

TOUR 365



Now that your tour of duty with the United States Army, Vietnam has ended, you can look back with perspective on your experiences. You now know the difficult tasks inherent in fighting to help protect the freedom of peace-loving people against Communist invaders. As a veteran, you understand better than many of our countrymen the meaning of North Vietnam's aggression against the Republic of Vietnam.

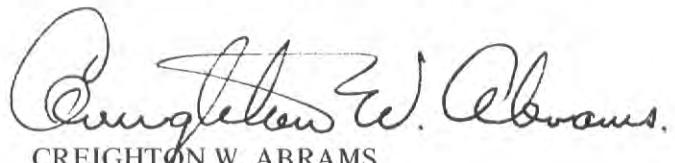
You have seen the horror and destruction created by North Vietnamese soldiers and the local Viet Cong terrorists who kill and maim their own neighbors. You have fought beside soldiers of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Vietnam and other Free World nations in a common struggle of defense.

During the past year, U.S. and Republic of Vietnam forces have made considerable progress in the Vietnamization program. Because of the intensive training received through our efforts; the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces are rapidly approaching the eventual takeover of the defense of their country.

Our assistance in implementing the Pacification program has also helped the Republic of Vietnam to expand its control over areas which were previously influenced or controlled by the enemy. This has resulted in a better life and increased security for the Vietnamese people.

People at home will want to hear your story of the war. Tell it. Regardless of the role you played, part of your story is reflected in the pages of this magazine. I hope this publication will assist you in relating your experiences.

I extend my sincere appreciation for your help in accomplishing our task in Vietnam and my thanks for a job well done. May your trip home and reunion with your family and friends be the pleasant, happy occasion you anticipate.



CREIGHTON W. ABRAMS
General, United States Army
Commanding

Contents for Summer 1971 Issue

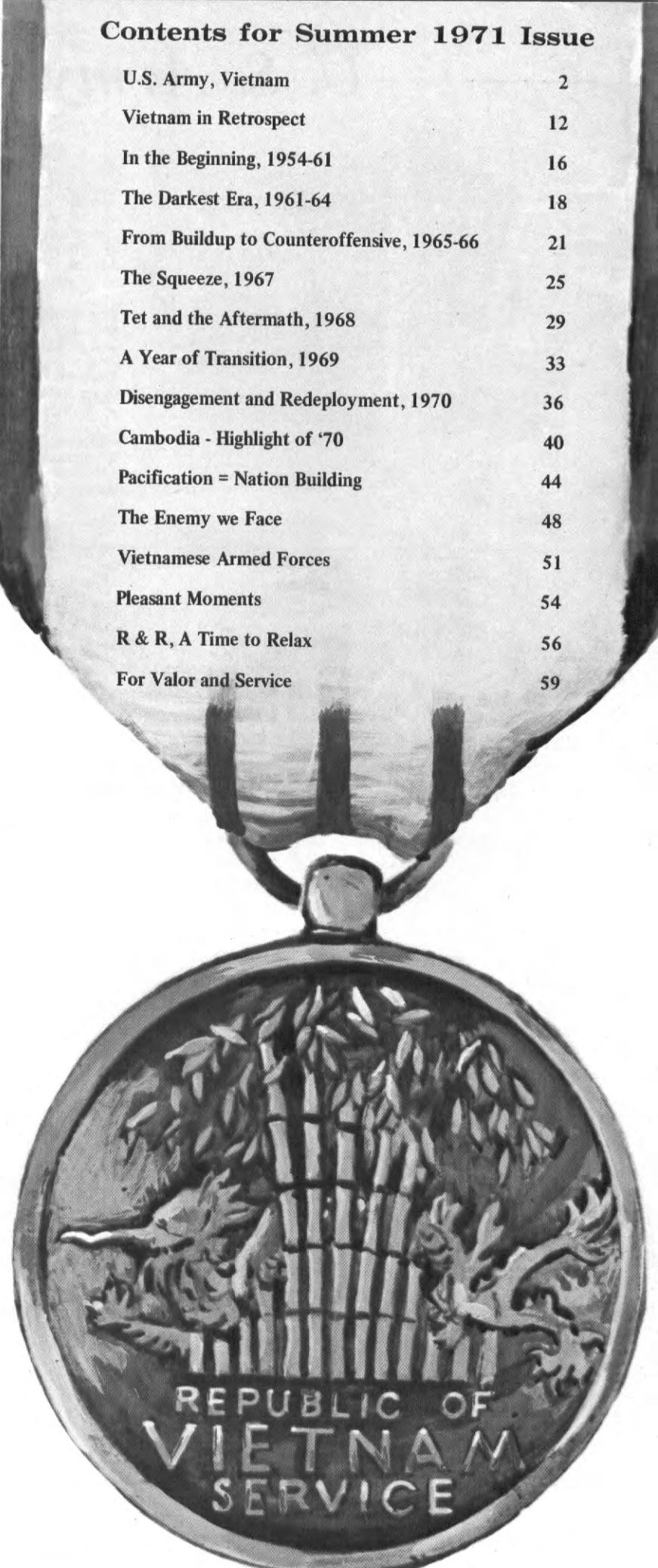
For Soldiers Going Home

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Tour 365 is an authorized publication of the United States Army, Vietnam. It is published under the supervision of the Information Officer, USARV, APO San Francisco 96375, semi-annually for distribution to the soldiers returning to the United States upon completion of their tour in the Republic of Vietnam. Opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Department of Defense or Department of the Army. The following agencies are thanked for their valuable contributions to the production of Tour 365: Military History Branch, USARV; Command Historian, USARV; U.S. Army Pictorial Center; Pacific Stars and Stripes for permission to use a condensation of a review of the Cambodian offensive; and to those past and present members of the USARV Information Office staff for their editorial contributions.

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U. S. Army, Vietnam

... and its units



United States Army, Vietnam as we know it was created on July 20, 1965. But U.S. involvement in Vietnam goes back to the late 1950s with the establishment of the Military Assistance Advisory Group, Indochina.

After committing itself to the defense of Southeast Asia under the Geneva Agreements and the Southeast Asia Defense Treaty, the U.S. set up a Military Assistance Advisory Group in Vietnam to provide economic, technical and military assistance. Military aid and advice was forthcoming until late 1961. Then the Republic of Vietnam declared a state of national emergency on Oct. 18, 1961, and asked the United States for combat troops.

The first complete combat units of American forces arrived in December, together with a support team, the 9th Logistical Command on Okinawa. This small team formed the nucleus from which USARV evolved. As the Army units in country increased, the U.S. Army Ryukyu Support Group, Provisional, took over logistics control of U.S. units in Vietnam. Further increases in U.S. troops necessitated that the support command be changed to U.S. Army Support Group, Vietnam.

During 1965 the increase of U.S. forces was rapid, and with the arrival of the additional combat units, the U.S. Army Support Command, Vietnam, was redesignated United States Army, Vietnam. Increased roles in combat operations spurred the creation of 3 subordinate commands, I Field Force, Vietnam, II Field Force, Vietnam and later XXIV Corps. This organization has remained basically unchanged.

Under President Nixon's program of continuing Vietnamization USARV's units are currently undergoing a period of reduction in strength and redeployment back to the U.S.

The United States Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) was established on Feb. 8, 1962, as a unified command subordinate to the commander-in-chief, Pacific. MACV has the mission of assisting the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces to maintain internal security against subversion and insurgency and to resist external aggression.

With headquarters in Saigon, MACV controls all of the United States Armed Forces in Vietnam. MACV is involved in two basic activities. Its forces constantly seek to engage the enemy in combat on the ground and territorial waters of the Republic of Vietnam, to provide assistance to the constitutional government of Vietnam in building a free society capable of defending itself.



I FIELD FORCE, VIETNAM

I Field Force, Vietnam, was organized on Aug. 1, 1965, at Nha Trang as Task Force Alpha; its mission: to control all U.S. Army Forces in the Republic. Major General Stanley R. Larsen, commanding, commenced operations on Aug. 5, 1965, with the 173rd Airborne Brigade; 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division; 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry; and 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment (reinforced). Shortly after this, the mission was changed to control only forces in II Corps. In November 1965, Task Force Alpha officially became Field Force, Vietnam, and in March 1966, when another field force was organized in Military Region 3, the command became I Field Force, Vietnam.

In the following years, I Field Force directed operations utilizing all or parts of the 4th Infantry Division, 101st Airborne Division, 1st Cavalry Division (Airborne), and numerous separate combat and combat support battalions and units. In addition to renowned victories at Dak To, Ben Het, Bu Prang-Duc Lap, Cambodia, Dak Seang-Dak Poke, and Plei Djeran, combat elements of the force defeated the NVA and VC in thousands of engagements in all 12 provinces of Military Region 2, and initiated one of the first comprehensive, U.S. Army-conducted pacification programs in RVN.

Today, I Field Force, Vietnam, still headquartered in Nha Trang, is the senior American headquarters in Military Region 2, and continues its mission of supervising the advisory effort with the ARVN, the many-faceted aspects of the CORDS effort, the U.S. military operations, and coordinates the American effort with the South Vietnamese and Republic of Korea Forces in the region.



II FIELD FORCE, VIETNAM

II Field Force, Vietnam, arrived in the Republic of Vietnam March 15, 1966, and at its height became one of the largest corps-level commands in the history of the U.S. Army. II Field Force traces its lineage to the XXII U.S. Army Corps, formed in 1944 in the European campaign. Inactivated at the end of World War II, it was reactivated at Fort Hood, Tex., with the coming of the Vietnam conflict and renamed II Field Force.

II Field Force's area of responsibility is Military Region 3, the 11 provinces surrounding Saigon. At various times it had under its command the following major units or elements: 1st, 9th and 25th Infantry Divisions; 101st and 82nd Airborne Divisions; 173rd Airborne Brigade; 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 12th Combat Aviation Group, 23rd and 54th Artillery Groups, and the 1st Australian Task Force and Royal Thai Army Volunteer Force.

II Field Force units were responsible for the decisive defeat of enemy forces in Military Region 3 during the 1968 Tet offensive, which threatened particularly the Saigon area. But its greatest moment was the Cambodian incursion of May and June 1970 when the 25th Infantry Division, 1st Cav and 11th Armored Cav fought alongside ARVN troops of III Corps in one of the war's biggest and most successful operations.

Under continuing redeployment plans, II Field Force is scheduled for reorganization at some future date into a strictly advisory role.



XXIV CORPS

XXIV Corps was activated at Fort Shafter, Hawaii, on April 8, 1944. On Sept. 11 of the same year, it embarked on combat operations near Dulag on Leyte in the Philippine Islands. At that time, the 7th Infantry Division and the 96th Infantry Division were the major command elements of the Corps, later to be joined by the 77th Infantry Division. From the Philippines, XXIV Corps moved to Okinawa, and in September 1945 moved to Korea, where it remained until deactivated in January 1949.

On Aug. 15, 1968, XXIV Corps was reactivated at Phu Bai, Republic of Vietnam. It was placed under operational control of III Marine Amphibious Force (III MAF) — its brother-in-arms 24 years before in the South Pacific.

On March 9, 1970, the Corps headquarters moved from Phu Bai to Camp Horn in Da Nang to become the senior U.S. military headquarters in Military Region 1 (MRI), replacing III MAF. The commanding general of XXIV Corps is the senior adviser to the Army of the Republic of Vietnam I Corps commander. He also is responsible for coordinating the activities of all U.S. units in the region and exercises direct operational control over them. Currently under XXIV Corps control are the 23rd Infantry Division (Americal), the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) and the 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized).





1ST AVIATION BRIGADE

On the frontless war in Vietnam, more than 2000 rotary and fixed-wing aircraft from the 1st Aviation Brigade give ground commanders an "extra edge" in closing with the enemy and defeating him. Never before in military history has a ground commander had such capability with which to find the enemy, conduct route and area reconnaissance, deploy infantrymen to the enemy's location, deliver sustained firepower and supplies, control the ground battle from the air, adjust artillery and air strikes and evacuate the wounded soldiers.

Since its establishment in May 1966, the 1st Aviation Brigade has consistently allowed ground commanders to keep pressure on the enemy, maintain contact in fluid situations, cut off the enemy's withdrawal and complete the destruction or capture of his forces. Flying in support of U.S. and Allied forces, the brigade has been on all types of missions, including tactical combat assaults, direct fire support, aerial reconnaissance, medevac, troop lift, cargo hauling, evacuation of South Vietnamese civilians from battle areas and actions in support of the rural development program.

In 1970, the brigade significantly increased their mission in support of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) and Republic of Korea (ROK) forces, and carried more than 11.5 million U.S. and Allied troops in more than seven million sorties, flying more than four million hours to accomplish their monumental mission.



1ST SIGNAL BRIGADE

From a satellite in orbit 18,000 miles above the Pacific Ocean to a courier on a dusty Vietnamese road, the 1st Signal Brigade passes the word into, out of and within Southeast Asia.

With more than 16,000 men scattered among more than 200 sites in the Republic of Vietnam and Thailand, the strcom brigade is the largest combat signal unit ever formed and controls the most comprehensive military communications-electronics systems in the history of warfare. Its mission is very simply put: communication.

Since its organization on April 1, 1966, the Brigade has fulfilled this mission by planning, engineering, installing, operating and maintaining both the Southeast Asian portion of the Army's world wide strategic communications system and extensive area communications systems in South Vietnam and Thailand.

All communications entering or leaving South Vietnam must pass through facilities operated by the Brigade, which consists of six subordinate signal groups, five in the Republic of Vietnam and one in Thailand. In the more than three years of its existence the 1st Signal team has provided communications of a scope never before achieved in a combat zone. The primary mission has been to "keep the shooters talking."

However, during 1970, the Brigade instituted the "Buddies Together" program. Under this Vietnamization program ARVN soldiers are being trained to take over the highly sophisticated communications systems of the Brigade in South Vietnam.



23RD INFANTRY DIVISION (AMICAL)

The 23rd Infantry Division (Amical) is the largest infantry division operating in South Vietnam with three light infantry brigades and a squadron of armored cavalry. The division got its start in the rugged terrain of Military Region 1 in mid-April 1967 when it was known as Task Force Oregon. Its mission at that time was to ease pressure on Marines operating near the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ).

Throughout 1970 and early 1971 the men, "under the Southern Cross," continued to aggressively pursue their mission in Quang Tin and Quang Ngai Provinces. The heavily populated and rice-rich coastal plains were protected from severe enemy threats; the trace of control held by the government of the Republic of Vietnam was firmly extended and promoted throughout the area; and North Vietnam regular and Viet Cong forces were interdicted and destroyed in Operations Frederick Hill, Geneva Park and Pennsylvania Square.

Pacification operations, an integral part of the 23rd's program, were increased monthly, reaching a high of 560 in December 1970. When typhoons Kate and Joan hit in October and November 1970, the 23rd Division reacted swiftly to bring relief to thousands of refugees. Large quantities of food and building supplies were provided and engineer units cleared roads and rebuilt bridges.

25TH INFANTRY DIVISION

Shortly after its inception in October 1941, the 25th Infantry Division was called to defend the shores of Hawaii after the attack on Pearl Harbor. From there, the Tropic Lightning troops were on the offensive throughout the Pacific penetrating Japanese strongholds. They helped occupy Japan after the war until called into Korea for three years, where they earned the Korean Presidential Unit Citation.

From 1963, when the Division began providing men for the Vietnam conflict, until redeployment began on Dec. 15, 1970, back home to Hawaii, the men of the 25th fought many bloody battles to break traditional Viet Cong lines of communications, supply and liaison routes between the Mekong Delta and the North. In addition, division soldiers showed genuine compassion for the problems of the South Vietnamese through their civic action programs. For these efforts, the 25th Infantry Division was awarded the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with palm on Jan. 28, 1969.



1ST CAVALRY DIVISION (AIRMOBILE)

From its activation at Fort Bliss, Tex., on Sept. 13, 1921, through World War II and Korea, until today, the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) has recorded a series of unparalleled firsts.

During World War II, the 1st Cav was the first unit into Manila and first in Tokyo. Then in Korea, the Cav was the first unit to move into Pyongyang, the capital of North Korea. On July 1, 1965, at Fort Benning, Ga., this unit became the U.S. Army's first airmobile division.

Arriving in the Republic of Vietnam on Sept. 14, 1965, the Cav became the first American division to serve in all four tactical zones. The division won a Presidential Unit Citation by routing heavy North Vietnamese concentrations around the Ia Drang Valley west of Pleiku during its first year of operation. The 1st Cav is the only division to receive a second Republic of Vietnam Cross with Palm.

During May and June of 1970, Skytroopers again proved the airmobile concept really works as the men of the 1st Cav dealt an unprecedented loss to the enemy. The 1st Cav and units under the Cav's operational control moved into the Cambodian enemy storage sanctuaries and captured large quantities of Communist supplies and accounted for more than 2,500 enemy dead.



