attack aircraft.

AAR After Action Report.

ABCCC Airborne Command and Control Center.

AD Air Division

ADV Advance

AGC Amphibious Command Ship.

AGL Above Ground Level.

AID Agency for International Development.

~~Airdale (slang)~~ ~~Marine aviators.~~

AKA Attack cargo ship in support of amphibious operations.

ANGLICO Air/Navy Gunfire Liaison Company.

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AOA

Amphibious Objective Area- a defined geographical area within which is located the area or areas to be captured by the amphibious task force.

APA

Attack Transport.

Arc Light

Operational name for B-52 strikes in South Vietnam.

ARG

Amphibious Ready Group.

Arty Gru

Artillery group.

✓ ARVN

Army of the Republic of Vietnam.

ASP

Ammunition Storage Point.

ASRT

Air Support Radar Team.

B-52

(Boeing Stratofortress) USAF eight-engine, swept-wing heavy jet bomber.

BDA

Bomb Damage Assessment.

Bde

Brigade

BGen

Brigadier General.

BLT

Marine Battalion Landing Team.

BLSG

Brigade Logistic Support Group.

BN

Battalion

~~Bug out (slang)~~

To move out rapidly, usually in the face of the enemy.

C-117D

(Douglas Skytrain) a two-engine transport aircraft.

C-130

(Lockheed Hercules) a four engine transport aircraft.

Capt

Captain

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Close Air Support- air action against hostile targets which are in close proximity to friendly forces and which require detailed integration of each air mission with the fire and movement of those forces.

~~Av Sqd (e.g. 1/9)~~ 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry.

CG Commanding General.

CH-37 (Sikorsky) Assault transport helicopter, carries 3 crew members and 36 passengers.

~~CH-46D~~ (Boeing Sea Knight) Medium transport, twin-turbine, tandem rotor helicopter with an average payload of 4,800 pounds. Has rear loading ramp and external sling mount. Carries crew of 3 plus 25 combat troops of 15 litters and 2 attendants.

~~CH-53A~~ (Sikorsky Sea Stallion) single-rotor, heavy assault transport helicopter powered by two shaft-turbine engines with an average payload of 12,800 pounds. Full-sized rear opening with built-in ramp permits loading of 105 mm howitzer and carriage. External sling will accommodate a 155mm howitzer (towed). Carries crew of 3 plus 38 combat troops or 24 litters.

~~ChiCom~~ Chinese Communist.

CIDG Civilian Irregular Defense Group.

CinCPac Commander in Chief Pacific.

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CinCPacFlt

Class (I-X)

✓ Claymore

CMC

CNO

CO

Col

Cdr

Combined Action  
Program

ComUSMACV

Composite Marine  
Aircraft Group

ConUS

County Fair

Commander in Chief Pacific Fleet.

Categories of military supplies. eg. Class I rations, Class III Pol, Class V ammunition, Class X material to support nonmilitary programs (agricultural& economic)

U.S. built, directional antipersonnel land mine employed above ground and normally in an upright position.

Commandant of the Marine Corps.

Chief of Naval Operations.

Commanding Officer.

Colonel

Commander

Established as a joint action program by 3/4 in August 1965 and adopted and enlarged by III MAF. Marine squads were integrated into PF platoons and the companies were assigned to Vietnamese hamlets in order to bring Marine control to the countryside.

Commander, U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam.

An aircraft group consisting of both helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft.

Continental United States.

A type of operation begun in 1965 by the 9th Marines in which a specific hamlet was cordoned and searched for the purpose of

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County Fair (cont) census-taking and enemy identification.

CP Command post.

CPX Command Post Exercise.

CS Designation for tear gas.

CTZ Corps Tactical Zone.

DASC Direct Air Support Center- a subordinate operational component of the Marine air control system designed for control and direction of close air support and other air support operations.

D-Day Day scheduled for the commencement of an operation.

✓DIA Defense Intelligence Agency.

DMZ Demilitarized Zone.

Dtd Dated

EC-121 (Lockheed Super Constellation) USAF and USN four-engine, prop-driven, long-range, heavy transport modified with special equipment for radar early warning patrols and electronic warfare duty.

Engr Engineer

F-4B (McDonnell Phantom II) Standard all-weather fighter for U.S.Navy and Marine Corps. It was developed initially as a twin-engined, two-seat, long-range, all weather interceptor and attack bomber.

F-4C U.S. Air Force version of the F-4B

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F-8

(LTV Vought Aeronautics Crusader) U.S. Navy and Marine Corps supersonic, single-seat, single-engine, jet fighter with afterburner. Primarily used in South Vietnam in an attack role. Carries air-to-air and air-to-ground ordnance.

F-100

(North American Super Sabre) single-engine, jet (with afterburner) sweptwing, supersonic fighter-bomber; in production since 1953, the F-100 was the first supersonic operational fighter developed for the U.S. Air Force. Carries air-to-air and air-to-ground ordnance.

F-105

(Republic Thunderchief) U.S. Air Force supersonic, single-seat, single-engine, jet fighter/bomber with afterburner.

FAC

Forward Air Controller.

FADAC

Field Artillery Digital Automatic Computer.

FLSG

Force Logistic Support Group.

FLSU

Force Logistic Support Unit.

1st ACD

1st Air Cavalry Division.

✓ FMFPac

Fleet Marine Force Pacific.

Free Strike Area

A zone in which strikes may be directed without prior RVN clearance.

Fwd

Forward

FO

Forward Observer.

~~FAC~~

~~Forward Air Controller.~~

~~FOB~~

~~Forward Operating Base.~~

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FSCC

Fire Support Coordinating Center.

~~GOLDEN FLEECE~~

~~A program originated in October 1965 by the 9th Marines for protecting the rice crop while it was being harvested from being confiscated by the enemy.~~

G-

Refers to staff positions on a general staff. eg. G-1 refers to the staff member responsible for personnel, G-2 Intelligence, G-3 operations, G-4 Logistics, etc.

GCI

Ground Control Intercept.

Gen

General

~~GPES~~~~Ground Proximity Extraction System.~~Grenade Launcher  
M-79

U.S.-built, single-shot, break-open, breech-loaded shoulder weapon which fires 40mm projectiles and weighs approximately 6.5 pounds when loaded; it has a sustained rate of aimed fire of 5-7 rounds per minute and an effective range of 375 meters.

GVN

Government of Vietnam.

Gun, 175mm

U.S.-built, self-propelled gun which weighs 62,100 pounds and fires a 147-pound projectile to a maximum range of 32,800 meters. Maximum rate of fire is 1/2 round per minute.

Gun, 130mm

Soviet-built fieldpiece which utilizes either a limber for transport or is self-propelled. Towed weapon weighs 19,000 pounds, is 38 feet long, and has a muzzle velocity of 930 meters

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Gun, 130mm (cont)

per second. Maximum range is 27,000 meters and maximum rate of fire is 6-7 rounds per minute. Tube has a multi-perforated muzzle brake.

Gun, 155mm (M-53)

A medium, self-propelled gun, with a 23,300 meter range, and weighing 96,000 lbs. It has a maximum speed of 30 MPH and a sustained rate of fire of 1/2.

~~Grunt (slang)~~~~An infantryman.~~

H&amp;I

Harassment and Interdiction.

Hand Grenade,  
Fragmentation M-26

U.S.-manufactured, hand-thrown bomb, which weighs approximately 1 pound and contains an explosive charge in a body that shatters into small fragments; it has an effective range of 40 meters.

H&amp;S CO

Headquarters and Service Company.

HAWK

A mobile surface-to-air guided missile designed to defend against enemy aircraft flying at low altitudes and short-range rocket missiles.

HE

High Explosive.

H-Hour

The specific hour on D-day at which hostilities commence. When used in connection with planned operations, it is the specific hour at which the operation commences.

HMM

Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron.

Howitzer, 8-in  
(M-55)

U.S. built, self-propelled heavy-artillery piece; 26 feet long; tracked carriage. M-55

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Howitzer, 8-in  
(M-55) (cont)

has a maximum range of 16,800 meters and a rate of fire of 1/2 rounds per minute.

Howitzer, 8-in  
M-110

U.S. built, self-propelled heavy artillery piece; 37 feet long tracked carriage is identical to that of 175mm gun. M-110 has a maximum range of 16,930 meters and a rate of fire of 1/2 rounds per minute.

Howitzer, 105mm  
M101A1

U.S.-built, towed, general purpose light artillery piece; the weapon is mounted on a carriage equipped with split box trails & pneumatic tires. On-carriage sighting and fire control equipment are used both for direct and indirect fire. The piece weighs 4,980 pounds, is 19.75 feet long, has a muzzle velocity of 470 meters per second, and a maximum range of 11,000 meters. Maximum rate of fire is 4 rounds per minute.

Howitzer, 155mm  
M-1

U.S.-built, towed, medium artillery piece mounted on a two-wheel, split-trail carriage with detachable spades. The howitzer is fired from a three-point suspension, with the trails spread and the carriage resting upon an integral firing jack, the wheels being clear of the ground. The piece weighs 12,700 pounds, is 24 feet long, has a muzzle velocity of 560 meters per second and a maximum range of 15,080 meters. Maximum rate of fire is 3 rounds per minute.