101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION (AIRMOBILE)

The 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) was activated on Aug. 16, 1942, at Camp Claiborne, La. After months of arduous training, drills and practice jumps, two parachute infantry regiments and two glider regiments landed in England in the fall of 1943. The division made history on D-Day, June 6, 1944, when it jumped, 14,000 strong, into occupied France.

The division's fortunes fluctuated after World War II, and it was inactivated and reactivated as a training division three times in 11 years. On July 29, 1965, the 1st Brigade and support troops arrived at Cam Ranh Bay to begin the next chapter of the Screaming Eagles' combat history.

The remainder of the division was in-country by Dec. 13, 1967, and a year later, more than 10,000 enemy had died at the hands of the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile). The division's mission has carried it into all four of the Republic of Vietnam's military regions. It has successfully defended the U.S. Embassy in Saigon, the Bien Hoa Air Base and the coastal city of Phan Theit.

The Division also distinguished itself in spearheading a series of operations, driving the NVA out of the infamous A Shau Valley. During the Cambodian offensive in May and June of 1970, Task Force 3/506 drove into NVA and VC sanctuaries near Prek Drang. The Communists were caught by surprise and overrun by the Screaming Eagles, who smashed what had taken the NVA four years to build.





173RD AIRBORNE BRIGADE

The 173d Airborne Brigade – nicknamed the Sky Soldiers – was formed in May 1963 and became the first major U.S. Army ground combat unit to fight in the Republic of Vietnam, arriving in May 1965. The Brigade concluded in January a pacification program which was begun in April 1969 and carried through six phases.

Among its accomplishments, the 173rd contributed to the improvement and modernization of the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces (RVNAF), particularly the Regional and Popular Forces. It helped to reduce the Viet Cong infrastructure and helped develop the local Rural Cadre and People's Self-Defense Forces, to enable the South Vietnamese to protect their own key populated areas and bridge sites. Also, the Brigade continued to maintain security for portions of QL1, South Vietnam's only major north-south highway.

The Sky Soldiers have received three unit citations for their achievements in the Vietnam conflict. They were awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for distinguishing themselves in the Battle of Dak To during November 1967. Brigade elements fought an entrenched North Vietnamese Army regiment on Hill 875. In some of the most bitter fighting of the war, they captured the hill on Thanksgiving Day. More than 800 enemy were killed. It also has the Meritorious Unit Citation for the period May 3, 1965, through May 31, 1967. The Brigade's most recent award is the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm (Gold) for the period May 5, 1965, through Sept. 26, 1970.



1ST BRIGADE, 5TH INFANTRY DIVISION (MECHANIZED)

The 5th Infantry Division was organized in December 1917 to participate in World War I. It arrived in France in May 1918, where the German enemy gave the men of the division their name, Red Devils. During World War II, the 5th deployed to Iceland, England and Ireland before taking part in the invasion at Normandy.

In July 1968, the 1st Brigade of the 5th Infantry Division (Mech.) was deployed for overseas duty in the Republic of Vietnam, while the remainder of the division stayed at Fort Carson, Colo. The mission of the 1st Brigade is twofold: to conduct major operations against NVA elements and to provide peace and freedom to the residents of the Quang Tri area.

The Brigade divides its time between search and clear, cordon and sweep operations, working with the Army of the Republic of Vietnam. In November 1970 the Red Devils were honored by President Nguyen Van Thieu for their recovery operations following the disastrous floods in Quang Tri Province. Also, the last months of 1970 and early 1971 saw a massive resettlement program for South Vietnamese conducted by the brigade.

Elements of the 1st Brigade swept down Route 9 in early February 1971 to join the reoccupation of the abandoned Marine base at Khe Sanh as part of the huge operation to eliminate a North Vietnamese buildup along the Laotian frontier.



11TH ARMORED CAVALRY REGIMENT

From its birth as a horse cavalry regiment at Fort Meyers, Va., in 1901 to its present status as a light armored, completely mobile reconnaissance force, the 11th Cav has continuously added to its proud tradition.

Soon after it was formed, the regiment won its spurs in the Philippines and it was in these trying first years that the Blackhorse earned its motto, "Allons" (Let's Go). Since then the regiment has served in the Mexican War, World War II and now in the Vietnam conflict.

The regiment arrived in the Republic of Vietnam in September 1966. A variety of missions, from clearing roads to dislodging enemy forces from almost inaccessible jungle areas, has taken the regiment from southeast Long Khanh Province to An Loc in northern Binh Long Province.

The 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment took a lion's share of the forts to cut off the infiltration routes which spread from the Cambodian border through the provinces of South Vietnam. After that the Blackhorse relocated to the Saigon area of MR3 and launched Vietnamization and pacification programs. On Feb. 1, 1971, the unit began a stand-down with its 1st and 3rd Squadrons.

18TH MILITARY POLICE BRIGADE

From escorting mini-skirted singers to guarding strategic military points, from patrolling the streets of Hue to keeping the highways of the Delta open, the role of the 18th Military Police Brigade in the Republic of Vietnam is diversified.

Established on May 20, 1966, and sent to South Vietnam on Sept. 26, 1966, the Brigade controls all non-divisional MPs from the DMZ down to the middle of the Delta. It is the command element for two MP groups, seven MP battalions, seven infantry companies, a criminal investigation group and a transportation company river patrol boat.

The 18th MP Brigade has been used in a combat support role in addition to its normal police function. In this combat support role the MPs provide convoy escorts, highway and bridge security, refugee and detainee evacuation and traffic control.

The 18th MP Brigade also has control of a 22-square-mile area as its own tactical area of responsibility. This responsibility covers not only military operations but also civic actions programs.



18TH ENGINEER BRIGADE

The 18th Engineer Brigade was formed July 29, 1921, as the 347th Engineers (General Service) in the Organized Reserves. It was ordered into active military service May 6, 1942, at Camp Claiborne, La., and redesignated the 347th Engineer General Service Regiment.

For its service in Normandy, northern France, the Rhineland and Central Europe during World War II, the unit received the Meritorious Unit Commendation. After the war, it was deactivated in Germany. July 16, 1965, it was activated at Fort Bragg, N.C., and prepared for deployment to Vietnam. An advance party of the brigade arrived in the Republic of Vietnam on Sept. 3, 1965, and became operational two weeks later.

Many of the Brigade's projects stand out as exceptional engineering feats. Among them was the construction of the critical Hai Van Pass, a job attempted by many but accomplished by the 18th Brigade, and a storage area at Cam Ranh Bay, two years in construction and enclosing 191,700 square feet.

The brigade has also been actively engaged in road building and land clearing, as well as numerous civic action projects.

The accomplishments of the 18th Engineer Brigade have not only contributed significantly to the success of combat forces in Military Regions 1 and 2 but have provided valuable assets to the future development and growth of South Vietnam.



20TH ENGINEER BRIGADE

The history of the 20th Engineer Brigade extends back to the Civil War. The unit was constituted on Aug. 3, 1861. Unit designations have been changed many times since then, but the ancestors of the 20th Engineer Brigade have participated in campaigns in the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, the Philippine Insurrection, the Mexican expedition, and World Wars I and II.

The Brigade headquarters was reactivated May 1, 1967, and arrived in the Republic of Vietnam on Aug. 3, 1967. The 20th Brigade missions are to command assigned and attached units, provide operational support for the U.S. and free world forces, plan and execute construction, and provide for security of personnel, equipment, facilities and construction sites of assigned or attached units. Many of the Brigade's projects stand out as exceptional engineering achievements. Among these are the restoration of National Highway (QL) 4 between Song Be and Dong Xoai, and the clearing of over a half-million acres of jungle.

As the war's emphasis shifted to Vietnamization, the Brigade developed far-reaching programs of mutual assistance with the ARVN. At present, the ARVN is taking over an increasing amount of work, as evidenced by their restoration project on QL-1 and their three recently trained land clearing companies.

The Brigade has been awarded the Republic of Vietnam Civic Actions Honor Medal, First Class, for assistance rendered to orphanages, schools and other pacification projects.



A JOB WELL DONE

Departed Units



1ST INFANTRY DIVISION

The 1st Infantry Division was the first division to go overseas in World War I. During World War II, it was the first to reach Britain and France. On July 12, 1965, the 2nd Brigade of the Big Red One landed in the Republic of Vietnam, the first element of an infantry division to arrive.

During five years in South Vietnam, the Big Red One participated in many significant battles and operations such as Birmingham, Junction City, Billings, Shenandoah II, Quyet Thang, Loc Ning V, An Loc and Operation Toan Thang.

July 1969 marked the beginning of a coordinated war effort by Big Red One soldiers and members of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam's 5th Division. This program, which is referred to as Dong Tien (progress together), resulted in victories over the enemy while preparing the ARVN soldier to assure security in his homeland.

In December of 1969, President Nixon announced that the 1st Division would be one of the major elements of the Phase III redeployment. The Division was reduced in strength and moved to Fort Riley, Kan.



4TH INFANTRY DIVISION

The history of the 4th Infantry Division dates back to 1917 when the division was organized at Camp Greene, N.C. During World War I, the Ivymen fought in the campaigns of Aisne - Marne, St. Mihiel and Meuse-Argonne. World War II brought the hard-driving 4th Division into action on the beaches of Normandy, in the drive on Cherbourg, in the liberation of Paris and at the battle of the Bulge.

In 1966, the Division deployed to the Republic of Vietnam setting up a base camp near Dragon Mountain in Pleiku Province. The first task of the division was to cut off the flow of enemy men and materials into the Central Highlands from Cambodia and Laos - just about 12,000 square miles. The Communists suffered approximately 1,600 dead against the 4th in one of the bloodiest battles of the war at Dak To in October 1967.

Throughout most of 1968, the Division conducted Operation MacArthur, which stopped NVA attempts to drive toward Kontum and Dak To. Leaving the Army of the Republic of Vietnam to continue the mission near Pleiku, the 4th took up its tasks at Camp Radcliff, near An Khe, in the spring of 1970.

The Ivymen again answered the call during the Cambodian offensive in May and June of 1970. Upon the completion of their actions in Cambodia, they returned to An Khe and remained there until redeployment on Dec. 12, 1970, to Fort Carson, Colo.

3RD BRIGADE, 9TH INFANTRY DIVISION

Organized July 18, 1918, at Camp Sheridan, Ala., the 9th Infantry Division was in the United States when World War I came to an end. Reactivation took place in August 1940 at Fort Bragg, N.C., and subsequently the division took part in action in North Africa, on the Normandy beaches, across France, Belgium and Germany.

After launching combat operations in South Vietnam in December 1966, the Old Reliabiles scored major triumphs, including victories against main force Viet Cong units, initiation of sustained operations in the Mekong Delta, formation of a Mobile Riverine Force, discovery of one of the largest enemy weapons caches in the war and suppression of VC terror campaigns during Tet 1968. In addition, division units reduced VC control in four populous provinces and helped foster a spirit of cooperation between the government and its citizens through civic action programs.

When the 9th became the first U.S. Army unit to redeploy from Vietnam in September and October 1969, the 1st and 2nd Brigades deactivated and the 3rd Brigade redeployed to Fort Lewis, Wash., where it, too, became deactivated.



3RD BRIGADE, 82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION

The story of the 3rd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division, began in 1917 when it was activated as the 156th Infantry Brigade, an element of the 78th Division. In May 1964, the Brigade was reorganized as the 3rd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division. On Feb. 13, 1968, the advance party left Pope Air Base, N. C., for the Republic of Vietnam.

The Brigade landed at Chu Lai and was attached to the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile). The All-Americans were given the mission of protecting the ancient capital of Hue in Military Region 1. In the fall of 1968, the Brigade moved to the Capital Military District.

After a year and a half of protecting the western flanks of Saigon from enemy attacks, the 3rd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division, had worked itself out of a job. The unit was named as one of the major elements to be redeployed as part of the Phase II cutback. With the Brigade's departure on Dec. 12, 1969, another chapter in its colorful history was brought to a close.



199TH LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE

The 199th Light Infantry Brigade, tailored and trained for duty in the Republic of Vietnam, arrived in-country Dec. 12, 1966, and set up a base camp just north of Long Binh Post. Its primary mission was to assist in the defense of Saigon, including the guarding of major infiltration corridors into the capital city.

The Redcatchers had a nucleus of four combat infantry battalions and an artillery battalion. These in turn were backed by a combat support battalion, a helicopter aviation section, an armored cavalry troop, long range reconnaissance patrol units, a helicopter gunship troop and a company of engineers.

The 199th rendered outstanding performances in its many engagements with the enemy. For its efforts in the 1968 Tet offensive, the Brigade received the Valorous Unit Award.

They were redeployed to Fort Lewis, Wash., and deactivated in mid-September 1970.



1ST LOGISTICAL COMMAND



On Sept. 20, 1950, the 1st Logistical Command was activated at Fort McPherson, Ga. Its early years were spent there and later at Fort Bragg, N.C. In July 1958, 1st Log was designated a major unit of the Strategic Army Corps, and during the next three years it was responsible for administrative and logistical support to contingency forces of the corps. During the Berlin Crisis, 1st Log deployed to France and became a major unit of the Communications Zone, Europe.

The 1st Logistical Command came to the Republic of Vietnam in April 1965 with a force of only 35 officers and enlisted men. With the build up of U.S. forces in South Vietnam, the command quickly mushroomed to a strength of more than 50,000 soldiers.

In June 1970, the 1st Logistical Command was reduced in strength and consolidated with USARV. A U.S. Army combat operation in South Vietnam has never been delayed or canceled due to lack of supplies. This is the record of the 1st Logistical Command, which supplied and supported all U.S. Army units and other U.S. and free world forces serving in the Republic of Vietnam.



5TH SPECIAL FORCES GROUP

Since 1962 when the 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), 1st Special Forces, began deploying teams to the Republic of Vietnam on six months temporary duty, the men of Special Forces have been carrying on the tradition of bringing freedom from oppression to the people of South Vietnam.

In October 1964, the 5th Special Forces Group headquarters moved to the Republic of Vietnam and began a more intensified campaign on carrying out the group's mission to advise the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) Special Forces and assist them in their operations against the Viet Cong through the Civilian Irregular Defense Group (now redesignated Border Rangers). At one time, this program had over 80 "A" sites throughout all four military regions.

The group has also been engaged extensively in civic action projects to improve agricultural techniques, and to build churches, schools, hospitals and recreation centers, for which it received the Vietnamese Civic Actions Medal.

With the current troop reductions, 5th Special Forces Group is being phased out. Its headquarters near Nha Trang was disbanded in January of this year.



44TH MEDICAL BRIGADE

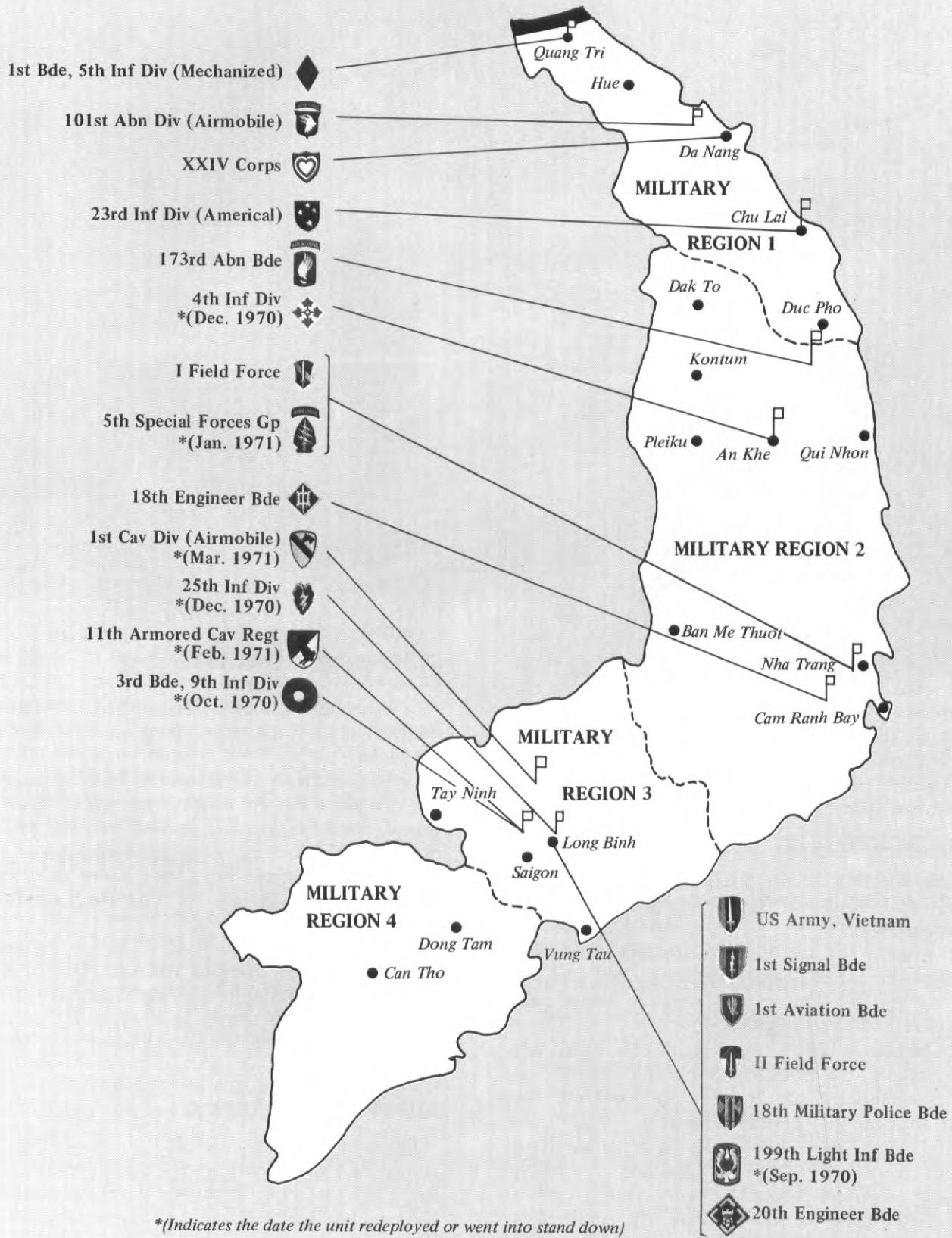
The 44th Medical Brigade was the Army's major medical command in the Republic of Vietnam and, at one point, controlled 165 medical support units and more than 9,000 personnel (currently more than 7,000). The Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment was constituted in the Regular Army on Dec. 30, 1965, and then activated on New Year's Day 1966 at Fort Sam Houston, Tex.