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"Huey"

Popular name for UH-1 series of helicopters; called a "slick" when unarmed.

ICC

International Control Commission established by the Geneva Convention. The members of the commission were Canada, Poland, and India.

I Corps (I CTZ)

I Corps Tactical Zone, the 5 northern provinces of South Vietnam. The U.S. Marine units in Vietnam were in I Corps and III MAF commanded the American forces there.

Inf Div(eg. 196th)

196th Infantry Division, USA.

J-

The designations for members of a joint staff which includes members of several services comprising the command.

JATO

Jet assisted take-off

JCS

Joint Chiefs of Staff

Jungle Jim  
Squadron

An Air Force Squadron specifically assigned for counter guerrilla warfare.

KC-130K

The in-flight refueling tanker configuration of the C-130.

~~Kit Carson Scouts~~

~~A program originated in 1966 by III MAF utilizing enemy defectors as scouts for Marine units.~~

KIA

Killed in Action.

~~KSCB~~

Khe Sanh Combat Base.

L-Hour

In planned helicopter operations it is the specific hour at which the helicopters land in the landing zone.

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LAAM	Light Anti-Aircraft Missile.
LAPES	<del>Low Altitude Proximity Extraction System.</del>
LCM	Landing Craft Medium.
LCVP	Landing Craft Vehicle and Personnel.
Log Sup Gru	Logistic Support Group.
LPD	Landing Platform Dock.
LPH	Amphibious Assault Ship (helicopter carrier).
Lt	Lieutenant
LtCol	Lieutenant Colonel
LtGen	Lieutenant General
LVT	Landing Vehicle Tracked.
LZ	Landing Zone.
M-16	U.S.-built, magazine-fed, 5.62mm gas-operated, air cooled shoulder weapon capable of either semiautomatic or automatic fire; fully loaded weighs 7.6 pounds, fires a maximum rate of 150-200 rounds per minute, and has a maximum effective range of 460 meters.
MAAG	Military Assistance Advisory Group.
MAB	Marine Amphibious Brigade.
MABS	Marine Air Base Squadron.
MAC	Marine Amphibious Corps.
Machine Gun, .50 Caliber	U.S.-built, belt-fed, recoil-operated, air-cooled automatic weapon, which weighs approximately 80 pounds without mount or ammunition; it has a sustained rate of fire of 100 rounds per minute and an effective range of 1,450 meters.

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**UNCLASSIFIED**Machine Gun,  
M-60

U.S.-built, belt-fed, gas operated, air-cooled, 7.62mm automatic weapon, which weighs approximately 23 pounds without mount or ammunition; it has a sustained rate of fire of 100 rounds per minute and an effective range of 1,100 meters.

MACS

Marine Air Control Squadron.

MACV

Military Assistance Command Vietnam.

MAG

Marine Aircraft Group.

✓ Main Force

Refers to organized Viet Cong Battalions and Regiments as opposed to local VC guerrilla groups.

Maj

Major

MajGen

Major General

MarDiv

Marine Division

--Marines

Designates a Marine Regiment- eg. 3D Marines.

MASS

Marine Air Support Squadron

MATCU

Marine Air Traffic Control Unit.

MAW

Marine Aircraft Wing

MCAF

Marine Corps Air Facility.

MCAS

Marine Corps Air Station.

MEB

Marine Expeditionary Brigade

~~MEBLEX~~~~MEB Landing Exercise.~~

MedCAP

Medical Civilian Assistance Program.

MedEvac

Medical Evacuation.

MEF

Marine Expeditionary Force.

MEU

Marine Expeditionary Unit.

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MIA

Mogas

Mortar, 4.2-in.  
M2

Mortar, 60mm

Mortar, 81mm

Mortar, 82mm

Missing in Action.

Motor Gas.

U.S.-built, rifled muzzle-loaded, drop-fired weapon consisting of tube, base-plate and standard; weapon weighs 330 pounds, is 4 feet in length, and has a maximum range of 4,020 meters. Rate of fire is 20 rounds per minute and utilizes both high explosive & pyrotechnic ammunition.

U.S.-built, smooth-bore, muzzle-loaded, single-shot, high angle of fire weapon, which weighs 45.2 pounds when assembled and fires an assortment of high explosive and pyrotechnic rounds; it has a maximum rate of fire of 30 rounds per minute and sustained rate of fire of 18 rounds per minute; the effective range is 2,000 meters.

U.S.-built, smooth-bore, muzzle-loaded, single-shot, high angle of fire weapon, which weighs approximately 115 pounds when assembled and fires an assortment of high explosive and pyrotechnic rounds; it has a sustained rate of fire of 2 rounds per minute and an effective range of 2,200-3,650 meters, depending upon the ammunition used.

Soviet-built, smooth-bore, muzzle-loaded, single-shot, high-angle of fire weapon which weighs approximately 123 pounds and fires high explos-

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Mortar, 82mm  
(cont)

ive and pyrotechnic rounds; it has a maximum rate of fire of 25 rounds per minute and a maximum range of 3,040 meters.

Mortar, 120mm

Soviet-or Chinese Communist-built, smooth bore, drop or trigger fired, single-shot, high-angle of fire weapon, which weighs approximately 606 pounds when assembled and fires high explosive and pyrotechnic rounds; it has a maximum rate of fire of 15 rounds per minute and a maximum range of 5,700 meters.

MWHQ

Marine Wing Headquarters.

NAG

Naval Advisory Group.

NAS

Naval Air Station.

NCOIC

Noncommissioned Officer in Charge.

NLF

National Liberation Front.

NMCB

Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (Seabees).

Nung

A Vietnamese tribesman, of a separate ethnic group and probably of Chinese origin, trained for special operations often used in CIDG operations and as separate bodyguards.

O-1B

(Cessna) Single-engine observation plane.

O-1E

(Cessna) Single-engine, two-seat, prop-driven light observation aircraft.

Ontos

U.S.-built, lightly-armored tracked vehicle armed with six coaxially mounted 106mm recoilless rifles. Originally designed as a tank killer, the Ontos is primarily used in Viet-

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Ontos (cont)

nam to support the infantry.

OP

Observation Post.

OPlan

Operational Plan.

Pacification

Pacification is the Military, Political, Economic and Social process of establishing or reestablishing local government responsive to and involving the participation of the people. It includes the provision of sustained, credible territorial security, the destruction of the enemy's underground government, the assertion or reassertion of political control and involvement of the people in government, and the initiation of economic and social activity capable of self-sustenance and expansion. The economic element of pacification includes the opening of roads and waterways and the maintenance of lines of communication important to economic and Military activity.

~~PAR~~~~Progressive Aircraft Rework.~~

PAT

Political Action Team. The forerunner of the Revolutionary Development Teams. Vietnamese political cadre who are assigned missions of pacification and represent the government of Vietnam in the hamlets of Vietnam.

~~PCV~~~~Provisional Corps, Vietnam.~~

PF

Popular Force-Vietnamese militia who are usually employed in the defense of their own communities.

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Plasters

Vietnamese money.

POL

Petroleum, Oil, and Lubricants.

Recoilless Rifle,  
106mm, M40A1  
(RR)

U.S.-built, single-shot, recoilless, breech-loaded weapon which weighs 438 pounds when assembled and mounted for firing; it has a sustained rate of fire of 6 rounds per minute and an effective range of 1,365 meters. The weapon can be employed singly or mounted on an Ontos.

Regional Force

Composed mostly of indigenous personnel drawn from the rural population of the south and operating in a delineated region of no more than provincial size.

Regt

Regiment

RF

Regional Force--Vietnamese militia who are employed in a specific province.

RF-8A

The reconnaissance version of the F-8 Chance Vought Crusader fighter.

RLT

Regimental Landing Team.

Rocket, 122mm

A Soviet-built, four-piece, fin-stabilized, 9-foot long rocket weighing 125 pounds; range is approximately 12,000 meters.

Launcher tube and mount weigh 121 pounds and are 8.1 feet in length.

ROK

Republic of Korea.

ROLLING THUNDER

Code name for U.S. air operations over North Vietnam.

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RPG-2

A Soviet- and Chinese Communist-built antitank grenade launcher; a smooth-bore, muzzle-loaded, shoulder-fired, recoilless weapon which fires a 40mm spin-stabilized round. The weapon weighs 6.3 pounds, is 3.2 feet in length, has a muzzle velocity of 84 meters per second, and an effective range of 100 meters. Maximum rate of fire is 4-6 rounds per minute utilizing High Explosive Antitank Ammunition.

RVN

Republic of Vietnam.

RVNAF

Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces.

S-

Refers to Staff positions on Division, Regimental and Battalion levels. eg. S-1 Personnel, S-2 Intelligence, S-3 Operations, S-4 Logistics, S-5 Civic Action.

SHUFLY

The designation for the Marine helicopter Task Unit in RVN from April 1962-January 1965 when it was redesignated Marine Unit, Vietnam.

SAM

Surface-to-Air-Missile.

SATS

Short Airfield For Tactical Support.

SAR

Search and Rescue.

SE Asia

Southeast Asia.

Seatail

Follow-on shipping

SEATO

Southeast Asia Treaty Organization.

Sec State

Secretary of State.

SLF

Special Landing Force.

Sortie

An operational flight by one aircraft.

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Sqdrn

Squadron

STING RAY

A III MAF technique of establishing observation posts in forward areas for the purpose of directing artillery fire and air strikes against observed enemy targets within their field of vision.

TACA

Tactical Air Coordinator (Airborne)

TAFDS

Tactical Airfield Fuel Dispensing System

Tank, M-48

U.S.-built 50.7-ton tank with a crew of 4; primary armament is turret-mounted 90mm gun with one .30 caliber and one .50 caliber machine gun. Can be configured with water-fording equipment. Maximum road speed of 32 miles per hour and an average range of 195 miles.

Tank, PT-76

Soviet-built, 15.4-ton, amphibious tank with a crew of 3; primary armament is turret-mounted 76mm gun and maximum thickness of armor is 0.6 inches.

TAOR

Tactical Area of Operational Responsibility

TE

Task Element

✓ TET

Vietnamese Lunar New Year

TF

Task Force

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TG	Task Group
III MAF	Marine Amphibious Force serving in Vietnam, established May 1965.
TIO	Target Intelligence/Information Officer
TOT	Time On Target
TU	Task Unit
UDT	Underwater Demolition Team
UH-1E Huey	A single-engine, Marine, light attack/transport helicopter noted for its maneuverability and firepower; carries a crew of three with seven combat troops or three litters, two sitting casualties and a medical attendant, or 3,000 pounds of cargo. In its armored configuration it is armed with air-to-ground rocket packs and fuselage-mounted, electrically-fired machine guns.
UH-34D Sea Horse	A single-engine, Marine, medium transport helicopter with a crew of three; carries 16-18 combat troops or 8 litters or a normal 5,000-pound payload.
UHF	Ultra-High Frequency
USA	United States Army
USAF	United States Air Force

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USN	United States Navy
USOM	U. S. Operations Mission, the U. S. civilian organization in RVN; includes the U. S. Embassy, AID, etc.
<del>VFR</del>	<del>Visual Flight Rules</del>
VHF	Very-High Frequency
Viet Cong (VC)	A term used to refer to Communist guerrillas; a derogatory contraction of the Vietnamese phrase meaning "Vietnamese Communists."
✓ Viet Minh	The Vietnamese contraction for Viet Nam, Doc Lap Nong Minh Hoi, a Communist-led coalition of nationalist groups, which actively opposed the Japanese in World War II and the French in the early years of the Indo-China War.
VMA	Marine Attack Squadron
VMF(AW)	Marine Fighter Squadron (All-Weather)
VMFA	Marine Fighter Attack Squadron
VMGR	Marine Transport Squadron
VMO	Marine Observation Squadron
VNAF	Vietnamese Air Force
VNMB	Vietnamese Marine Brigade
VNMC	Vietnamese Marine Corps

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VNN

Vietnamese Navy

VT

Variable Timed electronic fuze for the  
artillery shell which causes airburst over  
target area.

WIA

Wounded in Action

YANKEE TEAM

Operations of Seventh Fleet Aircraft over  
North Vietnam.

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## Chronology

1863 France gained control of Cochin China.

1941 Japan began occupation of French Indochina. 1941

1945 Japan granted independence to Vietnam under a puppet emperor, Bao Dai.

02 Sep 1945 Ho Chi Minh announced the formation of a provisional government and proclaimed the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

19 Dec 1946 The Ho Chi Minh government fled Hanoi and went underground to embark on a protracted "war of independence" which was the real beginning of the Indochina War.

22 Aug 1947 Bao Dai was invited by the Front of National Union to head an anti-Communist national government.

05 Jun 1948 Bao Dai, French High Commissioner Emile Bollert, and General Nguyen Van Xuan signed the Baie d'Along agreement establishing the State of Vietnam within the French Union with Bao Dai as Chief of State.

01 Jul 1949 Bao Dai formally established the State of Vietnam.

16 Aug 1949 The French launched a full-scale offensive in Tonkin.

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08 May 1950 Secretary of State Dean Acheson announced the decision to send economic and military equipment to the Associated States of Indochina to aid them in pursuing their peaceful and democratic development.

Aug 1950 A Military Assistance Advisory Group (MAAG) of 35 men was sent to Indochina to advise on the use of American equipment.

23 Dec 1950 The U.S. signed a mutual defense assistance agreement with France, Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos for indirect military aid for combating Communist forces under Ho Chi Minh.

07 Sep 1951 The U.S. signed an agreement with Vietnam for direct economic assistance.

20 Nov 1953 French troops occupied Dien Bien Phu in order to forestall a Viet Minh march through Laos.

18Apr-08May 1954 U.S. Marine pilots and maintenance personnel participated in the transfer of 25 F-4U Corsairs to the French at Tourane (Da Nang).

08 May 1954 After 56 days of fighting, French forces surrendered to the Viet Minh at Dien Bien Phu. From 1950 to this date, the U.S. contributed more than \$2 million in aid to the French.

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1954

Geneva Conference on Indochina. The delegates were from Great Britain and the USSR (joint chairmen), France, the United States, Communist China, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, and the Viet Minh regime. Agreements were signed on 21 July and the main provisions concerning Vietnam were that: (1) Vietnam was to be partitioned along the 17th Parallel into North and South Vietnam; (2) regulations were imposed on foreign military bases and personnel and on increased armaments; (3) countrywide elections, leading to the reunification of North and South Vietnam, were to be held by 20 July 1956; and (4) an International Control Commission (ICC) was to be established to supervise the implementation of the agreements. The United States and Vietnam were not signatories to the agreements. The United States issued a <sup>partitioned</sup> unilateral declaration stating that it: (1) would "refrain from the threat or use of force to disturb" the Geneva Agreements; (2) "would view any renewal of the aggression in violation of the aforesaid agreements with grave concern and as

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seriously threatening international peace and security." The U.S. declaration also made it clear that the United States would seek the attainment of a united Vietnam through free elections held under United Nations supervision.

- 16 Jun 1954      Ngo Dinh Diem was named Premier of Vietnam, replacing Prince Buu Loc.
- 21 Jul 1954      The Geneva accords were signed, ending the Indochina War.
- 02 Aug 1954      LtCol Victor J. Croizat, the first Marine assigned to MAAG, arrived in Vietnam.
- 11 Aug 1954      The International Commission for Supervision and Control in Vietnam was established with India as Chairman and Canada and Poland as members.
- 17 Aug 1954      The U.S. began evacuation of nearly 200,000 refugees from the Hanoi and Haiphong areas to South Vietnam. The number of evacuees eventually reached almost one million.
- 08 Sep 1954      Eight powers signed the Southeast Asia Collective Defense Treaty, including a protocol which extended to southern Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos protection against aggression and eligibility for economic aid.

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16 Sep 1954 South Vietnam's independence was established as France turned over to the Diem government control of the police, justice and security departments, public utilities, and civil aviation.

09 Oct 1954 The Viet Minh regime formally took control of Hanoi and North Vietnam under the terms of the cease-fire agreement.

13 Oct 1954 The Vietnamese Marine Corps was formed, effective 1 October, with an authorized strength of 1,137 officers and men.

24 Oct 1954 President Eisenhower, in a letter to Premier Diem, stated that American assistance would be given thereafter not through French authorities, but directly to the government of South Vietnam.

19 Feb 1955 The Southeast Asia Collective Defense Treaty (SEATO) came into force.

26 Oct 1955 A Republic was proclaimed by Ngo Dinh Diem, who became the first President of South Vietnam.

28 Apr 1956 The departure from Saigon of General Jacquot, Commander in Chief of the French Expeditionary Corps, marked the dissolution of the French High Command in Vietnam.

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B-

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30 May 1960

U.S. Special Forces teams arrived in South Vietnam to conduct training.

10 Nov 1960

The South Vietnam government sent a letter to the International Control Commission charging that Communist attacks in the Kontum-Pleiku area in October involved regular army forces from North Vietnam commanded by North Vietnamese officers and armed with weapons made in North Vietnam and other Communist countries.

03 Apr 1961

The U.S.-Vietnamese Treaty of Amity and Economic Relations was signed in Saigon. 1961

04 May 1961

Secretary of State Rusk announced an authorized increase in military assistance to Vietnam and training and advisory measures designed to strengthen the Vietnamese armed forces.

05 May 1961

President Kennedy declared that consideration was being given to the use of U.S. forces, if necessary, to help South Vietnam.

May 1961

A squadron of 25 USMC AD-6 Skyraider attack air-<sup>squadron</sup>craft was delivered to South Vietnam.

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May 1961

Orientation and indoctrination tours for USMC company grade officers and staff noncommissioned officers began in Vietnam. Twenty Marines per month went to RVN to observe operations there. The following May (1962) the quotas were transferred to Thailand when the Marine Expeditionary Unit was committed there.