Ordered to Vietnam, the Brigade arrived in Saigon and set up its headquarters in a group of villas in April 1966. Becoming operational in May, the Brigade was reassigned directly under U.S. Army, Vietnam, and one month later moved its headquarters to Long Binh.

On March 1, 1970, the United States Army Medical Command, Vietnam, was organized as a result of consolidating the 44th Medical Brigade and the USARV surgeon's office. The 44th Medical Brigade has been re-activated at Fort Meade, Md. The medical command organization eliminated duplication of effort, reduced manpower requirements by 17 per cent and provided a headquarters that would be more responsible to drawdown requirements.

The mission of the United States Army Medical Command, Vietnam, is to provide medical service support to U.S. Army personnel, Free World Military Assistance Forces personnel and other categories of personnel as directed.

MAJOR UNIT LOCATIONS



Vietnam in retrospect



TO understand the war, it is best to understand Vietnam's past. The Vietnamese people have been struggling for independence for nearly 2,000 years.

Most of the Vietnamese come from a non-Chinese, Mongoloid people who traveled from their south China tribal lands to settle in the Red River Delta in North Vietnam, near Hanoi.

CHINESE CONQUEST

Chinese historical documents make the first mention of a country called Nam-Viet, "People of the South," who lived in southern China.

The kingdom of the Viets in southern China was short-lived. In 111 B.C. the kingdom of Nam-Viet was conquered by the Chinese and remained under their domination for the next thousand years.

The Chinese rule over Vietnam and its people was cruel and oppressive. Nevertheless, considerable progress was made during that era: the plow was introduced, effective planting and cultivation of rice was initiated.

The Chinese also introduced more sophisticated construction methods. Due to the expansion of highways and canals, commerce began to flourish. China's greatest gift to Vietnam was the art of writing. This did much to raise the cultural level of the Viets.

INDEPENDENCE AT LAST

In 938 A.D. a great revolt culminated in the defeat of the overlords at the battle of Bach Dang and drove them across the border.

Later attempts by the Chinese to retake Vietnam were less than successful. An uneasy peace existed between the two countries as Vietnam entered its own period of expansion. The Vietnamese moved south and west. In the west they encountered the Khmer empire in Cambodia. After a series of conflicts, the Vietnamese defeated the Khmers in 1660.

The amazing thing about the Vietnamese expansion is that it took place during a civil war within their own country. Two powerful families, the Trinh in the north and the Nguyen in the south, were vying for control of Vietnam. This family rivalry continued into the 18th century.

EUROPEAN INFLUENCE

European influence reached Vietnam in 1535 when Portuguese Captain Antonio de Faria arrived in Da Nang Bay. For a century the Portuguese dominated commerce in Vietnam, but they were unable to impose their will on the Vietnamese.

In 1636, the Dutch arrived. Their coming coincided with the civil war between the Trinh and the Nguyen families. The Dutch set up arms factories in the north and sold their wares to the Trinh. The Portuguese supplied the same service in the south for the Nguyen.

A truce in the war resulted in the end of the arms business and a general slowing down in commerce. By 1700, due to the slump in trade, the Portuguese and Dutch merchants left the country, leaving behind the first Christian missionaries.

EARLY CHRISTIANITY

Confucian-oriented officials had their misgivings about the new religion. They suspected it as the forerunner of conquest and feared its effect upon the traditional order which had been the foundation of the state for centuries.

French Catholic missions started in the 17th century. Before then the Vietnamese introduction to Christianity had been casual.

The missionary Alexandre de Rhodes (1591-1660) devised the first Romanization of the Vietnamese language (Annamite, as it was then called); education through this medium, by almost eliminating the Chinese script, helped develop a feeling of nationalism, emphasizing the distinctiveness of Vietnamese.

Missionary activities spread, despite a loosely enforced ban. Christianity was embraced by a substantial portion of the Vietnamese population. Gradually however, restrictions on preaching Christianity became more stringent and ultimately became punishable by death. The first French missionary was executed in 1833.

During that time, a European power struggle was taking place in the Far East. The defeat of the Chinese by the British in the Opium War of 1839 caused the Vietnamese government to have second thoughts about their persecutions. The Vietnamese monarch, Minh Mang, sent emissaries to France and England, offering to ease persecution of the Catholics and expressing willingness to enter into free trade. He died before the envoys returned. His son, Thieu Tri, and grandson, Tu Duc, feeling that further diplomacy was useless, resumed the Catholic persecutions.

FRENCH DOMINATION

Toward the middle of the 19th century, pressure mounted in France for the government to take positive action to establish a position on Vietnam. This pressure resulted from an envy of the power other European nations were establishing in Asia and a desire to protect the missionaries. Finally, Napoleon III, nephew of Bonaparte, used the persecution of the missionaries as an excuse to attack Vietnam.

In 1858 the French captured the city of Da Nang and, in July 1861, they took Saigon. The Vietnamese court at Hue ceded Saigon and the adjacent area to the French and agreed to pay an indemnity. In 1867 the western part of the southern delta was annexed, and the area known as Cochin China (the extreme southern portion of Vietnam) was under French control.

For the next 30 years, the French expanded their control over all of Indochina, what is known today as North and South Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia.

The basic political structure of French Indochina was completed by 1900. Each of Vietnam's three regions were treated separately although basic policy decisions were made in Paris.

The emperor and the mandarinate remained in both central and north Vietnam; Cochin China was administered directly by the French. The old structure of government remained; however, all major decisions were made by French authorities. French rule demoralized the emperors and mandarinate, tending to turn them into self-seekers and yes men.

French colonialism also had profound economic effects on the region. Absentee ownership grew as large-scale agricultural and rubber plantations appeared. Prosperous Vietnamese moved into the cities, and more and more of the land was tilled by peasants who did not own it.

Large-scale canal systems were dug in the Mekong Delta to exploit rice production. By the early 20th century, the French had managed to produce a rice surplus.



French colonial architecture abounds in the cities.

European ideas and culture permeated the country, especially among the Mandarin classes. Western thought also stimulated another movement -- growing Vietnamese nationalism.

Early in the 20th century, nationalist movements began to develop, initially among urban intellectuals. Numerous anti-French secret societies developed. However, most were loosely organized and had no well-defined political objectives.

THE RISE OF HO CHI MINH

Leadership of the clandestine nationalist movement was eventually taken over by the Indochinese Communist Party (Dong Duong Cong San Dang). Formed in Hong Kong in 1930, it united several existing independent Communist groups under the leadership of Ho Chi Minh.

Ho Chi Minh did not enter the political scene until the end of World War I, when he appeared at Versailles with an eight-point plan for revising colonial rule in Vietnam. The representatives were busy with policies of greater import and he was ignored.

Not long thereafter, Ho affiliated himself with the 3rd Communist International and ultimately went to Moscow to study Communist doctrine in 1924. During that time he wrote several nationalistic pamphlets. Nationalists in Vietnam, where the pamphlet was smuggled, mistakenly considered him to be for their cause.

Ho was soon sent to China as an interpreter for a group of Communist revolutionaries. The group was called the Russian Political Mission. Their job was to start a revolution in China.

Taking advantage of a temporary alliance between the Chinese Communists and Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalist government, Ho was able to train a number of his officers in Chinese military schools.

In 1927 when the Communists and nationalists split, Ho left China. Some time later he turned up in Thailand posing as a Buddhist priest. He was organizing revolutionary groups out of the Vietnamese living there.

From Thailand Ho traveled to Hong Kong, where he formed a new organization, the Indochinese Communist party. In Vietnam, the French were acting quickly to put down any nationalistic uprisings. For this reason the Communists remained quiet. Ho Chi Minh remained on the sidelines.

In 1934 he was back in Moscow studying the party line. In 1938 he served with Mao Tse-tung's forces in China. After 30 years' absence, Ho returned to Vietnam in 1940.

JAPANESE OCCUPATION

When France fell to Germany in June of 1940, the Vichy government ceded all of French Indochina to the Japanese. However, the French administration was permitted to remain intact, with many lucrative agreements being made between wealthy French interests in Vietnam and the occupying forces.

Meanwhile, Ho Chi Minh had become the leading

national political figure in Vietnam. His party adopted a policy of collaboration with all non-Communist nationalists to broaden the social and political base of its activities.

This united-front organization was known as the Vietnam Independence League (Viet Nam Doc Lap Dong Minh) or Viet Minh.

One of the first actions of the Viet Minh was to form guerrilla bands under the direction of Vo Nguyen Giap, operating in Vietnamese territory against the Japanese and French. Although Ho Chi Minh was jailed in 1941, the activities of the Viet Minh continued. Working in nationalist guise, Ho effectively strengthened the organization of Communist cells throughout Vietnam.

In August 1945, Emperor Bao Dai, fearing the French would return when Japan surrendered, abdicated his throne and handed over power to Ho Chi Minh. French troops re-entered Vietnam in September.

POST WAR PERIOD

The Viet Minh and French conducted negotiations for a year in an effort to assure some form of independence for Vietnam. By December 1946, the Viet Minh decided that the only way to achieve an independent Vietnam was through a "war of liberation." For the next eight years the French fought the Viet Minh. The culmination of these years of conflict came on May 7, 1954. At a fort outside the town of Dien Bien Phu, the French-outnumbered and outgunned-surrendered to the Viet Minh after a 54-day siege.

Two weeks before, a prominent Vietnamese nationalist, Ngo Dinh Diem, had been named by Emperor Bao Dai to be the prime minister of Vietnam with full power.

The day after the battle of Dien Bien Phu, the Geneva Conference turned its attention to the French-Indochina War. The conference had been called by the Big Four to discuss the Korean and Indochinese problems.



The agreement reached for Vietnam fixed a provisional demarcation line roughly along the 17th parallel and provided for the total evacuation of French military forces, as well as Viet Minh forces from the South. Freedom of movement between the two sections was guaranteed for 300 days. An International Control Commission was formed to supervise the truce agreements, its members coming from Canada, India and Poland. Finally a provision was made for the holding of general elections throughout Vietnam in 1958.

The French proceeded to hand over the controls and administration to the non-Communist Vietnamese with the capital in Saigon. In Hanoi, Ho began the total

communication of the nation north of the 17th parallel. He later turned his attention southward.

Despite the cease-fire agreement, a well-organized Viet Minh underground was deliberately left behind in the South. That underground network formed the nucleus of subsequent Communist insurgency originated in Hanoi and directed against the Saigon government.

Vietnam was left divided. The South had a pro-Western government struggling to establish a non-Communist society. In the north, Ho Chi Minh was busy organizing a Communist state -- the base from which he would attempt the realization of his dream of a unified Communist Vietnam.



French Garrison pulls out of Haiphong after the fall of Dien Bien Phu (left).

A dragon, most often considered a protector who scares evil spirits away (above).

The Cao Dai Temple at Tay Ninh (top right).

Buddha's all-seeing eye inside the Cao Dai Temple (right).



1954—1961

In the Beginning



The result of the Geneva Accords of 1954 was creation of a North and South Vietnam. Although the United States was not an active participant in bringing about the end of the French-Indochina War, our government worked quietly behind the scenes. At the same time, groundwork for the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO) was being laid. In September the treaty was signed in Manila. South Vietnam was included in the treaty as a "protocol state." The signatories accepted the obligation, if asked by the government of South Vietnam, to take action in response to armed attack against South Vietnam and to consult on appropriate measures if the south were subjected to subversive activities. President Eisenhower instituted economic aid for the new country in late 1954 and thus began active American interest in South Vietnam.

To understand the events following, we must look at the development of North Vietnam; the rise of the Viet Cong and its assistance from the North and the increased economic and military aid to the South furnished by the United States.

Ho Chi Minh began an immediate consolidation of forces. Many Communists moved north of the 17th parallel -- an estimated 90,000 -- while thousands of selected party members were ordered to remain behind. They were told to hide their weapons and wait for the call.

Hanoi presumed the South would fall by subversion and force would not be necessary. When the South became more and more prosperous, in spite of Communist penetration of South Vietnamese government agencies and attempts at agitation and propaganda, it came as a shock to the Communists.

Agitators and agents were being exposed by the people, causing morale to drop in the Communist ranks and many defections to occur. Compounding the problems of the North, per capita food output dropped by 10 per cent. Authorities in the North openly admitted that food production goals were not being reached. The North's failures coupled with the South's successes caused a major revision in over-all strategy. Military forces would have to be employed to take over the South.

TERRORISM STEPPED UP

By 1958, the plan became obvious. In 1959, the pace of terrorism accelerated. Recruiting for the Viet Cong was stepped up.

Communist propaganda tried to exploit the confusion by stating that the South's government was falling apart and was unable to protect its people. The entire campaign was being directed from the North.

The National Liberation Front appeared on Dec. 20, 1960, announcing its foundation and program. It called for the overthrow of the "disguised colonial regime of the United States imperialists and the dictatorial Diem administration."

Communist propaganda tried to establish that the acts of terror were from popular discontent with Ngo Dinh Diem and his palace regime. It insisted the Viet Cong obtained their weapons by capturing them from American and French sources.

INFILTRATION

Elaborate precautions were taken to prevent discovery of North Vietnam's support of the southern Communist organization. Reliable sources estimate 40,000 trained

OPPOSING LEADERS

President Ngo Dinh Diem of South Vietnam was a constant target of Communist propaganda.

Ho Chi Minh felt that North Vietnam could subjugate the south through subversion.



military personnel infiltrated from North to South Vietnam through Laos in the five-year period from 1959 through 1964.

When an infiltrator arrived at the Laotian border, his North Vietnamese army uniform was exchanged for a Lao "neutralist" uniform. He would give up all personal effects of an incriminating nature. A local guide took him halfway to the first of a series of way stations along the infamous Ho Chi Minh Trail. There he was met by the next guide until the process led the infiltrator into South Vietnam.

In South Vietnam he received a black, pajama-like uniform, two unmarked uniforms, rubber sandals, a sweater, a hammock, mosquito netting and waterproof sheeting.

The other infiltration route was by sea. Agents departed from ports just north of the 17th parallel in boats disguised as innocent-looking fishing vessels. However, this route has become virtually closed due to improved patrolling by the South Vietnamese with U.S. Navy assistance.

The Geneva Accords called for a general election in 1955 to unite the two parts of Vietnam. In that year, with stepped up infiltration, the South Vietnamese government under Diem rejected the possibility of a free election. The North protested loudly, but without sincerity. After the Geneva Accords, a high North Vietnamese official, Pham Van Dong, was asked who he thought would have won such an election. He replied, "You know as well as I do that there won't be any elections."

Hanoi was determined to conquer the South with classic guerrilla tactics. The plan called for the three-phased warfare outlined in Mao Tse-tung's early writings. One, the

enemy is harassed and weakened by guerrilla attacks. Two, he is engaged in mobile warfare by units up to battalion size. And finally, in all-out warfare by regular forces, comes the ultimate victory.

Phase one of the battle occurred from 1954 to about 1960. During that period, the United States had first assisted the Vietnamese government with economic aid and then added military advisers to assist the country's military and police forces.

Other countries of Europe and Asia and the Americas had economically helped the fledgling South. U.S. aid totaled about \$1.5 million between 1954 and 1961.

In 1960 the guerrilla warfare intensified and, by 1961, had reached a point of open warfare. By then the Viet Cong was reinforced by practically the entire 325th North Vietnamese Regular Army Division.