Jul 1961

A Civic Action Mobile Training Team went to work in South Vietnam.

11 Dec 1961

The first contingent of U.S. military personnel --400 Army troops with two helicopter companies-- arrived in South Vietnam.

Dec 1961

The U.S. Marine T/O for advisors to the VNMC was expanded from 3 to 18 billets--8 officers and 10 enlisted--and called the Marine Advisory Division. Beginning in January 1962 the USMC advisors were allowed to accompany Vietnamese units into the field and participate in combat operations.

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Jan 1962 Detachment "A", 1st Radio Company, FMF, consisting of one officer and 42 enlisted, reached RVN. Until 15 May 1963, the detachment was designated Sub-Unit #1, 1st Composite Radio Company, FMF. The unit was based at Pleiku and was integrated into the USA 3d Radio Research Unit there.

08 Feb 1962 The U.S. reorganized its South Vietnam military command, establishing a new U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, under General Paul D. Harkins. The Chief of Staff was Major General Richard G. Weede, USMC, and 21 billets on the MACV staff were filled by Marines.

09 Apr 1962 The leading elements of Marine Task Unit 79.3.5 (SHUFLY), commanded by Colonel John F. Carey, arrived at the Soc Trang Airstrip, in the Mekong Delta, 85 miles SW of Saigon.

15 Apr 1962 HMM-362 (Rein), CO Lieutenant Colonel Archie J. Clapp, with 24 UH-34D transport helicopters and 3 O-1B fixed-wing observation planes arrived at Soc Trang.

22 Apr 1962 HMM-362 flew the first Marine combat support mission in South Vietnam.

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01 Aug 1962 HMM-163, CO LtCol Robert L. Rathbun, relieved HMM-362.

15 Sep 1962 The Marine Task Unit (SHUFLY) moved north to Da Nang. Logistic support of mountain outposts became a primary mission.

11 Jan 1963 HMM-162, CO LtCol Reinhardt Lev, relieved HMM-163 in RVN.

08 Jun 1963 HMM-261, CO LtCol Frank A. Shook, relieved HMM-162.

01 Oct 1963 HMM-361, CO LtCol Thomas J. Ross, relieved HMM-261.

01 Nov 1963 A military coup, organized by key generals of the armed forces, erupted against the Diem regime. President Diem and his brother, Ngo Dinh Nhu, while being transported in an armored carrier to rebel headquarters, were assassinated. The leaders of the coup were a Council of Generals headed by MajGen Duong Van Minh.

02 Nov 1963 A provisional government was set up and was headed by former Vice President Nguyen Ngoc Tho (a Buddhist) as Premier. The constitution was suspended, the National Assembly dissolved, and political prisoners of the former regime were released.

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15 Nov 1963

U.S. headquarters in Saigon announced that 1,000 U.S. servicemen (now totaling 16,575) would be withdrawn from South Vietnam in December. The Marine security platoon at Da Nang was withdrawn in December as part of this cutback.

1963

Vietnamese Marines killed 385, wounded 41, and captured 371 Viet Cong during the year while losing 83 killed, 405 wounded, and 1 missing. The Marines were also employed to support the strategic hamlet program, on security assignments, and as part of the Vietnamese general reserve forces.

06 Jan 1964

The Vietnamese government decreed a three-man military command over the armed forces and government, consisting of MajGen Duong Van Minh (Chief of State), MajGen Tran Van Don, and MajGen Le Van Kim.

13 Jan 1964

MajGen Khanh assumed leadership of the South Vietnamese government from the military junta.

30 Jan 1964

MajGen Nguyen Khanh, RVN Prime Minister, conducted a "house-cleaning" in the Military Revolutionary Council, ousting the government of MajGen Duong Van Minh from power.

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08 Feb 1964

MajGen Khanh, leader of the military junta, announced the formation of a new government with himself as premier, MajGen Duong Van Minh as nominal Chief of State, and a mixed civilian-military cabinet.

17 Mar 1964

After a trip to South Vietnam, Secretary McNamara and General Taylor reported that since October 1963 there had "unquestionably been setbacks." The Viet Cong have "taken maximum advantage of two changes of government, and of more long-standing difficulties, including a serious weakness and overextension which had developed in the basically sound hamlet program."

25 Apr 1964

President Johnson announced the selection of General William C. Westmoreland, USA, to replace General Paul D. Harkins, USA, on 1 August as ComUSMACV.

17 Jun 1964

HMM-162, CO LtCol Oliver W. Curtis, relieved HMM-364 as the SHUFLY helicopter squadron.

23 Jun 1964

General Maxwell D. Taylor was selected to succeed Henry Cabot Lodge as Ambassador to South Vietnam.

24 Jul 1964

The U.S. announced that it was sending an additional 5,000 men to South Vietnam.

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**SECRET**02-05 Aug  
1964

Gulf of Tonkin Incident. On the 2d, three North Vietnamese PT boats attacked the U.S. destroyer Maddox while it was on patrol in the Gulf of Tonkin in international waters some 30 miles off the coast of North Vietnam. The C. Turner Joy was placed on patrol with the Maddox and a combat air patrol was provided and it had orders to attack with the object of destroying any force which attacked the American ships. On 4 August North Vietnamese PT boats attacked both ships about 65 miles off North Vietnam. At least two of the PT boats were destroyed. U.S. planes bombed North Vietnamese bases, naval craft, and an oil storage depot on 5 August. In 64 sorties, 25 North Vietnamese patrol boats were destroyed or damaged and the oil depot was 90 percent destroyed. Two American planes were lost and two were damaged by antiaircraft fire.

05 Aug 1964 The 9th MEB staff was activated for deployment in support of contingency plans in Southeast Asia.

06 Aug 1964 BGen Raymond C. Davis, CG 9th MEB, arrived at Da Nang for planning and reconnaissance purposes and remained until 14 August.

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07 Aug 1964 At President Johnson's request Congress passed a resolution supporting necessary measures taken by the President to repel attacks and prevent further aggression. On the 11th, President Johnson signed the Southeast Asia resolution.

16 Aug 1964 MajGen Khanh, elected Vietnamese President by the Military Revolutionary Council, ousted Duong Van Minh as Chief of State and installed a new constitution.

27 Aug 1964 The Military Council named a triumvirate, consisting of Generals Nguyen Khanh, Duong Van Minh, and Tran Thien Khiem, to rule for not more than two months to give them time to form a national congress. <sup>eliminate three-man</sup>

29 Aug 1964 General Nguyen Khanh temporarily turned the premiership over to Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Oanh because of mental and physical strain.

03 Sep 1964 Gen Khanh resumed active conduct of the premiership by dissolving the military triumvirate and restoring MajGen Duong Van Minh to the position of Chief of State.

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13 Sep 1964 A "generals" coup led by BGen Lam Van Phat attempted to overthrow the Khanh government but was put down.

08 Oct 1964 HMM-365, CO LtCol Joseph Koler, Jr., relieved HMM-162 at Da Nang.

26 Oct-06  
Nov 1964 The Vietnamese Revolutionary Council elected Phan Khac Su Chief of State on the 26th. Tran Van Huong was installed as Premier, succeeding General Khanh. Also installed was a 17-member civilian council. The new government quickly ran into opposition.

20 Dec 1964 The RVN military staged a purge and dissolved the Civilian High National Council.

27 Jan 1965 Premier Huong was ousted and General Khanh was asked to solve the political crisis.

28 Jan 1965 General Khanh nominated Nguyen Xuan Oanh as Acting Premier.

07 Feb 1965 Communist guerrillas attacked a United States compound at Pleiku, and U.S. aircraft retaliated by striking targets in North Vietnam, initiating a new phase of the war. U.S. forces in South Vietnam totaled 23,000. U.S. dependents were ordered evacuated from RVN.

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08 Feb 1965 Battery "A" of the USMC 1st LAAM Battalion arrived at Da Nang and was operational the next day.

13 Feb 1965 More elements of the 1st LAAM Bn (-) arrived at Da Nang.

17 Feb 1965 Company "C" of the USMC 7th Engineer Bn began arriving at Da Nang.

17 Feb 1965 HMM-163 relieved HMM-365 as the operating squadron with SHUFLY.

18 Feb 1965 South Vietnamese Army and Marine units staged a bloodless coup in Saigon and ousted General Khanh.

19 Feb 1965 General Khanh regained temporary control of the government.

21 Feb 1965 General Khanh bowed to the demands of the Armed Forces Council and resigned.

28 Feb 1965 U.S. officials said President Johnson had decided on continuous limited air strikes against North Vietnam to force negotiations.

08 Mar 1965 The 9th Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB) commanded by BGen Frederick J. Karch landed at Da Nang. The MEB included two Marine Battalions

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Landing Teams (BLTs)--3/9, which landed over Red Beach 2, and 1/3, which arrived by air from Okinawa. This was the first U.S. ground combat unit to land in RVN.