The American advisory forces had grown to approximately 700 men by 1961. It was apparent more assistance was needed to meet the expanded Communist military threat.

In that year President Kennedy made the decision to increase America's commitment to South Vietnam by increasing the number of advisers and by adding pilots and supporting personnel. The President felt he could not abandon South Vietnam.

The decision had been made. The United States would assist in stopping the spread of aggression in Southeast Asia. In the next three years, more decisions would be made that would prove America, indeed, was not allowing a "red wave" to sweep over Asia. A decision that would lead to your tour of 365 days in Vietnam.

1961–
1964

The Darkest Era

Republic of Vietnam forces under attack by VC unload supplies from a U.S. helicopter.



The situation was becoming critical in South Vietnam.

The Diem Government asked for increased U.S. assistance in October 1961. The American government responded immediately.

ADVISORY TEAMS

Advisers were increased. Supply personnel and helicopter units were also sent to assist the struggling nation. A small logistical team arrived in December 1961, followed by two Army Aviation companies. The entire group numbered fewer than 500 men.

The first aviation company to arrive, the 57th Transportation Company (Light Helicopter), was put into operation immediately. Ten days after arrival, the unit's Shawnee helicopters were flying Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) troops into combat.

The 57th was quickly followed by the 8th Transportation Company. Both units were later redesignated; the 57th became the 120th Aviation Company and the 8th was renamed the 117th Aviation Company. The remaining new troops were assigned directly as advisers to ARVN units or to the U.S. Army Support Group, Vietnam, the forerunner of the United States Army, Vietnam.

Each ARVN corps had U.S. Army advisory teams attached. They brought their specialized knowledge in aviation, logistics, planning, ordnance, medical services, communications, artillery and use of paramilitary forces to assist in the battle.

Advisory teams and detachments were dispatched down to battalion level. The arrival of the first elements of the 5th Special Forces Group in 1962 saw special warfare detachments assigned to remote or primitive areas to teach Montagnards and similar groups how to defend themselves.

South Vietnam was in serious danger of being overrun by Communist forces in 1961. Approximately 65 per cent of the country was completely or partially under Viet Cong control.

Warfare was leaving the terrorist stage and was now entering into the stage of small unit attacks on strategic hamlets and lightly defended villages, although terror attacks were still common as a psychological weapon against the people.

THE "PEOPLES' PARTY"

The Communist party in South Vietnam, called the Peoples Revolutionary Party (PRP), claimed nearly 100,000 members. The PRP overtly asserted it was "the vanguard of the National Liberation Front (NLF), the soul of the NLF."

Radio Hanoi announced the PRP's formation on Jan. 18, 1962. Despite using the North Vietnamese medium for making the announcement, the new group denied any connection with Hanoi, Peking or Moscow, beyond the "fraternal ties of communism."

Claims were being made that the NLF was the true government of South Vietnam. In the countryside, the PRP and its military arm, the Viet Cong, were extracting taxes

from the peasants, forcibly impressing thousands into their services and requiring families to provide food, clothing and shelter for them. Whole villages were sometimes required to build bunker and trench systems for the guerrillas.

Delegates from the PRP were sent to 30 Asian and African nations, and semi-official diplomatic relations were established with eight Communist countries and three non-Communist governments. These delegates traveled on North Vietnamese passports and used northern currency, although they claimed to represent the South Vietnamese people.

Despite American assistance, the terror attacks were causing an appalling number of casualties. During the period 1959 through 1964, about 20,000 South Vietnamese military had been killed, over 12,000 captured and 35,000 wounded.

CIVILIANS SUFFER

On the civilian scene, equally shocking devastation was taking place. During 1963 alone, 17,710 civilian casualties resulted from Communist terrorist activities.

Refugees -- innocent victims of Viet Cong terrorism.



This figure breaks down as follows:

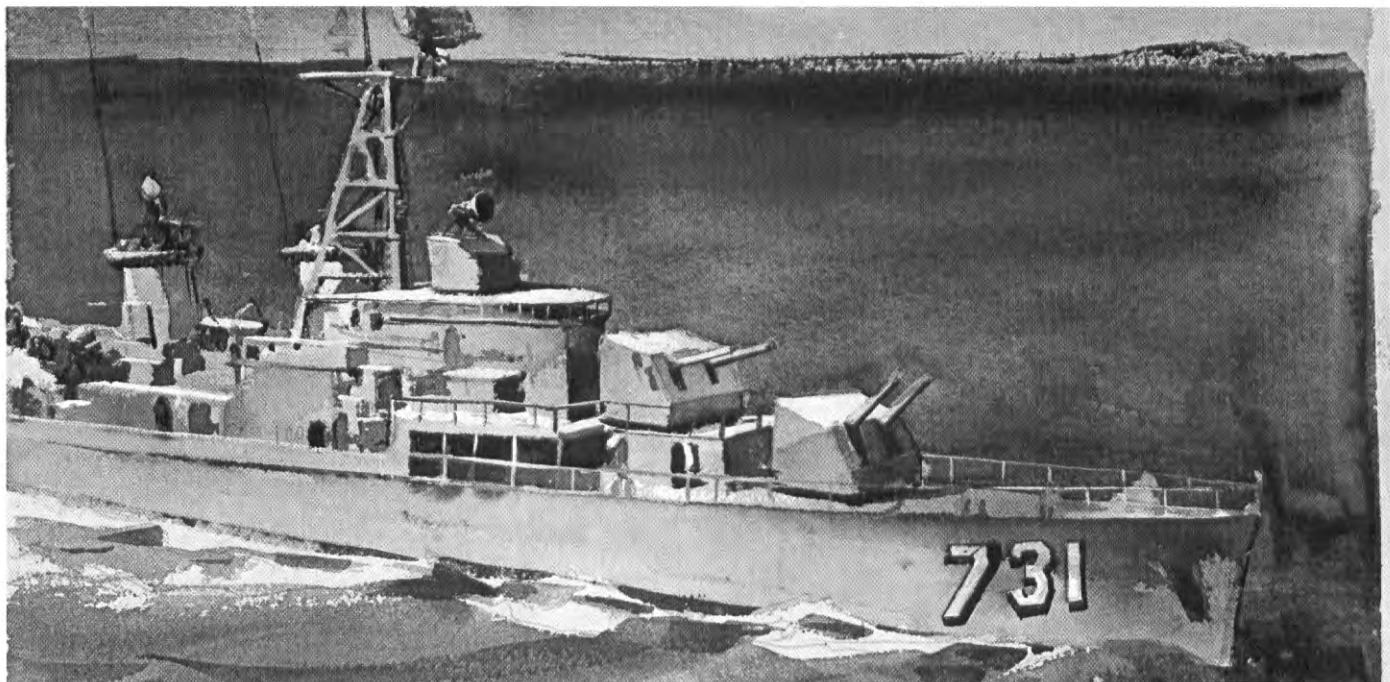
Assassinated:

Civilian population	1,558
Local government officials	415
Civil servants	100
Injured	8,375
Kidnaped	7,262

Between Jan. 1, 1961, and Aug. 10, 1964, 181 Americans gave their lives in combat alongside the Vietnamese. More than 900 were wounded during the same period.

The situation was gradually growing more serious. In November 1963, the political scene was disrupted by the overthrow of the South Vietnamese government and the assassination of President Diem. Almost two years of political unrest and turmoil followed before the crisis was resolved.

The Viet Cong increased their attacks on the people. Refugees flowed into the cities in ever-increasing numbers. Saigon's population increased spectacularly. With the refugees were Communist agents.



NORTH VIETNAM SUPPORTS VC

No longer were the North Vietnamese denying their support of the Viet Cong. It was evident that the screen of "civil war" was being cast aside. The North anticipated victory and was striking out in all directions.

Emboldened by their success, the North Vietnamese attacked the 7th Fleet in the Tonkin Gulf. On Aug. 2 and 4, 1964, U.S. destroyers were attacked in international waters off the Vietnamese coast by North Vietnamese torpedo boats.

TONKIN GULF RESOLUTION

The attack in the Tonkin Gulf proved to be a major blunder on the part of the North. America was quick to react to the attack. President Johnson asked for and received from Congress approval to use all available means to defeat the aggressor in South Vietnam.

The August 7th resolution reads:

"The United States regards as vital to its national interest and to world peace the maintenance of international peace and security in Southeast Asia. Consonant with the Constitution of the United States and the Charter of the United Nations and in accordance with its obligations under the Southeast Asia Collective Defense Treaty, the United States is therefore prepared, as the President determines, to take all necessary steps, including the use of armed force, to assist any member or protocol state of the Southeast Asia Collective Defense Treaty requesting assistance in defense of its freedom."

Preparations were made in the United States for the buildup of U.S. forces in South Vietnam. It was apparent that to reverse the Communist threat, ground combat troops would have to be deployed to Vietnam.

Thus, with aggression met by resolve, the darkest era of South Vietnam's history drew to a close. America, joined by other SEATO countries, would respond to South Vietnam's call for assistance.

The USS Maddox was attacked off the coast of North Vietnam on Aug. 2, 1964, thus leading to the Tonkin Resolution (above). A hard-core VC soldier is taken into custody by ARVN soldiers (below).





1965—1966

From Buildup to Counteroffensive

United States involvement in South Vietnam increased sharply during 1965. Other free world forces joined in the commitment of ground combat troops. Australia, New Zealand and Korea responded with the United States during the year in answer to the challenge of Communist aggression.

The complexion of the war developed from guerrilla warfare and terrorism to large unit actions on the part of the Viet Cong, reinforced by North Vietnamese regular army units. The South Vietnamese Army and the Communists were now engaging in battalion and larger force actions. Guerrilla actions occurred from time to time, and terror still played a prominent part in Viet Cong strategy.

On Feb. 7, the Viet Cong attacked a U.S. compound at Pleiku and Camp Holloway nearby. Later that same day, U.S. aircraft struck the NVA military barracks just north of the 17th parallel in North Vietnam. Americans were now definitely a Communist target and America was bombing North Vietnam for the first time.



U.S. A-37 aircraft drops its ordnance on an enemy position.

DEPENDENTS EVACUATED

With the war intensifying, President Johnson ordered immediate evacuation of all U.S. dependents in Vietnam. His concern for their safety was warranted, for two days later the VC blew up a hotel in Qui Nhon that housed American enlisted men. Twenty-three died in the attack and 21 were injured. Fourteen Vietnamese were also injured in the attack.

By mid-March Air Force and Navy aircraft were striking regularly at Communist targets in North and South Vietnam. March also saw the first ground offensive unit from the United States arrive. It was the 3rd Battalion, 9th Marines, of the 3rd Marine Division.



During the American buildup the Saigon port was a major unloading point.

BUILDUP CONTINUES

In May U.S. forces began to build up in earnest. The Army's 173rd Airborne Brigade was landed in-country and immediately went into tactical operations around Bien Hoa. They were followed by additional Marines and Seabees landing at Chu Lai in Military Region 1.

The buildup continued in June with the arrival of Australia's first combat troops, the 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment. U.S. combat engineers arrived in force to begin the construction of a deep-draft port and airfield at Cam Ranh Bay. The port was needed to ease congestion of supply ships at Saigon port.

During that time, the VC had been active. A week-long battle around Quang Ngai City resulted in about 500 ARVN casualties. A four-day battle 55 miles northeast of Saigon resulted in 650 friendly casualties. A bomb exploded in Tan Son Nhut civilian air terminal, injuring 46 persons.



Logistics personnel ship supplies from docks to depot and then to the field.

Another terrorist incident occurred at the My Canh floating restaurant in the Saigon River. Two claymore mines cost 44 persons their lives and injured 81 others.

A multi-battalion attack on Duc Hoa showed the Communists were settling into conventional warfare in an attempt for complete victory in 1965. They thought they could overcome the free world and South Vietnamese forces before the buildup could be accomplished.

In July the 2nd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, and elements of the 1st Logistical Command added to the strength of military forces in the southern portion of the country. Two Marine battalions bolstered forces in the northern provinces.

Communist forces were increasing on a large scale also. The North Vietnamese Army's (NVA) 101st Regiment was definitely identified as being in South Vietnam and the 18th and 95th NVA Regiments were also believed to be completely within South Vietnam's borders.

In the central section of the country, a tactical headquarters was placed at Nha Trang to control new units arriving in Military Region 2. Originally designated Task Force Alpha, the headquarters later became I Field Force, Vietnam (IFFV). The 1st Cavalry Division moved into An Khe while the 173rd Airborne Brigade protected the arrival with Operation Gibraltar in the immediate vicinity. The September operation resulted in 226 Viet Cong killed in three days.

Another free world force entered Vietnam in October. The Republic of Korea sent its Capital Division into South Vietnam to aid a country invaded from the north by Communists, as was Korea 15 years earlier. During the same period, the remaining elements of the 1st Infantry Division arrived.

By November the 1st Cavalry Division was conducting tactical operations. The prelude to one of the largest actions of the war took place during the first 12 days of the month when the cavalry tangled with a large force west of Plei Me.

IA DRANG VALLEY

Communist forces were moving into the Ia Drang Valley intent on engaging the 1st Cavalry and winning a victory over the "green" troops. The enemy met the 3rd Brigade of the division and stayed to fight, rather than melt into the jungle after initial contact. When the smoke of battle cleared, 1,238 enemy soldiers had died while only one-fifth as many Americans were killed. The "green" troops and the airmobile concept had proved themselves.



The Communists had suffered a stunning defeat against the Americans in the Ia Drang Valley, but they overran an ARVN unit at the Michelin Plantation of Binh Duong Province, inflicting heavy casualties on the South Vietnamese. The VC also countered with terror by detonating a truck laden with explosives at the Metropole bachelor enlisted quarters in Saigon. Eight Americans were killed and 137 injured.

Before the year closed, the 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, deployed from Hawaii. This raised the total strength of U.S. and free world military forces in Vietnam to 181,000. Meanwhile, enemy forces had increased from 103,000 at the beginning of the year to an estimated 230,000.

On the diplomatic scene, Hanoi scorned America's peace overture of a 37-day pause in air strikes over North Vietnam. In Saigon, governmental turmoil was eliminated by the emergence of a military National Leadership Council. Air Force Commander Brigadier General Nguyen Cao Ky became premier, bringing long-needed calm to the government.

The year 1966 was marked by military, political and diplomatic changes in South Vietnam. Free World Military Assistance Forces (FWMAF) were beginning the first phase of the counteroffensive.

VC SANCTUARIES CRACKED

During January the 173rd Airborne Brigade and the 1st

Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, launched a seven-day sweep into an area near the Cambodian border in search of two VC battalions. The penetration resulted in more than 400 enemy deaths.

The 25th Infantry Division teamed with the 173rd and the Australians to uncover an enemy headquarters complex with extensive tunnel systems. In the operation, large quantities of weapons and ammunition were captured.

In the past, VC tax collectors had bled off large

Special Forces camp and a Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) outpost, even exploding a Claymore mine outside the main gate of Tan Son Nhut Air Base.

CHARLIE FEELS THE SQUEEZE

Military action in the next two months took a heavy toll of the enemy's ranks and base camps. The 1st Infantry Division's Operation Rolling Stone resulted in 150 VC killed. The 101st's Operation Harrison in Phu Yen Province; the 3rd Brigade, 25th Division's Operation Garfield in Darlac Province; and the combined force in the Song Be River Operation uncovered enemy camps, weapons and ammunition.

At Bien Hoa, II Field Force, Vietnam, was activated to control U.S. forces in Military Region 3.

A program designed to bring the Viet Cong back to the government, called the Chieu Hoi (Open Arms) Program, met with spectacular success in March when a record-setting 2,336 former enemy soldiers rallied during the month.

With the increase of troops in the Saigon area, Headquarters Area Command (HAC) was activated to provide support functions for all services in the capital city. The 1st Signal Brigade was also activated in early April.

The expansion of forces continued with the arrival of the USS Corpus Christy Bay at Cam Ranh Bay to provide a floating maintenance facility for Army helicopters and the Royal Australian Task Force. As mid-year approached, the threatened VC monsoon offensive was blunted by several operations. One found the 1st Infantry Division pushing deep into War Zone C near Tay Ninh, where no friendly troops had been for five years. Large quantities of supplies were captured.

In August, elements of the 4th Infantry Division landed at Qui Nhon, and the 196th Infantry Brigade and the first of a 2,000-man Philippine Civic Action Group arrived.

In September, the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, a

The airmobile concept proved itself during the early days of the conflict.

percentages of the rice harvest. The 101st Airborne's 1st Brigade and Korean Marines were sent to Phu Yen Province to secure the rice harvest.

Prior to Tet's 84-hour truce, the Viet Cong were busy attacking targets ranging from the airfield at Da Nang to a

The 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, arrived in June.