09 Mar 1965 The MUV (TU 79.3.5) was placed under operational control of the 9th MEB and designated MAG-16 (-). The 1st LAAM Bn (-) was placed under the operational control of MAG-16 (-).

09 Mar 1965 The first echelons of HMM-162 arrived at Da Nang.

10 Mar 1965 BLT 3/9 (-) proceeded to defensive positions on Hills 327 and 268 overlooking the airfield.

11 Mar 1965 The Brigade Artillery Group (BAG) was organized; it included Batteries "A" and "F" of the 12th Marines.

12 Mar 1965 The Brigade Engineer Group (BEG) and Brigade Logistic Support Group (LBSG) were activated.

12 Mar 1965 The 9th MEB was fully operational and in place.

14 Mar 1965 Sub-Unit #2 was redesignated MABS-16; H&MS-16 was activated at Da Nang under the operational control of MAG-16.

31 Mar 1965 The 9th MEB total strength was 5,140.

10 Apr 1965 BLT 2/3 landed over Red Beach 2.

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10 Apr 1965 VMFA-531 arrived.

12 Apr 1965 The advance party of Marine Air Support Squadron 2 (MASS-2) arrived at Da Nang to help establish a Direct Air Support Center (DASC) and Air Support Radar Team (ASRT).

13 Apr 1965 An HMM-162 detachment was established at Hue-Phu Bai.

13 Apr 1965 The 3d Marines (-) arrived at Da Nang. The 1st Bn, 12th Marines arrived and was absorbed by the BAG and Detachment J, 1st Radio Bn arrived.

14 Apr 1965 Elements of 3/4 landed over Red Beach 2 and were helilifted to Hue-Phu Bai where a TAOR was established.

16 Apr 1965 MASS-2 arrived at Da Nang.

16 Apr 1965 VMCJ-1 (-) arrived at Da Nang.

19 Apr 1965 RLT-3 reorganized as 3d Marines (-) (Rein) and a larger TAOR was established at Da Nang. The mission of the regiment was expanded to include aggressive combat patrolling within TAORs and preparation for conducting offensive operations as a mobile reaction force.

22 Apr 1965 The first real Marine ground action with the Viet Cong occurred--a reconnaissance company on

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patrol was fired on by an estimated 100-150 Viet Cong; VMFA-531 provided air support; one enemy was killed, one Marine was wounded.

- 28 Apr 1965 Companies E and F of 2/3 participated in the first joint operation with ARVN forces in RVN.
- 06 May 1965 The III MEF was established at Da Nang Air Base, commanded by MajGen William R. Collins. The 9th MEB was deactivated and the 3d Marine Division (-) (Rein) (Fwd), also commanded by MajGen Collins, was established. *first time mentioned. Full name should be used. As is now, full name is up in middle of next pg*
- 07 May 1965 III MEF was redesignated III MAF.
- 07 May 1965 The 173d Airborne Brigade, USA, arrived in RVN.
- 07 May 1965 3d MEB, CG BGen Marion E. Carl, consisting of RLT-4 which included BLTs 1/4 and 2/4, the 3d Reconnaissance Bn (-), 3/12 and required combat, combat support, and combat service support elements, together with one Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) and one HMM landed at Chu Lai.
- 11 May 1965 The 1st MAW (Adv), CG MajGen Paul J. Fontana, was established at Da Nang.
- 12 May 1965 Leading elements of 3/3 arrived at Chu Lai.
- 15 May 1965 HMM-365 relieved HMM-162 at Da Nang.

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16 May 1965 MAG-12 headquarters was established at Chu Lai, CO Col John D. Noble.

20 May 1965 The Force Engineer Group was deactivated, the 3d Engineer Battalion was reassigned to the 3d MarDiv and the 30th Naval Construction Regiment was placed under operational control of CG III MAF/NCC.

01 Jun 1965 Aircraft from VMA-225 and VMA-311 landed at Chu Lai to open the airfield.

04 Jun 1965 MajGen Lewis W. Walt assumed command of III MAF and the 3d MarDiv (Fwd), relieving MajGen William R. Collins.

05 Jun 1965 BGen Keith B. McCutcheon relieved MajGen Paul D. Fontana as CG, 1st MAW.

07 Jun 1965 American military personnel in South Vietnam numbered over 50,000. Of this total, 16,500 were Marines.

12 Jul 1965 RVN Premier Quat handed the reins of government back to the military.

15 Jun 1965 VMFA-513 relieved VMFA-531--the first in-country relief of a USMC jet squadron.

17 Jun 1965 1/9 relieved 3/9 at Da Nang; 3/9 was the first Marine battalion to be rotated from RVN.

Gen Fontana's full name already used on preceding pg.

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19 Jun 1965 South Vietnam changed its constitution and government for the fourth time in 20 months. BGen Nguyen Cao Ky, VNAF commander, became Prime Minister and MajGen Nguyen Van Thieu, as head of the armed forces, in effect became Chief of State.

21 Jun 1965 HMM-261 relieved HMM-163 at Da Nang.

06 Jul 1965 RLT-9 headquarters and 2/9 landed at Da Nang.

01-08 Jul 1965 BLT 3/7 and HMM-163 were at Qui Nhon in II Corps to protect an enclave at the seaward end of Route 19.

10 Jul 1965 VMFA-542 arrived at Da Nang.

28 Jul 1965 President Johnson announced that U.S. military strength in Vietnam would be increased "almost immediately from 75,000 to 125,000.

31 Jul 1965 III MAF strength in Vietnam totalled 27,819.

01 Aug 1965 The Joint Action Program was initiated by 1stLt Paul Ek of 3/4. This effort to reach the Vietnamese people later evolved into the Combined Action Program.

05 Aug 1965 Operational control of 2/7 (at Qui Nhon, II CTZ) passed to U.S. Army Task Force Alpha.

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07 Aug 1965 CG, III MAF was designated as the Senior Advisor for I Corps and assumed control of the I Corps Advisory Group.

15 Aug 1965 Headquarters, 7th RLT and 1/7 came ashore at Chu Lai and at Da Nang, elements of 3/9 came ashore making it the first battalion to be reintroduced into RVN.

18-24 Aug 1965 Operation STARLITE. The 7th Marines conducted an amphibious-heliborne search and destroy operation south of Chu Lai.

26 Aug 1965 The initial elements of the 1st Provisional Dog Platoon arrived in Vietnam.

28 Aug 1965 The 1st Battalion, 1st Marines arrived at Da Nang to relieve 1/3.

01 Sep 1965 The 1st Battalion, 3d Marines departed RVN for Okinawa. <sup>3d</sup> Marines

11 Sep 1965 BLT 2/1 which arrived on Okinawa 27 August from ConUS and subsequently embarked as the SLF, assumed a position off the coast of Qui Nhon.

08 Oct 1965 The first elements of the Republic of Korea Capital Division arrived at Qui Nhon.

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27 Oct 1965

Operation GOLDEN FLEECE (begun 8Sep65) was terminated. The 9th Marines began this program in an effort to deny as much rice as possible to the VC during the Summer/Fall 1965 rice harvest. This operation was adopted by III MAF.

07 Nov 1965

BLT 2/7 was withdrawn from Qui Nhon; HMM-161 remained there in support of II Corps forces.

23 Nov 1965

There were approximately 20 scout/sniper teams of 4-men each positioned throughout the III MAF area.

15 Dec 1965

U.S. jet fighter-bombers destroyed a large power plant 14 miles from Haiphong, North Vietnam's chief port, in the first American air strike against a North Vietnamese target of major industrial importance.

18 Dec 1965

About 40,000 tons of military supplies scheduled to move to SE Asia this month were "backed up" without enough ships to cover their handling for several weeks.

08-20 Dec  
1965

Operation HARVEST MOON was conducted approximately 25 miles NW of Chu Lai by Task Force DELTA.

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30 Dec 1965 The first elements of a 4,000-man infantry brigade from the 25th Infantry Division moved from Hawaii to Vietnam, raising the number of U.S. combat troops committed in the war to 175,000.

~~04 Jan 1966~~ ~~The Special Forces Camp at Khe Sanh reported 20 rounds of incoming 120mm mortar fire. This was the first confirmed enemy use of 120mm mortars in RVN.~~

18 Jan 1966 About 4,500 Marines of the 1st Marine Regiment landed by amphibious vehicles at Chu Lai.

28 Jan-19 Feb 1966 Operation DOUBLE EAGLE I was conducted by Task Force DELTA and Task Force FOUR north of Chu Lai.

01 Feb 1966 VMF(AW)-235 relieved VMF(AW)-312 in RVN.

07 Feb 1966 NMCB-11 relieved NMCB-9 in RVN.

15 Feb 1966 VMA-311 relieved VMA-214 in RVN.

19 Feb-01 Mar 1966 Operation DOUBLE EAGLE II was conducted 30 miles south of Da Nang.

23 Feb 1966 A detachment of the 3d FSR; HQ, 11th Marines; a detachment of HQ Bn, 1st Marine Division; and 4/11 arrived RVN.

01 Mar 1966 The 26th Marines was activated at Camp Pendleton, initiating the formation of the 5th Marine Division.

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01 Mar 1966 The 1st 155mm Gun Battery and the 3d 8-inch Howitzer Battery arrived in RVN.

02 Mar 1966 VMFA-542 relieved VMFA-323 at Da Nang.

04-07 Mar 1966 Operation UTAH was conducted in Quang Ngai Province by Task Force DELTA.

07 Mar 1966 The 1st Hospital Company, HMM-164, and elements of the 7th Motor Transport Battalion arrived in RVN.

07 Mar 1966 Secretary of Defense McNamara requested authorization for 278,184 Marines on active duty by 30 June 1967. This increase made the Marine Corps the only service to have a strength larger than its peak during the Korean War.

10 Mar 1966 Prime Minister Ky removed LtGen Nguyen Chanh Thi from his position as ARVN Commander, I Corps. As a result of this, protest demonstrations and strikes began in the Hue-Da Nang area and slowly spread to Saigon.

13 Mar 1966 Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 1 arrived RVN.

15 Mar 1966 The Force Logistic Command (FLC) was established at Da Nang. The unit is made up of the 1st and 3d Service Battalions and the in-country elements of the 3d Force Service Regiment (FSR).

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18 Mar 1966 3d Battalion, 4th Marines arrived RVN.

20-25 Mar 1966 Operation TEXAS was conducted south of Chu Lai by Task Force DELTA.

21 Mar 1966 The 1st Medical Battalion (-) and a detachment of the 1st Shore Party Battalion arrived RVN.

23 Mar 1966 Detachment, 1st Reconnaissance Battalion; HQ Bn, 1st Marine Division; Detachment, 3d Force Service Regiment; Detachment, 1st Service Battalion; Detachment, 1st Engineer Battalion; Detachment, 1st Tank Battalion; 1st Dental Company (-) arrived RVN.

23 Mar 1966 The 9th Marines initiated and continued to employ a system of cordoning and searching specific hamlets permitting a census to be made. The operations were named COUNTY FAIR.

26 Mar 1966 JACK STAY amphibious raid operations were initiated. The amphibious raid on the 26th in the Rung Sat Special Zone about 27 miles SE of Saigon by BLT 1/5 was the first operation by American troops in the Saigon River Delta.

28 Mar 1966 The 11th Dental Company; HQ, 1st Tank Battalion; Detachment, 3d Amphibian Tractor Battalion; and a detachment, 1st Anti-Tank Battalion arrived RVN.

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Apr 1966      The STING RAY effort commenced in I CTZ. It was a technique used by III MAF to establish observation posts in forward areas for the purpose of directing artillery fire and air strikes against observed enemy targets within their field of vision.

01 Apr 1966      HMM-161 relieved HMM-361.

03 Apr 1966      The 1st Motor Transport Battalion arrived in RVN.

11 Apr 1966      VMFA-115 relieved VMFA-314 in RVN.

12 Apr 1966      The 2d Battalion, 5th Marines arrived in RVN.

30 Apr 1966      VMA-214 relieved VMA-224 in RVN.

07 May 1966      Operational control of RLT-26 was passed from CG, MCB Camp Pendleton to CG, FMFPac.

08 May 1966      1st Battalion, 5th Marines arrived RVN (formerly SLF).

10 May 1966      A flight of three MIG-17 fighters fired two missiles at a pair of U.S. aircraft about 85 miles NW of Hanoi. This was the first confirmed instance in the Vietnamese war in which air-to-air missiles were used against American planes.

15 May 1966      Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 10 relieved Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 5 in RVN.

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15 May 1966

The first launch of an F-4B by the field catapult at Chu Lai occurred.

15-31 May  
1966

The political unrest in I Corps flared up as Prime Minister Ky sent ARVN units, loyal to the Saigon government, into Da Nang to reestablish his authority. After several days, the "Struggle Forces" in Da Nang backed down but in Hue the situation was out of control until the end of the month.

22 May 1966

HMM-265 arrived from ConUS and relieved HMM-263.

27 May 1966

The 5th Marines headquarters arrived at Chu Lai from Okinawa.

28 May 1966

The 1st Military Police Battalion arrived at Da Nang from ConUS.

31 May 1966

HMM-361 relieved HMM-261 in RVN.

01-21 Jun  
1966

In Hue, militant Buddhist Thich Tri Quang began a hunger strike in protest against the government. The Buddhist leader was subsequently arrested and moved to Saigon where he was imprisoned.

Forces loyal to the South Vietnamese government seized the Buddhist controlled cities of Hue and Quang Tri and the Buddhist Secular Affairs Institute headquarters in Saigon.

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Ten civilians, representing different religions and political factions, were added to South Vietnam's ruling junta on 6 June. In Saigon, the Unified Buddhist Church issued a manifesto disavowing Communism and recognizing the necessity of the temporary presence of American forces.

06 Jun 1966	The 9th Engineer Battalion arrived from ConUS.
12 Jun 1966	The 27th Civil Affairs Company, USA, arrived at Da Nang for assignment to III MAF.
18-27 Jun	DECKHOUSE I--The first of a series of SLF amphibious attacks on Viet Cong coastal strongholds. This operation was in Phu Yen Province, 12 miles NW of Tuy Hoa in II CTZ. There were six operations in this series involving operations in I, II, III, and IV CTZ areas, the last terminating on 3 March 1967.
01 Jul 1966	The 7th Communications Battalion arrived at Chu Lai.
05 Jul 1966	VMFA-323 arrived at Da Nang from Iwakuni.
07 Jul 1966	Operation HASTINGS, a search and destroy mission, 55 miles NW of Hue, was conducted under the command of Task Force DELTA. In addition BLT 3/5

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made an amphibious landing and conducted DECKHOUSE II in conjunction with HASTINGS.

01 Aug 1966 The advance echelon of the 2d Korean Marine Brigade arrived in I Corps approximately three miles S of Chu Lai.

01 Aug 1966 VMFA-314 arrived in-country and VMFA-542 rotated to Iwakuni.

26 Aug 1966 The campaign for election to South Vietnam's constituent assembly officially opened with 540 candidates running.

28 Aug 1966 BLT 2/26 arrived at Da Nang.

30 Aug 1966 3/3 departed Da Nang for Okinawa.

11 Sep 1966 Of the 718,024 eligible voters in the I Corps area, 87.4 percent voted in South Vietnam's Constituent Assembly election. Over 80 percent of those registered voted throughout South Vietnam.

15 Sep 1966 A 730-man force of doctors, infantrymen, and engineers from the Philippines Civic Action Group arrived at Cam Ranh Bay. The remaining personnel of the 2,000-man force were scheduled to arrive in October.

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15-18 Sep 1966 DECKHOUSE IV amphibious search and destroy operation was conducted in conjunction with PRAIRIE I, 8 miles NE of Dong Ha in I CTZ.

19 Sep 1966 Elements of MWSG-17 arrived at Da Nang from Iwakuni and the 2d Battalion of the 2d Bde, ROKMC arrived at Chu Lai from Cam Ranh Bay.

24 Sep 1966 H&MS-13 arrived at Chu Lai from Iwakuni.

25 Sep 1966 MAG-13 arrived at Chu Lai from Iwakuni.

27 Sep 1966 Elements of BLT 3/26 arrived at Okinawa.

30 Sep 1966 The 2d and 5th VNMC Battalions moved to Dong Ha while the 3d and 4th VNMC battalions moved from Dong Ha to Saigon.

01 Oct 1966 HMM-165 relieved HMM-364 which rotated to ConUS.

02 Oct 1966 Battery C, 6th Bn (175mm guns), 27th Arty, USA, came under the operational control of Task Force DELTA.

08 Oct 1966 The 4th Battalion, 503d Abn Inf, 173d Abn Bde, USA, arrived at Da Nang.

10 Oct 1966 The 3d Marine Division was ordered to displace to Thua Thien and Quang Tri Provinces to conduct offensive operations as directed and continue current offensive operations in the Phu Bai TAOR. Task Force DELTA was ordered deactivated and

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Task Force X-RAY was activated at Chu Lai under the 1st Marine Division. The division assumed responsibility of all three southern provinces.

10 Oct 1966 VMFA-542 arrived at Chu Lai.

17-18 Oct 1966 The 1st Bn, 40th Field Arty Regt (105mm How (SP)), USA, arrived at Da Nang and the next day the 2d Bn, 94th Arty Regt (175mm gun), USA, arrived.

01 Nov 1966 VMA(AW)-242 arrived in Da Nang.

02 Nov 1966 HMM-163 relieved HMM-161 which rotated from Phu Bai to Okinawa.

03 Nov 1966 The SLF cantonment at Subic Bay, P. I., was completed.

05 Nov 1966 HMM-161 and BLT 2/4 departed RVN for Okinawa. HMM-364 departed for ConUS.

07 Nov 1966 Air Support Squadron (MASS)-3 arrived at Chu Lai from ConUS.

08 Nov 1966 A detachment of Composite Reconnaissance Squadron (VMCJ)-3 and elements of the 1st Armored Amphibian Company arrived at Da Nang.