Spanish medical team and a German hospital ship arrived, plus the 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division. Two U.S. operations, Attleboro and Irving, kept the enemy off-balance. The 1st Cavalry accounted for 230 Viet Cong killed in Binh Dinh Province, while the 196th Infantry Brigade and elements of the 1st, 4th and 25th Infantry Divisions and 173rd Airborne Brigade mauled the 9th VC Division, killing more than 1,100 in Operation Attleboro. The force also captured 2,243,000 pounds of enemy rice.

October action saw a combined force of 1st Cavalry, Koreans and Vietnamese kill 681 Viet Cong in Operation Irving. To avoid the superior firepower of the Allies, the enemy confined his raids to the northern provinces near his supply lines.

November was marked by increased VC raiding. The 4th Infantry Division, operating west of Plei Djereng, withstood a mortar barrage of more than 500 rounds. At the close of the year, elements of the 9th Infantry Division arrived to bring the U.S. troop strength to 361,000.

DIPLOMACY AND POLITICS

The year was marked by harmony on the diplomatic front. To set the stage for high-level discussion, then Secretary of State Dean Rusk visited the country in January. This was followed the next month by Premier Ky, Chief of State Thieu and President Johnson meeting in Honolulu for a two-day conference on political, social and economic aspects of the war. Vice President Humphrey visited South Vietnam later in February.

Another conference for the heads of state was held in

Manila in October. Then Secretary of Defense McNamara visited Vietnam prior to the Philippine meeting.

On the political front, Premier Ky headed off a military coup with the arrest of several junior officers. He also announced general elections would be held in 1967 after a constitutional referendum in October 1966.

The political calm was shattered in April, when the I Corps commander, Lt. Gen. Nguyen Chanh Thi, considered a potential political rival of Premier Ky, was relieved from his command. A demonstration of 2,000 persons in Da Nang was followed by Buddhist protests in Hue, Saigon and Hoi An.

A call for a general strike closed the port of Da Nang and 20,000 Buddhists rallied to demonstrate in the historic capital of Hue. The unrest continued into early April, resulting in anti-government groups forming in the major cities of the Republic. Government troops moved into Da Nang in a show of force while turmoil and demonstrations continued in Hue, Dalat and Nha Trang. By April 12, the situation appeared resolved as anti-government forces pledged to fight communism alongside the government.

Marine operations in Military Region 1 were delayed by Buddhists' placing altars in the streets of Hue. Government troops and riot police finally cleared the streets and arrested some of the dissident leaders to bring an end to the protests.

Relative calm prevailed for the remainder of the year, broken only by the Saigon dock strike. The new constitution's first three articles were approved.



A monk uses a loudspeaker to talk to a crowd during Buddhist demonstrations throughout the country.

1967

The Squeeze

U.S. soldier under fire scrambles for cover (right). U.S. patrol moves cautiously through the jungle searching for "Charlie" (below).



The year 1967 saw the free world forces tighten the screw on the enemy. His manpower was slowly whittled down by many operations. His weapons and food caches were seized, blunting many planned raids and offensive actions. Increased air strikes made his supply routes difficult to use. His cause was weakened further by thousands of Viet Cong, political cadre and North Vietnamese who rallied to the government of the Republic.

During the later months of 1967, the enemy made spectacular tries at propaganda victories at Loc Ninh and Dak To. These battles alone accounted for nearly 3,000 enemy dead.

His losses for the year included 87,534 killed in action and more than 31,000 weapons captured. He lost almost 14,000 tons of rice and 162 tons of salt. His ammunition supply was reduced by almost 2½ million rounds. His ranks were depleted by 27,178 who rallied to the Chieu Hoi Program, 17,671 of whom were fighting men. He was found to be recruiting boys from 12 to 16 years old.

He was feeling the pinch, yet he continued to fight. Civilians in the Republic of Vietnam were his victims almost as often as the military. Communist terrorists slaughtered more than 4,000 South Vietnamese and wounded more than 8,000 in their attacks. Kidnapping accounted for another 5,454 persons, all in an attempt to control the people.

Meanwhile, more civilians moved into government-protected resettlement areas than ever before.

The enemy's source of labor, recruits, food and shelter was slipping away.

In the early spring, the Constituent Assembly, under the administration of Premier Ky, was submitted a draft constitution for South Vietnam. The Assembly approved the draft and it was ratified shortly afterwards. A copy of the new constitution was presented to President Johnson while in Vietnam to attend a meeting of ambassadors of Manila Conference countries in preparation for a two-day conference in Guam.





During May, elections were held (left). In October Nguyen Van Thieu was sworn in as president of South Vietnam (below).

ELECTIONS

In April and May there was an eight-week election period for thousands of villages and hamlets throughout the country. About 77 per cent of the eligible voters turned out to elect their local leaders despite constant threats from the Viet Cong. Many of the threats were carried out as 12 candidates were slain by terrorists and 31 others kidnaped.

On Sept. 3, the presidential elections were held. About 83 per cent of the voters turned out. Nguyen Van Thieu and Nguyen Cao Ky were elected president and

vice-president respectively. The voters also chose an upper house for the new government.

Early in October the Vietnamese National Assembly validated election results. This was followed by the installation of the 60 newly elected members of the upper house of the government. Later in the month, the lower house elections were held with 73 per cent of the electorate turning out to complete the last round of elections. On the last day of the month, inauguration ceremonies were conducted in downtown Saigon.



MILITARY OPERATIONS

Elsewhere, Thailand announced in March it would allow bases within its borders to be used by B-52s in support of Vietnam operations. Previously, they had flown from Guam to South Vietnam in a 5,000-mile round trip.

Russia made a late-September announcement that a new military assistance agreement had been signed by the U.S.S.R. and North Vietnam whereby the Russians would furnish airplanes, anti-aircraft and rocket equipment, artillery and small arms ammunition and other military equipment.

By February, 20,000 men were added to U.S. forces, increasing troop strength to 470,000, a few thousand from the year-end peak of 490,000 servicemen in-country. The increased manpower permitted the U.S. forces to enter the field for long periods of time.

The four-day truce for the Lunar New Year, Tet, provided a stand-down period in which many operations were terminated. Operation Lam Son II in Binh Duong Province and Operation Thayer II were terminated with a combined kill of slightly more than 2,000 enemy soldiers.

Mid-month saw elements of the 9th Infantry Division in Long An Province starting operation Enterprise while other 9th Division units began operations in the Mekong Delta with U.S. Navy units. This marked the beginning of the Allied squeeze on Viet Cong domination of Delta waterways.

Other 9th Division units joined elements of the 1st, 4th, and 25th Infantry Divisions, plus troops from the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 196th Light Infantry Brigade and 173rd Airborne Brigade, in what was to be the largest operation of the war, Operation Junction City. The gigantic force was supported by the 11th Combat Aviation Group and 7th Air Force planes.

U.S. troops in War Zone C north and west of Saigon formed a giant horseshoe enclosing 250 square miles of enemy-held territory. Heavy fighting characterized the operation, and large stores of ammunition, weapons, clothing, food, documents and utensils were confiscated. After 81 days, 2,738 enemy lay dead from the operation and War Zone C was no longer a VC stronghold. Their bases were destroyed, most of their supplies were gone.

Farther north, the 1st Cavalry Division had begun Operation Pershing and the Communists pounded the Da Nang Air Base with more than 50 Russian-made 140mm rockets, killing 43 and wounding 137. A few days later, in March, Da Nang was hit by 10 more of the huge rockets.

In April, with enemy pressure mounting near the Demilitarized Zone, Marine units were moved to counter the threat. The 196th Light Infantry Brigade was moved to the Chu Lai area to replace the relocated Marine units. Other units soon joined the 196th. They were the 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, and, in May, the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile). The Army troops in the zone were placed under the operational control of Task Force Oregon.

In July Thailand announced it would send a 2,200-man regiment to the Republic of Vietnam. This force was the

first ground combat unit contributed by the Thais who had already provided airlift of supplies on several occasions.

Enemy action during August was heavy. An enemy company struck the Edap Enang Montagnard resettlement village in the Central Highlands. The tank farm at Nha Be City, 10 miles southeast of Saigon, was hit by Communist fire, causing extensive damage. The Ban Me Thuot airfield in Darlac Province was struck by mortars twice during the month.

In Military Region 1, the Marine bases at Gio Linh and Con Thien began to receive heavy artillery and mortar attacks. These attacks reached a peak during September. Marine and Army artillery, plus Air Force bombers, lifted the siege from the DMZ bases.

New operations during September included Task Force Oregon's Operation Wheeler in Military Region 1, accounting for nearly 2,000 enemy dead; the Mobile Riverine Force's Operation Coronado V in the Delta, costing the enemy 330 killed; Operation Bolling, conducted by the 173rd Airborne Brigade and elements of the 1st Cavalry Division; and the 1st Infantry Division's Operation Shenandoah in Binh Duong Province, which took 956 enemy lives and 100 weapons.



Huey Cobra flies cover for some "slicks."

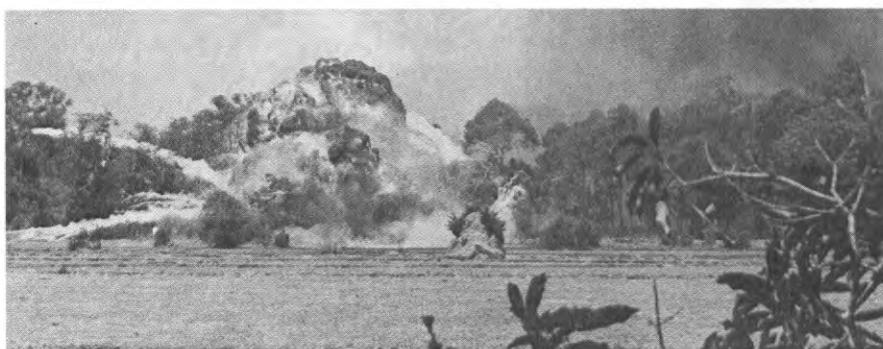
October saw the introduction of a helicopter especially designed for ground support -- the Huey Cobra. This gunship, with advanced weapons system, slim silhouette, high speed and maneuverability, began combat operations in 1st Aviation Brigade units. The 4th Infantry Division started Operation MacArthur in Pleiku Province during the month. Also the 3rd Battalion (Airborne), 503rd Infantry, arrived at Qui Nhon to further increase U.S. strength in the Republic.

DAK TO

In the Central Highlands, the rumblings of the biggest battle of the war were resounding in the hills around Dak To. For several weeks intelligence reports showed increased enemy activity in the vicinity of Dak To, astride the natural infiltration route along Route 312 north of Pleiku and close to the Laotian border. The town was normally garrisoned by ARVN troops and elements of a U.S. Special Forces-trained Civilian Irregular Defense Group.

When it became apparent the enemy was preparing battlefield positions for an assault on the town, the 4th Infantry Division's 1st Brigade was deployed into the area. Two companies from the 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry, made initial contact with a strong North Vietnamese Army force. The battle grew in ferocity. The NVA regulars pinned the Americans down. The 3rd Battalion commander called in air support against positions atop the steep hill. Artillery and mortar fire combined with the bombs to stem the enemy fire. Morning reconnaissance patrols found the enemy so well entrenched he was barely hurt by the tremendous pounding. It was apparent the enemy was not going to give up easily or melt away into the jungle.

Additional American and South Vietnamese troops were called to reinforce those locked in combat. The 173rd Airborne Brigade and, later, elements of the 1st Cavalry were brought in to assist the 4th Division troops. Besides artillery and helicopter gunship fire support, C-47 Dragonships and giant B-52 bombers flew supporting



Communists feel the sting of American air power both in the air and on the ground. Communist MIG-17 shot down (above). Close air support (left and bottom right). Members of a long-range patrol inspect an abandoned village dwelling in Central Highlands (bottom left).

missions for the ground troops. Artillery and air strikes pounded the hills for hours prior to infantry assaults on the enemy positions. The soldiers found the enemy still capable of delivering effective fire to slow their advance. Casualties mounted on both sides, but gradually the NVA troops were forced back toward the Cambodian border and sanctuary.

One of the bloodiest battles was fought for Hill 875. The remnants of the 24th, 32nd, 66th and 174th NVA Regiments fought off American and ARVN soldiers for four days.

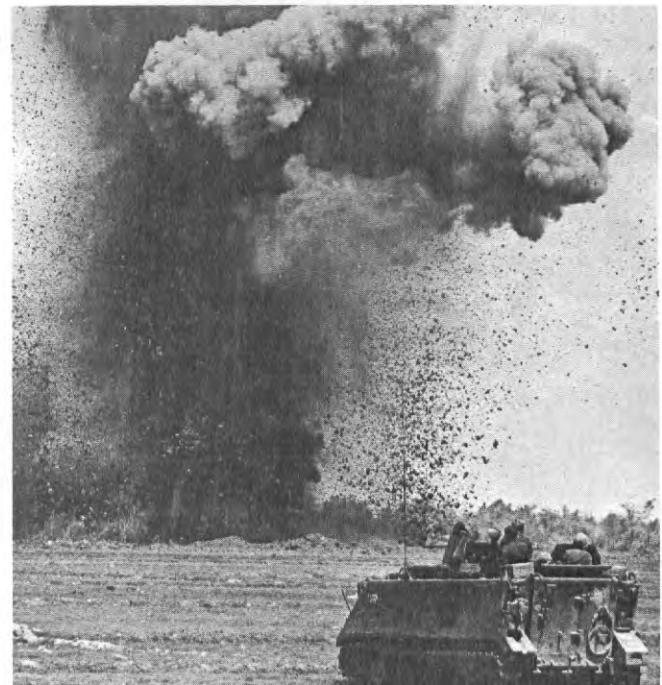
The enemy had paid a terrible price for the Dak To battle. His known losses were 1,641 men killed; how many more had been killed or seriously wounded and dragged from the battle area would be impossible to estimate.

AT YEAR'S END

Year's - end saw one of the most atrocious terror attacks in Vietnam's history. In the Montagnard village of Dak Son, two battalions of Communists pushed the local defense force into a small area, then rampaged up and down the

hamlet streets, systematically burning down more than half of the 150 thatched homes. With flame throwers and grenades, the Communists slaughtered persons in their primitive homes and bunkers. Seven out of every 10 of the 252 victims were either women or children.

New U.S. troops continued to arrive in-country during December, mostly from the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile). Just before Christmas, U.S. troop strength increased to more than that of the Korean War.





*Tet
and the
Aftermath
. . . 1968*

Smoke from VC-fired rockets lingers over one part of Saigon.

Without question, 1968 was the most eventful year during America's agonizing war in Southeast Asia. It saw the most savage series of attacks, the most brutal fighting and a strong glimmer of hope for an honorable end.

The most violent time of the year was the Communists' winter-spring offensive. It began with a 36-hour New Year's truce that was violated by the Reds 177 times. Bombers flew north for the fourth year to raid above the Demilitarized Zone.

SIEGE AT KHE SANH

There were rumors that Ho Chi Minh was seriously ill as January neared its end. An offensive was beginning near the DMZ, where a string of artillery, rocket and ground attacks were unleashed on Allied posts all along the buffer zone. Khe Sanh and neighboring Lang Wei were hit hard on Jan. 21, beginning a three-month drama that would focus the eyes of the world on a small Marine garrison in the rolling hills of the Laotian border country.

The U.S. command rushed 3,000 1st Cavalry Division troops as reinforcements into Military Region 1 (MR1) and infantrymen from the 101st Airborne Division soon followed. A total of 10,000 Marine and Army troops were poured into areas near the DMZ to guard against an expected "major offensive" there.

American intelligence reports indicated that a fresh North Vietnamese division had been infiltrated into MR1 to

make a total of three full divisions poised for a general attack.

TET TREACHERY

On Saturday, Jan. 27, the Communists began their unilateral seven-day truce to mark the Tet holiday season. However, it was completely ignored in the northern part of the Republic, and the carnage went on. On Jan. 31, the Allies began their 36-hour Tet truce. It lasted 15½ hours -- until rockets began slamming into Da Nang Air Base. Wild street fighting broke out in the peaceful seaside resort of Nha Trang and Communist sappers breached the security of the U.S. Embassy grounds in Saigon.

One senior American officer said of the northern provinces: "It is something I would label an invasion. It is no longer just an infiltration." Street fighting raged in all eight major cities and at least 30 towns and provincial capitals.

The North Vietnamese virtually occupied Hue. They assassinated more than 1,000 civilians in that city alone. They held half of Kontum. Terrorist slaughter was reported everywhere. Foreign missionaries were slain, and anyone who worked for the Americans was murdered or tortured.

General William C. Westmoreland, U.S. commander in Vietnam, stated the attacks were a diversionary effort to draw attention from the northern part of the country. Communist sappers were operating within 200 yards of his

Tan Son Nhut headquarters. The Philippine Embassy residence had been destroyed by terrorists, the ambassador and his wife barely escaping death or capture. Tanks ringed the Saigon home of U.S. Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker.