09 Nov 1966 South Korea told the U.S. it will not increase its present commitment of 45,000 troops to Vietnam.

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**SECRET**13-15 Nov  
1966

The Army's 1/44th Air Defense Artillery Battalion (SP) with 64 M-42 twin 40mm guns and Battery G, 65th Air Defense Artillery Battalion with 24 trailer-mounted M-55 Quad .50 caliber machine guns arrived at Da Nang from ConUS.

15 Nov 1966

VMF(AW)-232 shifted from Iwakuni to Da Nang and VMF(AW)-235 went to Iwakuni on the 17th.

20-23 Nov  
1966

The last elements of the 1st Armored Amphibian Company arrived at Da Nang.

27 Nov 1966

Elements of the 11th Engineer Battalion arrived at Da Nang from ConUS.

29 Nov 1966

Headquarters Btry, 1st Field Arty Grp (FAG) arrived at Chu Lai.

01 Dec 1966

VMFA-121 arrived at Chu Lai from Iwakuni and VMFA-223 rotated to Iwakuni.

03 Dec 1966

The 4/503d Inf, USA, departed I CTZ for III CTZ. The battalion was relieved by 3/9.

06 Dec 1966

The administration disclosed that 9 to 10 billion dollars more is needed to pay for the war in Vietnam in the current fiscal year.

06 Dec 1966

Sergeant Robert E. O'Malley was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Johnson for heroism during

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Operation STARLITE. Sergeant O'Malley was the first Marine recipient of the Vietnam war.

19 Dec 1966 Elements of HMM-262 arrived at Da Nang from ConUS.

29 Dec 1966 The 11th Motor Transport Battalion, the 7th Separate Bulk Fuel Company, and VMO-3 arrived at Da Nang from ConUS.

02 Jan 1967 LtGen Victor H. Krulak reported that U.S. Marines in Vietnam were to switch from the M-14 to the M-16 rifle.

07 Jan 1967 A detachment of HMM-463, the first Marine heavy helicopter unit to be deployed to SVN, became operational at Marble Mountain Air Facility. The squadron employed CH-53A aircraft.

26 Jan 1967 Allied manpower in RVN reached a total of 1,077,000 including 623,000 South Vietnamese.

31 Jan 1967 Operation PRAIRIE I, which commenced on 3 August 1966 south of the DMZ terminated.

15 Feb 1967 The 1st Force Service Regiment (-) was activated at Da Nang and was assigned to the Force Logistic Command.

25 Feb 1967 U.S. forces were permitted to direct artillery fire north of the DMZ into North Vietnam.

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27 Feb 1967 The enemy took the Da Nang Air Base complex under attack with 140mm surface-to-surface rockets. This was the first time that this weapon was employed in the war.

15 Mar 1967 President Johnson named Ellsworth Bunker to replace Henry Cabot Lodge as Ambassador to South Vietnam. He named Eugene Locke and Robert Komer as deputy and presidential assistant.

18 Mar 1967 Viet Cong terrorists killed 11,967 civilians and kidnapped 40,988 in the last nine years.

18 Mar 1967 The newly constructed Cua Viet LST ramp, 10 miles east of Dong Ha on the coast line, became operational.

20-31 Mar 1967 Operation BEACON HILL, an amphibious operation, was conducted 4 miles south of the DMZ near Gio Linh by the SLF (BLT 1/4 and HMM-363).

21 Mar 1967 VMA(AW)-533 departed Cherry Point for Chu Lai.

01 Apr 1967 Head-of-State LtGen Nguyen Van Thieu formally promulgated South Vietnam's new constitution.

01 Apr 1967 VMA-214 departed RVN for ConUS.

07 Apr 1967 Operation DE SOTO, was conducted 47 miles south of Chu Lai by 3/5 (-) (Rein).

11 Apr-08 May 1966 Operation OREGON, the movement of U.S. Army units to replace Marines in Quang Tin and Quang Nam Provinces took place. On 20 April Task Force OREGON assumed operational control of all U. S.

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Army forces in the Chu Lai/Duc Pho area. The major units were the 196th Light Infantry Bde with 4 battalions; the 3d Bde, 25th Infantry Division with 2 battalions; and the 1st Bde, 101st Airborne Division with 3 battalions.

12 Apr 1967 The Secretary of Defense approved an increase of 3,500 Marines--from 71,050 to 74,550--in Vietnam.

15 Apr 1967 CinCPac directed one ARG/SLF to be on a 24-hour reaction time and another ARG/SLF on a 96-hour reaction time prepared for immediate commitment to I CTZ.

19 Apr 1967 Operation PRAIRIE III, which began on 18 March, was conducted in northern Quang Tri Province.

22 Apr-17 May 1967 Operation UNION was conducted 15 miles NNW of Tam Ky.

25 Apr 1967 The advance party of HQ, 26th Marines arrived at Da Nang from Okinawa.

25 Apr 1967 The 3d Force Reconnaissance Company arrived at Da Nang from ConUS.

13 May 1967 Operations in the Khe Sanh area (Hills 861, 881N, 881S) by SLF 2/3 and 3/3 from 24 April-23 May resulted in 940 VC/NVA killed. Marine losses were 155 KIA and 414 WIA.

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13 May 1967 Eight 130mm field guns were spotted 31 miles NW of Dong Ha. This was the first evidence of the 130mm gun in the NVA arsenal.

15 May 1967 3/4 arrived at Dong Ha from Okinawa and the battalion rotation program was suspended.

15 May 1967 VMFA-115 relieved VMFA-323 at Chu Lai. VMFA-323 went to Iwakuni.

17-28 May 1967 Operation HICKORY was conducted in the vicinity of Con Thien. This was the first time U.S. forces operated inside the DMZ. BEAU CHARGER/ BELT TIGHT was conducted by SLF A in conjunction with HICKORY.

31 May 1967 The 3d MP Battalion arrived at Da Nang from ConUS.

31 May 1967 Operation PRAIRIE IV terminated in northern Quang Tri Province. The operation began on 20 April.

05 Jun 1967 Operation UNION II, conducted 19 miles NW of Tam Ky from 26 May to 5 June, terminated.

07 Jun 1967 Operation MALHEUR, which commenced on 11 May, was conducted by Task Force OREGON in Quang Ngai Province.

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26 Jun 1967 The 1st Searchlight Battery arrived at Da Nang from ConUS.

02 Jul 1967 Operation CIMARRON, which commenced on 1 June in Quang Tri Province, terminated.

02-14 Jul 1967 Operation BUFFALO was conducted immediately south of the DMZ. During this operation the enemy employed artillery against maneuvering Marine units for the first time.

06 Jul 1967 Artillery rounds used by the enemy against Con Thien were from 152mm weapons. This was the first use of calibers larger than 130mm in the DMZ area.

23 Jul 1967 Headquarters Battery, Det, 5th 155mm Gun Battery, and a Det, 1st 8-inch Howitzer Battery, 1/13 arrived at Da Nang from Okinawa.

01 Aug 1967 The 3d Bde, 1st Cavalry Division relieved the 1st Bde, 101st Airborne Division with TF OREGON.

01-03 Aug 1967 Operation PIKE was conducted 22 miles SE of Da Nang.

11 Aug 1967 The 8th Battalion, 4th Artillery (175mm), USA, arrived at Da Nang.

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11-28 Aug 1967 Operation COCHISE was conducted in the Hiep Duc area 30 miles S of Da Nang by Task Force X-RAY.

03 Sep 1967 The presidential election in RVN resulted in the victory of the military ticket headed by Nguyen Van Thieu as President and Nguyen Cao Ky as Vice President.

04-15 Sep 1967 Operation SWIFT was conducted 28 miles S of Da Nang by Task Force X-RAY.

11 Sep 1967 Operation WHEELER was initiated, 20 km W of Tam Ky by TF OREGON.

11 Sep 1967 VMFA-122 arrived at Da Nang. VMF(AW)-232 (re-designated VMFA-232) departed RVN for ConUS.

21 Sep 1967 A Royal Thailand Army Regiment arrived in Vietnam. The unit was stationed 17 miles NE of Saigon.

22 Sep 1967 The designation of U.S. Army units in I CTZ was changed from Task Force OREGON to the Americal Division.

28 Sep 1967 The Marine CH-46A helicopters used along the DMZ were grounded because of a structural deficiency.

04 Oct 1967 The 3d Bde, 1st CavDiv (AM) arrived at Chu Lai and relieved the 5th Marines.

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04 Oct 1967 The month-long North Vietnamese siege of the Marine outpost at Con Thien ended with the enemy's retreat.

04 Oct 1967 Operation WALLOWA, by the 3d Bde, 1st CavDiv (AM), commenced 35 miles SE of Da Nang.

11 Oct 1967 The newly-elected 60-member Senate was installed in Saigon.

16 Oct 1967 The authorized strength of the Marine Corps in Vietnam was set at 81,900.

28 Oct 1967 The 198th Inf Bde assumed control of 1/6, 1/46, and 1/52 Inf upon their arrival in I CTZ.

30 Oct 1967 Operation DRAGON FIRE, conducted by the 2d ROKMC Bde 14 miles SE of Chu Lai, terminated. The operation commenced on 5 September.