Five thousand Reds had died in savage, confused fighting in the first of the Tet offensive. That name was already burning itself into front pages and TV screens around the world. More than 650 enemy deaths occurred in Saigon alone.

By Feb. 9, 920 U.S. soldiers had died in the Tet fighting; 4,561 were wounded. Newsmen were reporting that "countless civilians perished in the fighting." The final count was almost 20,000 killed or wounded. Dive bombers and rocket helicopters were raining destruction on Red troops entrenched in the suburbs of South Vietnam's capital, the city that the world had considered secure until the morning of Feb. 1.



The scars of terrorism will last a long time.

COMMUNISTS GAIN NOTHING

That's how it began. It went on in Saigon until mid-February, when fighting still flickered in the suburbs of Cholon and around the Phu Tho racetrack. Who won the battles of the Tet offensive? It's a hard question to answer. Certainly, the Communists were deprived of every major goal, with the exception of publicity.

It was by no stretch of the imagination a military win; 27,706 Reds died in the Tet fighting. For this, the



MPs hustle a Viet Cong detainee, apprehended near the American Embassy in Saigon during Tet (above). River boats on patrol (below).



Communist high command had not one single prize to show. It was not a psychological victory. In no clearly defined instance did any of the civilians in the areas of fighting join or support the Reds -- unless at the point of a gun.

On the other hand, no one will deny that South Vietnam's city populace suffered terribly. There are scars of destruction that will last a long time -- and scars of the mind that will last longer. As Dean Rusk said, "This is a time of trial for the South Vietnamese and their Allies. It may well be the climactic period of the struggle in Southeast Asia."

ANCIENT HUE HELD

As the cleanup began in mid-February, a drama was unfolding in Hue. Some 4,000 Reds had died there in the first three weeks of February, but an estimated 500 North Vietnamese had holed up in the old imperial Citadel, from which Vietnam's ancient emperors ruled. A Communist flag had been raised on Jan. 31, and it fluttered for nearly a month over the Citadel as U.S. Marines pushed grueling street fighting back toward the center, step by step. On Feb. 24, a company of South Vietnamese soldiers charged the last holdout and the flag came down. Hue lay in ruins.

In mid-March, Operation Quyet Thang (Resolved to Win) was kicked off around Saigon. More than 50,000 Allied

troops -- including the 1st, 9th, and 25th Infantry Divisions, the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment and elements of the 7th and 25th ARVN Infantry Divisions, an airborne task force, and the 5th Ranger Group plus National Police Forces -- swept the provinces around the capital, searching for Communist troops and arms caches. Before it ended on April 9, 2,658 Reds had been killed.

CHANGES FROM THE TOP

On Friday, March 22, President Johnson announced in Washington that General Westmoreland would be promoted to Army Chief of Staff. Replacing General Westmoreland as commander of U.S. forces in Vietnam would be General Creighton W. Abrams, then deputy commander.

On the last day of March, the President made his famous "I won't run" speech and cut back the bombing in the north to below the 19th Parallel, marking America's broadest appeal to Hanoi for peace.

On April 1, Operation Pegasus/Lam Son, a massive aerial assault, began several days of sweeping near Laos that would lift the siege of beleaguered Khe Sanh Marine camp where up to 1,300 Red shells had been falling every day. On the same day, President Nguyen Van Thieu announced general mobilization, which would place more than 200,000 additional South Vietnamese under arms by the end of the year. Another mass Allied sweep, Operation Toan Thang (Complete Victory) was launched on April 8. Fifty thousand soldiers began a drive through 11 provinces around Saigon, with the same objective that the earlier operation had, but on a scale twice as large.

TALKS BEGIN IN PARIS

On May 3, there was an announcement the world had been waiting for: the United States and Hanoi agreed to begin preliminary peace discussions in Paris. On the very next night, though, began the nearly simultaneous shelling of 119 cities, towns and villages in the Republic. There were ground attacks in Saigon and Bu Dop, three miles from Cambodia. The Bu Dop attackers were driven off in hours. It took longer in Saigon.

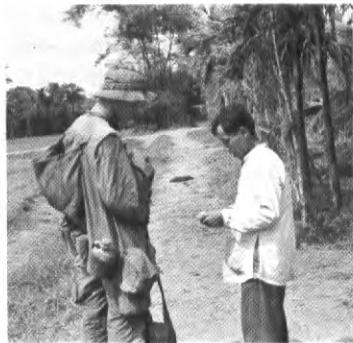
There was wild, confused street fighting in the western and southern suburbs of the city. The first secretary of the West German Embassy was assassinated. But no U.S. installations in Saigon were attacked this time, and there was no such terrorism and sniping as marked the Tet fighting. On Monday, May 6, the Reds were turned back when they tried to break into Tan Son Nhut Air Base from the western perimeter, but the South Vietnamese commander of the base was killed by a Red rocket.

By the end of the week, the resistance had been localized into pockets in the western and southern suburbs, but they still had to be rooted out. This meant treacherous house-to-house fighting and more heavy damage to Saigon's badly needed housing areas. By Sunday, May 12, it was over. The last pocket of Reds surrendered. Enemy losses had reached a total of 2,982 killed. They had never entered the heart of the city itself. An intended 26 to 30 battalions had never gotten close enough to take part in the second assault on Saigon. The two big sweeps had cut them off or wiped them out.





Skysoldiers of the 173rd Abn. Bde. advancing under fire (left). A soldier checks the passport of a traveler as a precautionary measure (center). Flares and smoke mark sites of combat in Saigon during the 1968 Tet attacks (right).



PEACE?

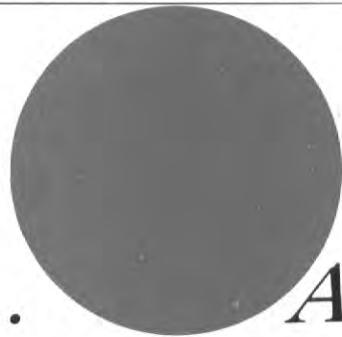
The next day, May 13, the Paris peace talks began. But on Ho Chi Minh's birthday, May 19, 20 big 122mm rockets slammed into downtown Saigon, killing 11 and wounding 51. It marked the start of a scatter-shot terror campaign of rocketings against Saigon and other cities that killed only innocent civilians and lasted until the fall. The shellings did more to turn the population against the VC than to

terrorize them into the Communist line. Massive, close-in Allied sweeps turned up scores of Red rockets and put a stop to most of the shellings. The last half of the year saw a switch in combat accent away from the cities and back into the countryside. President Johnson, after months of bitter wrangling with Hanoi's representatives in Paris, told the world he was ordering a total halt to the bombing of North Vietnam on the first of November, five months after he initially limited the bombing.

A platoon winds its way through the fertile fields in the never-ending search for the enemy.



1969...



A

Year of Transition

The new year got off on a hopeful note with the release of three American soldiers captured by the Viet Cong during 1968 and the escape the day before of Special Forces Major James Rowe, a VC captive since 1963. Peace talks were continuing in Paris and Richard M. Nixon was inaugurated as President of the United States.

During the February offensive, more than 100 cities and military facilities in the Republic of Vietnam came under attack, but American and Vietnamese forces quickly repelled and routed the attackers, inflicting heavy enemy casualties.

COMBINED OPERATIONS

With each new day, the ARVN began playing a larger role in the war effort. Vietnamization was working. Many combined operations with ARVN units were undertaken.

On Jan. 13, elements of the 23rd Infantry Division, ARVN troops and U.S. Marines joined forces for Operation Russell Beach. The operation ended Feb. 10, with a cordon on the Batangan Peninsula resulting in 158 enemy killed. Operation Vernon Lake II, begun Nov. 2 west-southwest of Quang Ngai City, had resulted in 455 enemy killed and 181 suspects detained, compared with 23 U.S. soldiers killed.

The 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) and the ARVN 1st Infantry Division continued Operation Nevada Eagle from late 1968 until the end of February. The operation resulted in more than 3,000 enemy killed.

Defying Allied warnings that continued attacks could only end in defeat, Communist gunners stepped up the shelling of cities and military bases with rocket and mortar fire as their spring offensive got underway. The attacks continued through March, April and May. Enemy losses soared as U.S. and ARVN soldiers successfully defended military bases and positions while continuing to receive a minimum of casualties.

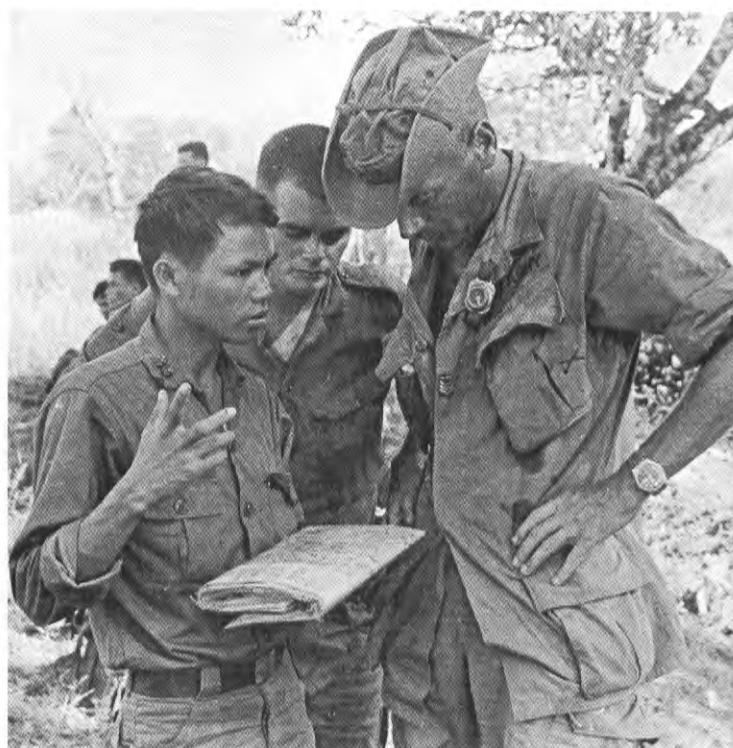
ENEMY SUFFER

In late April, an estimated two battalions of NVA and VC troops attacked a fire patrol base occupied by an element of the 25th Infantry Division 20 kilometers south of Tay Ninh City. Troopers of the 25th Infantry Division manning the base were backed by artillery, air strikes and helicopter gunships. At least 120 of the enemy were killed.

Operation Massachusetts Striker, a 69-day push into the A Shau Valley, ended in early May after 101st Division soldiers accounted for 176 enemy killed and an impressive store of Communist supplies and munitions captured.

May 6 marked the beginning of what was to be a 56-day

period of heavy enemy activity around a Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) camp at Ben Het, eight miles west of Dak To in the Central Highlands.



ARVN platoon leader discusses tactics with American advisers.

American B52 Stratofortresses pounded the area around Ben Het. On July 1, Republic of Vietnam troops moved through dense jungle to Ben Het without meeting opposition from the enemy. Communist activity around the base had subsided and, for the first time since May 6, a 24-hour period passed without a round hitting the base.

Late in May, 101st Division soldiers and ARVN infantrymen captured and occupied a 4,000-foot-high North Vietnamese mountaintop fortress along the rugged Laotian frontier. U.S. military spokesmen claimed more than 500 North Vietnamese troops had been killed in the battle for Dong Ap Bia mountain which overlooks the A Shau Valley, a major Communist supply depot and staging area for attacks in northernmost Military Region 1 (MRI).

REDEPLOYMENT BEGINS

It was little more than a week later that Presidents Nixon and Thieu met at Midway Island and announced a

25,000-man redeployment. President Nixon promised that further announcements would be made when the time was right for additional replacement of American troops with Republic of Vietnam soldiers.

Plans were made to redeploy the 9th Infantry Division back to the States. During September and October of 1969 the 1st and 2nd Brigades were deactivated and the 3rd Brigade remained at its base camp in Tan An, where it stayed until its redeployment and deactivation in October 1970.

As President Nixon had promised, the initial contingent was leaving a month to the day from the announcement at Midway Island. Also as promised, all of the 25,000 troops were gone from Vietnam by the end of August.



The President makes a surprise visit to Vietnam in July 1969.

As the low level of ground action continued into late July, President Nixon embarked on a world-wide tour which included countries of Southeast Asia. On July 30, the President made a surprise visit to the Republic of Vietnam. While on the Thailand leg of his journey, the President took a day off to visit with troops in Vietnam. He traveled to Saigon for meetings with President Thieu. During mid-afternoon, President Nixon made a quick flight to Di An to talk with members of the 2nd Brigade of the 1st Infantry Division.

WAR LULL HALTS

As the summer wore into August, the lull came to an abrupt halt with massive Communist ground attacks on forward elements of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, the 3rd Brigade of the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) and several ARVN and CIDG units in the Quan Loi-Loc Ninh area near the Cambodian border.

Elements of the 1st, 9th and 25th Infantry Divisions, along with units of the 199th Light Infantry Brigade; 3rd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division; and the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile); plus ARVN and other free world

forces, concluded the third phase of Operation Toan Thang, initiated Feb. 16 throughout Military Region 3 (MR3). During the operation, a total of 41,803 enemy were killed. Additionally, more than 13,700 individual and almost 2,900 crew-served weapons were captured.

During the first 15 days of Operation Toan Thang's fourth phase, begun Nov. 1, units operating throughout MR 3 combined to kill 1,891 Communists.



Thick jungle makes the going tough.

In a major engagement during September, the 23rd Infantry Division, manning an isolated hilltop firebase in Hiep Duc Valley, weathered a three-hour attack by an estimated North Vietnamese Army sapper battalion, killing 31 NVA regulars. Several of the Communists made it to the outer defenses of Landing Zone Siberia, 24 miles west-northwest of Tam Ky, but were felled before they could penetrate the perimeter. A similar attack on nearby Firebase West Aug. 17, touched off five days of bitter fighting in the valley in which 364 enemy perished.

In early October, 4th Division reconnaissance elements retraced the footprints of two NVA soldiers killed in an early morning firefight directly back to the main body of a company-sized Communist force 26 miles northwest of An Khe where, supported by gunships, the troops killed an additional 19.



Mobility, firepower and shock effect are the strength of a main battle tank.



Sheridan track followed by APCs moves through a rubber plantation.

A three-week period of relative calm was broken in the first week of September when Army units operating throughout MR 3 reported a sharp upsurge in enemy activity the day following the death of North Vietnam's leader Ho Chi Minh.

Sheridan tracks and armored cavalry assault vehicles of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment virtually destroyed a company of 7th NVA Division troops during a six-hour battle between Loc Ninh and the Vietnamese Cambodia border, killing 70 of the enemy and taking five wounded detainees the next day.

About the same time, 1st Infantry Division ground troops killed 60 Communists who attempted to ambush a 1st Logistical Command convoy heading for Quan Loi along Highway 13.



Engineer road clearing operations keep travel routes open.



Scout dogs have proved themselves in tracking and finding the enemy.

VIETNAMIZATION SHOWS PROGRESS

It was during the fall of 1969 that President Nixon's Vietnamization concept began to bear fruit. The security of the sprawling Mekong Delta was successfully turned over to ARVN forces and in all areas of the country U.S. units were working side by side with the ARVN.

The country gained a new posture of pride as each day better trained and better equipped South Vietnamese forces flexed their strength against enemy forces. Each day this new strength enhanced the possibility of future withdrawals of American units.

Disengagement & Redeployment



1970—

As 1970 began, Vice President Spiro T. Agnew visited the Republic of Vietnam to inspect U.S. troops and met with South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu. The low level of ground action continued, with units' reporting only minor incidents. From a military point of view, Vietnamization was moving forward on schedule in some places and ahead of schedule in others.

Although there were 112 enemy violations of the Tet truce, compared with past years, Tet of 1970 was quiet. In March, President Nixon announced the fourth increment of redeployment. The troop cutback would be more than 50,000.



CIDG soldier is inspected by U.S. adviser.



Vietnamese soldiers wait to be picked up by assault helicopters.

CAMBODIAN TENSION

In Cambodia the political scene was undergoing change. While Prince Norodom Sihanouk was visiting Paris, Moscow and Peking, mobs of Cambodian students smashed the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong legations in Phnom Penh. The demonstrators were angered by increased encroachments on Cambodian sovereignty by North Vietnamese and Viet Cong troops who were using Cambodia as a staging area for their war effort.

On March 18, Cambodia's national assembly deposed

Chief of State Prince Norodom Sihanouk. He was in Moscow at the time. One day later, Premier Lon Nol had the 36,000-man Cambodian Army move east along the Vietnamese border, facing an estimated 60,000-man Communist force. On March 22 the Cambodian Government asked that the International Control Commission be sent to expel North Vietnamese and Viet Cong troops from Cambodian soil.

Communists picked up their attacks across the Cambodian border. On March 26 the 11th Armored Cavalry

Regiment battled the enemy for seven hours 25 miles north of Tay Ninh City just three miles from the Cambodian border. The enemy troops withheld continued pounding until nightfall when they withdrew leaving behind 61 dead. U.S. casualties were two dead and 22 wounded.

Fighting along the Cambodian border was becoming more prominent. On March 29, an NVA battalion unleashed more than 200 rockets and mortar rounds into Fire Base Jay, just five miles from the Cambodian border. The base was held by elements of the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile). Following the bombardment, NVA infantry advanced on the base. They were repelled, losing 74 killed to American gunners. U.S. casualties were 13 killed and 30 wounded.

In mid-April, several battalions of ARVN troops, under operational control of the 3rd Bde., 9th Infantry Division, crossed the frontier and were joined by Cambodian troops in operations to rout enemy hideouts. They were soon to be joined by American GIs.

THE OFFENSIVE

"Tonight, American and South Vietnamese units will attack the headquarters for the entire military operation in South Vietnam." On April 30, speaking to millions of Americans and the whole world, President Nixon announced that he was temporarily widening American involvement in Vietnam in order to shorten it. Two hours before Nixon spoke, on May 1 Vietnam-time, there was a roar of motors and a clanking of treads as American

A Cambodian rallier is questioned at an Allied base camp after his surrender.



ARVN troops prepare to charge during heavy fighting.

armored cavalry shouldered aside a screen of jungle and plunged into Cambodia.

The troops were to seek out and destroy the enemy's headquarters and his supply points. This would weaken enemy striking power and U.S. forces would thus be able to safely continue disengagement and withdrawal. Task Force Shoemaker slashed into the once-sacrosanct Fishhook area, while American-advised and supported South Vietnamese troops continued a four-pronged drive on the tactically important Parrot's Beak.

The search for COSVN (the enemy Central Office of South Vietnam) centered in the Fishhook, 65 miles north of Saigon. In early May, elements of the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment and the 4th Infantry Division captured several large base complexes, each in turn thought possibly to be COSVN. One enemy supply and communications complex was so large, officers of the capturing 1st Cavalry Division called it "Bunker City."

Huge munitions caches, the largest of the war, were unearthed at the "City" and enemy heavy equipment was destroyed. ARVN troops also turned in remarkable performances. By the last week in May, ARVN troops had captured more than 100 tons of munitions.

President Nixon repeatedly emphasized that there would be no firm and permanent U.S. military presence in Cambodia. By mid-June, RVN Task Force 318 replaced American troops in the Fishhook area. This marked the beginning of large American redeployments. By June 29 -- one day ahead of the 60-day deadline the President had set -- the last American armored vehicle churned back across the border into South Vietnam.

CHANGING STRATEGY

In July the NVA strategy seemed to be changing. American intelligence, supported by captured documents, indicated the swing of Communist strategy toward protracted, guerrilla warfare.

It was an austerity plan of battle designed to minimize casualties and costs, to pit maneuverability and surprise against the fearsome firepower from air and ground attacks of the Allies. It was not a strategy for winning military victory, but for staving off military defeat.

Disengagement and the general lower activity on the battlefield was reflected in the casualty figures. American casualties hit a 3½-year low during the week ending July 4.

The ARVN was making progress in the Delta where it occupied almost all the hamlets. The fighting consisted primarily of small skirmishes and Communist acts of terrorism. Most Viet Cong forces had fallen back to their oldest base areas in remote, unpopulated areas in the Delta.

In Quang Tri Province, the VC attacked one hamlet, killing three, and then abducted 50 civilians. Only six days earlier in Phu Yen Province in Military Region 2 (MR2), they had abducted 17 civilians.

U.S. military strength dropped by 3,200 during the week ending Sept. 10. Total U.S. strength fell to 396,300 as the Marines redeployed 1,800 men, the Army 900, the Navy 400 and the Air Force 100.

During the month of October nonhostile casualties exceeded the hostile, indicating further the lull in fighting since the Cambodian offensive.

On Oct. 8 President Nixon's five-point peace plan was formally presented at the Paris Peace Talks and the Communists immediately rejected it. North Vietnam called it "an electoral gift certificate" while the Viet Cong assailed it as a means of "legalizing American aggression in Indochina."

The peace plan called for:

1. An immediate cease-fire in-place throughout Indochina with both sides holding their present positions, with international supervision, no buildup of military strength.

2. Broadening of the Paris Peace Talks to include Laos and Cambodia as well as North and South Vietnam.

3. Further withdrawal of U.S. forces by 95,000 men during the coming spring to bring total withdrawals to 260,000.

4. North Vietnam to join in the search for a political settlement that truly meets the aspirations of all the South Vietnamese.

5. Immediate and unconditional release of all prisoners of war including journalists and innocent civilians held by both sides.

As part of the previously announced troop reductions, remaining elements of the 9th Infantry Division redeployed to Ft. Lewis, Wash., in mid-October. U.S. casualties reached a five-year low for the last week of the month, with 30 Americans killed.

Fall monsoons in late October and November flooded huge lowland areas south and west of Da Nang, leaving thousands homeless or stranded and claiming 150 civilian lives. Army and Marine chopper pilots conducted operations to rescue stranded civilians. U.S. XXIV Corps headquarters at Da Nang set up a disaster coordinating center to feed and house the 200,000 evacuees.

On Nov. 21, a small task force of U.S. soldiers landed in helicopters 20 miles west of Hanoi in an attempt to rescue American prisoners of war. The Son Tay POW camp was found abandoned. The mission had been planned for months and was carried out with the approval of President Nixon in the face of "continued adamant refusal" by the



North Vietnamese to abide by the Geneva Conventions regarding prisoners of war to participate in negotiations for the release and treatment of POWs.

The final compilation of combat deaths in 1970 showed 4,204 Americans dead. This was the lowest number since 1965, when 1,179 Americans were killed in action. Enemy deaths for the year were put at 103,829.

ARVNs BEAR BRUNT

Throughout January 1971, the forces of the Republic of Vietnam continued to bear the brunt of most of the fighting. ARVN troops, conducting extensive operations since December 1970 in the U Minh Forest 150 miles southwest of Saigon, fought grueling battles during the first weeks of 1971. Soldiers of the South Vietnamese 18th and 21st Divisions turned in outstanding performances in routing Viet Cong units entrenched deep in the forest and uncovering and destroying munitions caches.

Combat action for U.S. forces was very light and sporadic in January 1971. Significant was a two-day battle along the DMZ near mid-month when the 1st Bde., 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized), killed 28 Communists. The long struggle to rout enemy insurgents from rich Binh Dinh Province, focal point for control of the Central Highlands was continued by the 173rd Airborne Brigade and 17th Air Cavalry.

WARNING TO THE NORTH

Because American forces were steadily and rapidly being redeployed from the Republic of Vietnam, President Nixon announced, "It is vitally important that the President as commander in Chief take action to protect the troops that remain." He further declared that he would order the bombing of military sites and supply lines in North Vietnam if he concluded that a military buildup along the border threatened American forces in the South.



DRIVE TOWARD LAOS

During the first week in February, 30,000 U.S. and South Vietnamese troops were thrust into South Vietnam's two northernmost provinces to eliminate a North Vietnamese buildup along the Laotian border. Cutting off the Ho Chi Minh trail in southern Laos had, by 1971, become a very important objective of the Allied effort in Indochina. To buy time for Vietnamization, hence speed

redeployment of American forces, it was necessary to choke off North Vietnamese supplies and troops moving southward along the trail.

The early part of the drive, dubbed Operation Dewey Canyon II, centered on securing Route 9, establishing a forward command post and resupply point at the old abandoned Marine base at Khe Sanh, carrying out search and clear operations and establishing numerous fire support bases. American units involved included the 1st Bde., 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized), the 23rd Infantry Division (Americal), and the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile).

U.S. officials repeatedly stated no American ground combat operations would cross into Laos. By mid-month, Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces (RVNAF) troops had conducted several sweeps into Laos under cover of American air support.

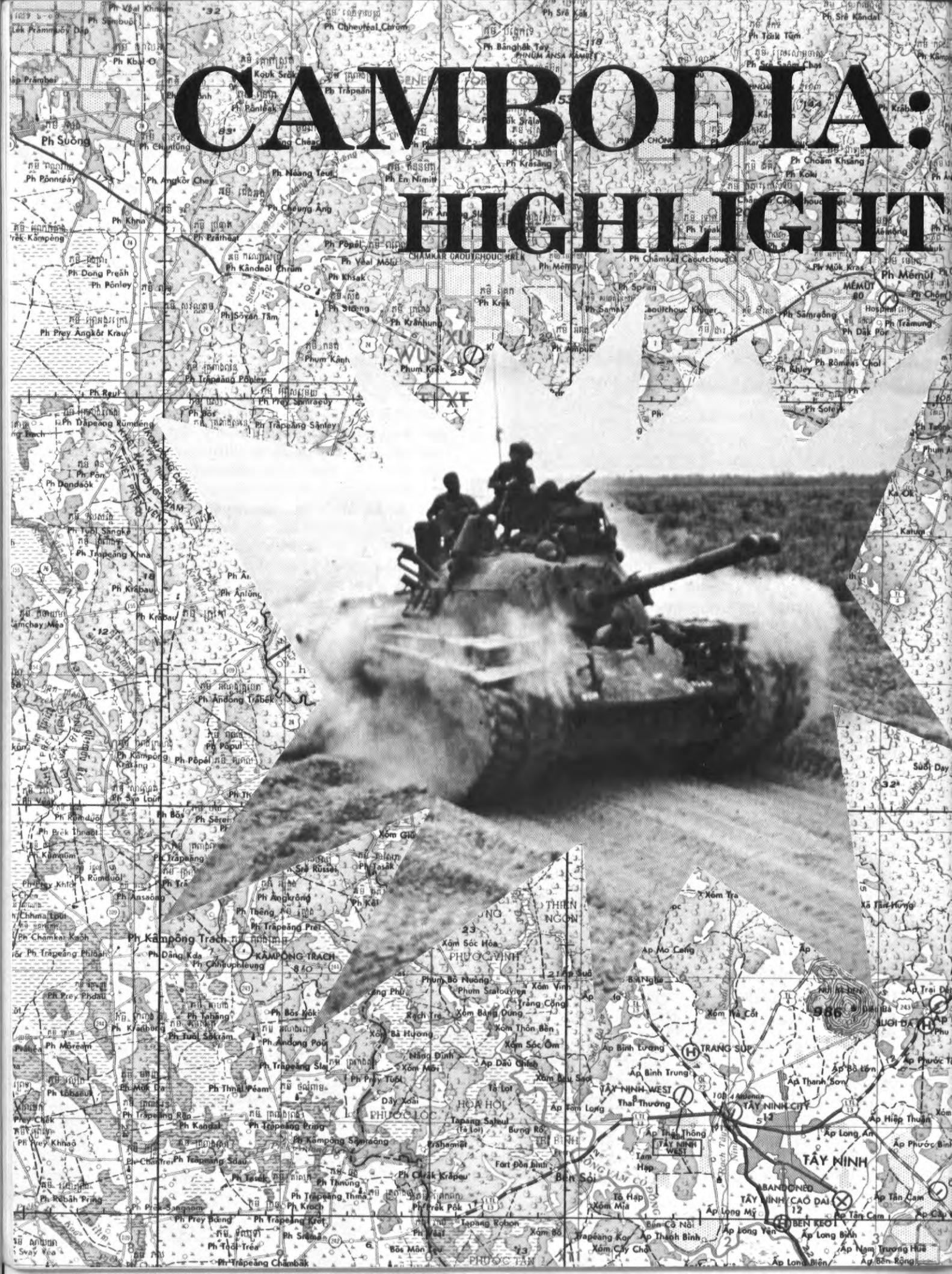
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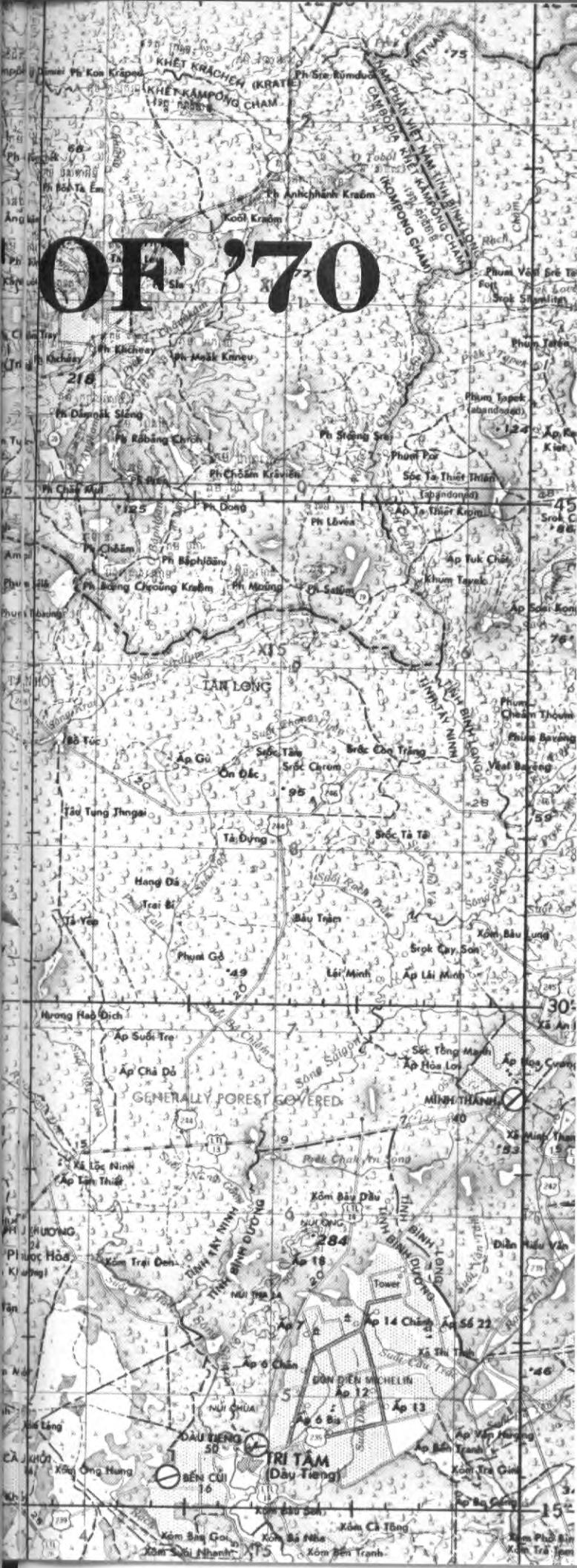
Summed up, the last 14 months have been a period of disengagement and redeployment for U.S. forces. Vietnamization and pacification are progressing well in many areas. NVA and VC forces have reverted back to their old terror tactics in the Republic of Vietnam. The war widened with Communist aggression in Cambodia and Laos. The majority of the expanded war effort there has been conducted by the non-Communist forces of Indochina. Vietnamization is the key to successful completion of the war. Coupled with the Paris Peace Talks and reduced ground action, the prospects for the remainder of 1971 are encouraging.

ITEM	1967	1968	1969	1970
Enemy Killed	88,104	181,149	156,954	103,829
Hoi Chanh	27,178	18,171	47,023	32,661
Vietnamese Abducted	5,357	8,759	6,202	6,872
Vietnamese Civilians Killed	3,707	*5,389	6,289	5,951
RVNAF Casualties				
Killed	11,016	24,252	18,860	19,425
Wounded	29,793	59,457	62,195	54,444
FWMF Casualties				
Killed	1,105	979	866	703
Wounded	2,318	1,977	2,218	1,734
U.S. Military Casualties				
Killed				
Army	5,443	9,333	6,710	3,347
U.S.	9,378	14,592	9,414	4,204
Wounded				
Army	33,573	59,838	50,543	25,774
U.S.	62,025	92,820	70,216	30,775

*1968 figures do not include Tet offensive (February).
Totals were 7,424 civilians killed; 15,434 wounded in February.

CAMBODIA: HIGHLIGHT





OF '70

The element of surprise was the keynote of the Allied campaign in Cambodia in the spring of 1970. The offensive was planned in a matter of days and launched with such lightning speed that it succeeded beyond any prior expectations. In the first eight weeks of the operation, Allied forces captured or destroyed 9,300 tons of enemy materiel, killed 11,362 enemy soldiers and captured or detained another 2,028.

The operation began when South Vietnamese Army elements broke across the frontier on April 30 at five points, two in Military Region 3 (MR3) and three in MR4. In a pincers-like maneuver, they enveloped Communist troops in the Parrot's Beak -- a curving projection of the Cambodian border 35 miles west of Saigon.

The Allies attacked on May 1, launching into the Fishhook -- a deep, narrow projection of the Cambodian border west of Quan Loi. The operation was very similar to a World War II airborne assault in which airborne troops landed behind the lines and armor punched through to meet them. However, in the case of Cambodia, the assault forces were Skytroopers of the 1st Cavalry Division dropped down by helicopters. Armored vehicles of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment and mechanized Vietnamese airborne elements pushed northward to link with them.