31 Oct 1967 Operation ARDMORE, 12 km NW of Khe Sanh, terminated. The operation commenced on 17 July.

31 Oct 1967 Operation FREMONT, which commenced on 10 July 25 miles NW of Phu Bai, terminated.

01 Nov 1967 Operation SCOTLAND, by the 26th Marines in the Khe Sanh area, commenced.

01 Nov 1967 HMM-364 arrived at Phu Bai from ConUS and HMM-263 departed for ConUS.

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01 Nov 1967 Operation KENTUCKY commenced in the area of Dong Ha, Con Thien and Cam Lo.

04 Nov 1967 Operation NAPOLEON, by the 1st Amphibian Tractor Battalion, commenced in the vicinity of the mouth of the Cua Viet River.

11 Nov 1967 Operations WHEELER and WALLOWA merged into a single operation conducted by the Americal Division.

13-30 Nov 1967 Operation FOSTER, by the 7th Marines, was conducted 24 kms SW of Da Nang.

19 Dec 1967 The 11th Inf Bde (USA) arrived at Duc Pho from Hawaii and joined the Americal Division.

10 Jan 1968 The 3d Marine Division (Fwd) arrived Dong Ha.

12 Jan 1968 The 5th Marines moved from south of Da Nang to the DMZ area.

19 Jan 1968 The 1st Bn, 12th Cav arrived in I CTZ north of Phu Bai.

20 Jan 1968 The 1st Cavalry Division came under the operational control of III MAF.

21 Jan 1968 Operation LANCASTER II, by the 1st Marines, commenced in the Camp Carroll, Rockpile area.

21 Jan 1968 The 1st Bde, 1st CavDiv (AM) arrived at Phu Bai and on 26 January assumed responsibility for Camp Evans.

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21 Jan 1968 The enemy shelled Khe Sanh in what was to be the beginning of the siege of Khe Sanh.

22 Jan 1968 The 1st Bn, 8th Cav arrived north of Phu Bai.

22 Jan 1968 Operation JEB STUART, by the 1st Bde, 1st CavDiv, commenced in Quang Tri and Thua Thien Provinces.

23 Jan 1968 Air Force planes sighted and destroyed 3 enemy tanks 13 miles W of Khe Sanh.

27 Jan 1968 The 37th Ranger Bn (ARVN) arrived at Khe Sanh.

30 Jan 1968 Operation SALINE, by SLF Bravo, commenced 5 kms W of the mouth of the Cua Viet River.

30 Jan 1968 The enemy launched the TET Offensive, hitting 36 provincial capitals, 64 district capitals, and 5 autonomous cities, including Hue and Da Nang, in South Vietnam.

31 Jan 1968 A VC squad seized and held the U.S. Embassy in Saigon for six hours before withdrawing. One Marine was killed and 12 Americans (5 USMC) were wounded in the struggle. The enemy left 19 men behind.

31 Jan 1968 President Thieu declared martial law throughout South Vietnam.

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02 Feb 1968 The battle for Hue City was named Operation HUE CITY. The 1st Marines with 1/1 and 2/5, 1/5, the 2/327 Abn Inf and ARVN forces fought to regain the city.

07 Feb 1968 The Special Forces Civil Indigenous Defense Group (CIDG) Camp at Lang Vei, east of Khe Sanh, was attacked and overrun by an enemy ground force, supported by 15 armored vehicles--APCs and 9 Soviet Amphibious PT-76 tanks.

09 Feb 1968 MACV Forward was established in northern I CTZ by General Creighton W. Abrams, Dep ComUSMACV.

11 Feb 1968 The evacuation of Laotian military and dependents and Vietnamese refugees from the Lang Vei/Khe Sanh area began.

17 Feb 1968 The 2d Bn, 27th Marines arrived at Da Nang from ConUS.

20 Feb 1968 The 3d Bn, 27th Marines arrived at Da Nang from ConUS.

23 Feb 1968 Khe Sanh received 1,300 rounds of mortar, artillery, and rocket fire, the greatest amount fired on any single combat base in the DMZ area.

24 Feb 1968 South Vietnamese forces reclaimed the Imperial Palace grounds in Hue.

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25 Feb 1968 The city of Hue was clear of organized enemy resistance.

28 Feb 1968 Elements of BLT 1/27 arrived at Da Nang.

28 Feb 1968 The presence of enemy tanks in the A Shau Valley was confirmed.

29 Feb 1968 Operations NAPOLEON and SALINE were combined.

29 Feb 1968 Operation DINOSAUR, which was begun on 29 January by the 2d ROKMC Bde, in Quang Nam Province, terminated.

02 Mar 1968 Operation HUE CITY terminated. The enemy lost 1,920 men in the struggle to regain the city which cost the Marines 142 dead and 1,076 wounded.

03 Mar 1968 The 2d Bde, 1st CavDiv (AM) and 2/8 Cav moved to I CTZ from II CTZ.

07 Mar 1968 American troop strength in Vietnam reached 507,000 with the arrival of the 27th Marines.

09 Mar 1968 The 101st Abn Div assumed operational control of the 3d Bde, 82d Abn Div, which arrived at Phu Bai from ConUS.

10 Mar 1968 MACV Forward was deactivated and Provisional Corps Vietnam (ProvCorps V) activated at Hue/ Phu Bai under the operational control of the

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- CG, III MAF. ProvCorps V had operational control over the 3d MarDiv (-) (Rein), 1st CavDiv (AM), and the 101st AbnDiv (-) (Rein).
- 12 Mar 1968 Company B, 5th Tank Battalion and elements of the 5th Shore Party Battalion arrived at Da Nang.
- 15 Mar 1968 VMO-3 was deactivated and HML-367 and HML-167 were activated in RVN.
- 16 Mar 1968 The 107mm rocket was used against Dong Ha by the enemy, the first time it was used in I CTZ.
- 21 Mar 1968 The 1st Marine Aircraft Wing came under the operational control of the Seventh Air Force under a Single Management System.
- 31 Mar 1968 President Johnson announced that he would not be a candidate for the presidency in 1968. At the same time, he stated that he had ordered a halt in the air and naval bombardment of North Vietnam except in the vicinity of the DMZ. The President also invited Hanoi to join him in a "series of mutual moves toward peace."
- 31 Mar 1968 The Ground Proximity Extraction System (GPES), <sup>system</sup> a method of delivery from a KC-130, was used for the first time for aerial delivery of cargo in combat when 19,000 pounds were dropped at

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- 31 Mar 1968 5/46 Inf (USA) arrived Chu Lai. The number of maneuver battalions in I CTZ reached 92--24 USMC, 30 USA, 4 ROKMC, 34 ARVN.
- 31 Mar 1968 Operation JEB STUART terminated.
- 31 Mar 1968 Operation SCOTLAND terminated.
- 31 Mar 1968 Operation PEGASUS, by the 1st CavDiv (AM) with 3 Army brigades and the 1st Marines, commenced in the Khe Sanh area. All the units in Operations SCOTLAND and JEB STUART continued in PEGASUS.
- 31 Mar 1968 Operation NIAGARA, a massive air effort in the Khe Sanh area, terminated.
- 04-05 Apr 1968 1/9 moved from Khe Sanh Combat Base to attack and seize Hill 471. In the attack and the counter-attack the following day, the enemy lost 152 men.
- 08 Apr 1968 The siege of Khe Sanh was ended when elements of the 3d Bde, 1st CavDiv (AM) in Operation PEGASUS reached the combat base.
- 09 Apr 1968 For the first time since 20 January 1968, the Khe Sanh Combat Base received no enemy supporting arms fire. Five miles W of Khe Sanh, U.S. forces reoccupied Lang Vei Special Forces Camp.

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11 Apr 1968 National Route 9 was opened from Ca Lu to the Khe Sanh Combat Base.

14 Apr 1968 Marines of 3/26 secured Hill 881 North, 4 nautical miles NW of Khe Sanh Combat Base. The Marines lost 6 KIA and killed 106.

15 Apr 1968 4/21 Inf arrived at Duc Pho.

16 Apr 1968 The 1st MAW activated Provisional Marine Aircraft Group 39, forming it from existing assets.

29 Apr-05 May 1968 A combined arms attack, led by 2/4, stopped an enemy thrust in Dai Do Hamlet, near the Dong Ha Combat Base. The Marines supported by air, artillery, and naval gunfire, killed 746 NVA in the six days of heavy combat.

13 May 1968 Enemy gunners, in an attack that began on the 11th, delivered harassing fires against key installations in I CTZ. Rockets hit Hue City, Da Nang Air Base, Marble Mountain Air Facility, Chu Lai Airfield and a Marine 8-inch Howitzer Battery at Da Nang.

13 May 1968 After long negotiation, Paris was selected as the site for meetings between the U.S. and North Vietnam. Ambassador-at-large W. Averell Harriman,

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the chief U.S. representative, and Cyrus R. Vance began negotiations with the North Vietnamese delegation, led by Xuan Thuy.

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