Ivymen of the 4th Infantry Division and elements of the 22nd ARVN Division burst out of MR2 into Cambodia on May 5 and seized North Vietnamese Army base camps 50 miles west of Pleiku. A brigade-size task force of Tropic Lightning -- the 25th Infantry Division -- dashed across the border from MR3 attacking more base camps 18 miles west of Tay Ninh City. On 7 May, an element of the 3rd Brigade of the 9th Infantry Division, the Go-Devils, hit the border at the Parrot's Beak.

By the end of the first week, Communist sanctuaries in Cambodia were under full assault. The battle line was drawn from Pleiku in the north to deep in the Delta. In the Fishhook operation 1,000 enemy had been killed. That first week yielded more than 4,400 individual weapons, more than 300 crew-served weapons, more than 100 trucks, 1,100 gas masks, 1,400 rifle grenades, 40,000 pounds of explosives and more than 1,100,000 rounds of ammunition.

Also in the first week, the 1st Cavalry Division found the "City," a complex of more than 500 bunkers in a two-square-mile area. Among the materiel found there were a wealth of communications equipment and 220-pound bags of rice in stacks eight feet high. Included in the City were extensive living quarters and what appeared to be an NVA R&R center, complete with swimming pool. U.S. 25th Infantry Division troops raided a 9th NVA Division camp on May 8 so unexpectedly that the Communists fled leaving rice clinging to chopsticks on the dinner tables.

Early in the second week of fighting, U.S. and Vietnamese Navy riverine forces moved up the Mekong River and across the border. The waterborne force, supported by American helicopters and F4 Phantom jets, was made up of 2,000 Vietnamese sailors and Marines aboard 110 ships and gunboats and hundreds of Americans in 30 gunboats. To the south and east, Vietnamese Rangers

and U.S. 9th Infantry Division troops supported the river move on the ground, closing in on the 88th North Vietnamese Regiment. The Allied forces secured a Communist-threatened ferry crossing at Neak Leung just south of Banam. The south Vietnamese force continued to an area near Phnom Penh and began evacuating Vietnamese refugees trapped there.

At the peak of the Cambodian operation, 19,300 Americans and according to RVNAF, 47,000 Vietnamese were in Cambodia. The early phases of the incursion were so successful that more than half the American forces were withdrawn by the end of May. The remainder were withdrawn by the end of June. In mid-June 30,000 Vietnamese remained in Cambodia.

After the lightning moves into the Communist sanctuaries, Allied troops began the exhausting, careful work of searching for additional supply caches and enemy camps. The materiel captured or destroyed by Allied troops included enough rice to feed nearly 25,000 enemy soldiers for a year, enough individual weapons to arm 55 full-strength enemy battalions, and enough crew-served weapons to arm 33 enemy battalions. The mortar, rocket and recoilless rifle rounds discovered would equal the average expenditure of 18,600 shelling attacks, based on the current rate of 7.7 rounds per attack.

The effectiveness of the tactics employed was proved by the over-all success of Allied operations. There was serious disruption of elements of the enemy's Central Office for South Vietnam (COSVN). Enemy military and intelligence elements were on the run, having had limited success in command and control between COSVN elements and subordinate echelons.

Even weeks after the Allied assault, American units were



A VC/NVA attack leaves village in ruins (above). Troops of the 11th ACR, followed by an elderly Cambodian, cross a wrecked bridge (below). Soldiers search the smoldering remains of a suspected enemy sanctuary (top right). American "tunnel rat" emerges from an enemy bunker (bottom right).





still finding NVA troops who didn't know the Allies were in Cambodia. In fact, one of the most amazing things about the whole operation was that the enemy was unaware that the Allied forces were looking for him.

Mid-way through the Cambodian campaign, an 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment commander was asked if Americans still held the element of surprise. He replied, "Surprise? I don't know. I do know there's nothing stealthy about an armored cavalry regiment rumbling through the jungle." But the 11th had time after time proved the value of the speed and firepower of armor in blasting enemy strongholds.



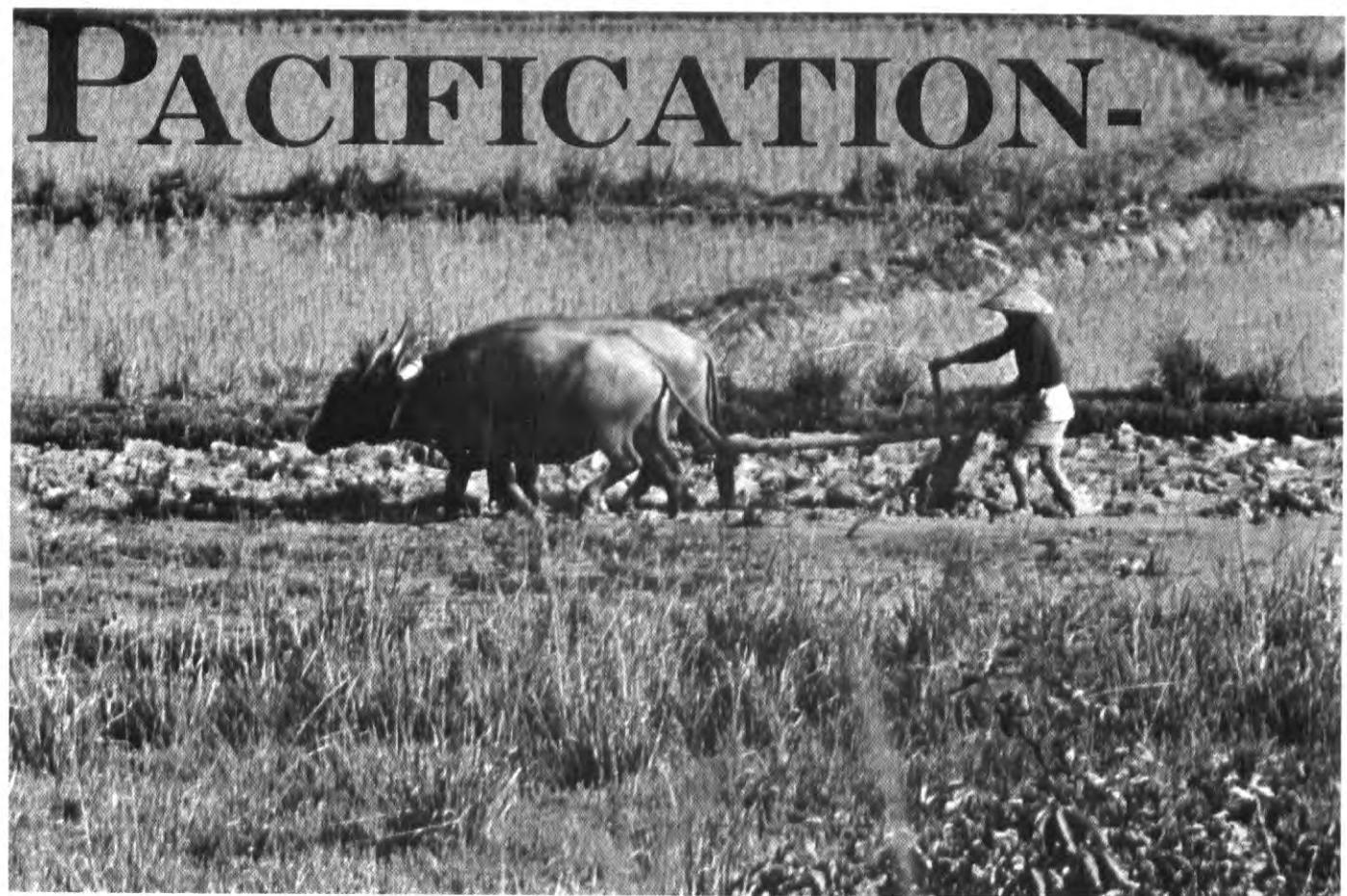
Lieutenant General Michael S. Davison, commander of II Field Force, in assessing the impact of the operation for newsmen, mentioned three key points. First was the cost to the enemy in losing his major supply areas and base areas. It would be some time before the enemy could again sustain his people adequately in Military Region 3. The limited nature of enemy operations in MR3 and the border regions since the Cambodian incursion is an indication of the extent to which the enemy's command and logistics systems have been crippled.

The general's second key point of assessment was in terms of the disruptive effect. He commented, "We've inflicted severe strain on the enemy's command and control system; we've caused his headquarters to displace; we've pre-empted his base areas and training areas; and we've severely disrupted his commo-liaison routes."

The third key area was the psychological effect of the operation. According to Colonel David Beckner, assistant chief of staff for psychological operations, II Field Force, the campaign's effects on enemy morale were such that during May there were 1,346 Hoi Chanh (ralliers), an all-time record for the Chieu Hoi program.

American troops withdrew from Cambodia at the end of June, following President Nixon's announced timetable for completing the American phase of the operation. American casualties during the two-month campaign were 337 killed and 1,524 wounded.

Vietnamese forces remained in the Cambodia border areas to continue to disrupt any Communist attempts at re-establishing base camps or supply lines. One Vietnamese officer summed up the feeling of many troops serving in Vietnam who had taken part in the Cambodian operation when he said, "We had been cutting the plant off again and again, and it kept growing. Now we are cutting out the roots."



PACIFICATION- NATION BUILDING

A family slipped out of a Viet Cong controlled village and joined a resettlement community a few miles away from the Communist tyranny they had known for so long. Ralliers traveled many miles to a government outpost carrying their North Vietnamese political cadre tied on a pole. Each received a small plot of land and help in building a new life.

A few miles away, a farmer worked his field using age-old outmoded methods to eke out a living for himself and his family. Now, thanks to better equipment and more modern methods he is able to reap a larger and more frequent harvest and provide a higher standard of living than his family had ever known. These are but a few examples of the many who have profited from the Republic of Vietnam's pacification program - a program designed to give every citizen the opportunity to live free of fear.

Civic action programs are vital to pacification and maintaining civic and economic progress. In most instances self-help is stressed. Sometimes, however, direct action is called for. For instance, when Phu Bai 5 village was resettled in the fall of 1970, it was discovered that the area had no water source. In a few days a civil affairs team from the 29th Civil Affairs Co. located some culvert, arranged to

have it flown in on 101st Airborne Division helicopters and helped the villagers install wells. A typical civil affairs program is the distribution of Kubota tractors. There are now dozens of these machines throughout Thua Thien Province south of Hue.

Another phase of civic action operations is the support of orphanages and various leper colonies. Working in conjunction with charitable organizations in the United States, civic action facilitates the distribution of clothing and foodstuffs to indigent Vietnamese.

Vietnam is one of the richest rice producing nations in all of Asia, and the development of agriculture is of prime concern. Many free world nations are seeking to further the development of cooperatives to promote agricultural development.

The "miracle rice" IR8 has been introduced into Vietnam. This strain of rice, developed by free world nations, produces a stronger, more nutritious rice in much greater quantities than other varieties grown in Vietnam. As the use of this rice spreads, Vietnam will be able to export quantities to other Asian nations. This effort in particular has the possibility of helping not only the Vietnamese

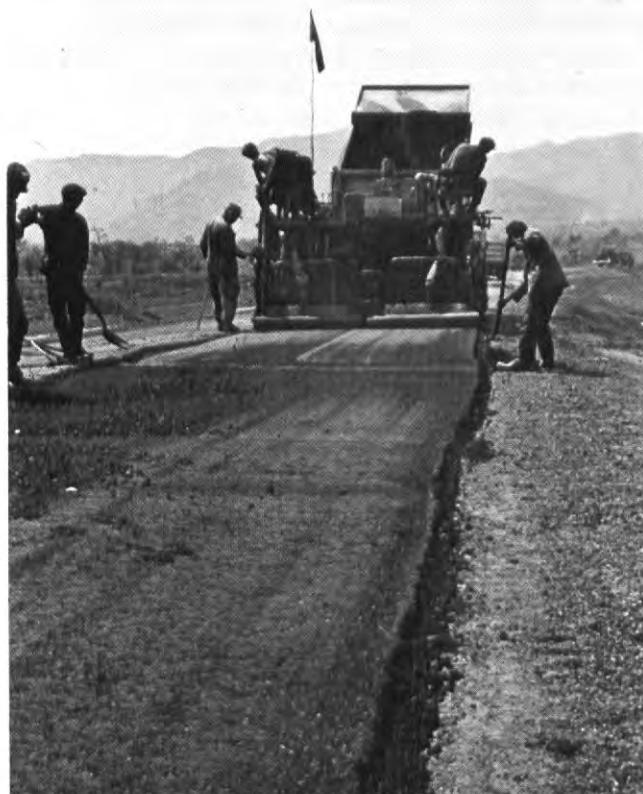


Vietnamese farmer inspects his new rice crops (above). U.S. Army Engineers grade and pave Vietnamese roads as part of the national road construction program (bottom left, right).

people, but it may also develop a stable base for the nation's economy.

Essential to pacification is an adequate highway system. Vietnam's highways, destroyed and rebuilt twice during the Indochina War, deteriorated so badly after the troop buildup of 1965 that many were no more than a series of potholes connected by bumps. Beginning in January 1968 the Vietnamese and their allies launched a four-year, \$500 million program to reconstruct 2,500 miles of main highways. Despite three Communist offensives since then, 560 miles had been finished by February. The rest is due to be completed by the end of 1971. The program also calls for the repair or reconstruction of 15 miles of highway bridges. More than six miles have already been completed.

At the heart of pacification efforts is the village policeman. He works with Rural Development teams to carry out economic and social programs. He cooperates with the self-defense corps to halt Viet Cong tax collecting and other harassment. He leads the effort to uncover secret Communist organizations that seek to sabotage government-supported development programs. More than half of South Vietnam's 88,000 policemen work and live outside the cities. Their presence in the provinces signals a return to normalcy in rural life. This is a big change from 1969 when almost all policemen were stationed in cities. As government and Allied forces drove the Viet Cong from most of the populated countryside, the Republic of Vietnam decided to reestablish village police forces, which



and been virtually nonexistent since the Communists' 1968 Tet offensive.

Dwindling and eliminating the enemy's numbers in the provinces is of primary importance if pacification is to succeed. Psychological Operations (Psyops) to induce enemy soldiers to rally to the Vietnamese government include the Chieu Hoi (open arms) program. A striking example of the program was the recent "Operation Searchlight." Implemented during the weeks prior to Tet 1971, this massive campaign was designed to persuade VC and NVA soldiers to rally to large searchlights located near 22 U.S. and ARVN bases in Military Region 1. Posters, handbills, tapes, and leaflets were distributed urging the campaign's theme "Rally to the light of freedom and begin a new life with the government of the Republic of Vietnam."

Key targets of Viet Cong assassins are the teachers of Vietnam. The enemy realizes that the destruction of the schools is necessary for the final subversion of society. To counter these atrocities, and to expand and improve the educational facilities of Vietnam, nations of the free world have been giving various forms of educational aid to the Republic of Vietnam. The aid has yielded heartening results.

When the 1969-70 school year ended, educators in South Vietnam celebrated the achievement of a goal they had worked hard to attain: 632,000, or 25 per cent of all youths in the high school age group, were enrolled in the nation's 780 secondary schools.

This record figure represents nearly a 12-fold increase in secondary school enrollment since the Republic of Vietnam assumed responsibility for its own educational system. It compares with a three per cent enrollment in 1955, when the French were withdrawing from the country and when only 53,500 Vietnamese were attending secondary school classes. South Vietnam's population, then about 15 million, now is edging close to 18 million and the secondary school age group has expanded from 1.78 million in 1955 to 2.53 million today. In that period, high school classes have increased from 1,100 to 10,900 and teachers from 1,900 to 16,200. Ten years ago Vietnam's educators and their advisors were faced with a formidable task when they embarked on their program to forge an entirely new educational system for the country. As is evident from the facts, much progress has been made.

In a country engaged in war, good medical services for civilian and military populations are essential. Thanks to the free world, Vietnam today is enjoying the highest standard of medical treatment in its history. To bring medicine to remote areas of Vietnam, medical teams from New Zealand, Korea, the United Kingdom, the Philippines, Australia, the Republic of China, Germany, Japan, Spain and the United States are stationed throughout the Republic.

A large part of the success of the pacification program can be attributed to the genuine concern of the U.S. armed forces for those who suffer most from the ravages of war and living conditions in Vietnam. This concern is partially



being expressed through the Medical Civic Action Program (MEDCAP).

The MEDCAP program has developed into one of teaching the Vietnamese what they will need to know to continue higher medical and health standards after the United States has withdrawn its troops and advisors. The main obstacle that MEDCAP personnel have encountered has been the villages and hamlets which are still bogged down in tradition, superstition and the contingencies of war while the sources of much of their problems with disease and their poor health habits remain untouched.

Training the people of South Vietnam to do the job themselves as a part of Vietnamization is the eventual goal of the MEDCAP program. The medical and civil affairs officers recognize that any effort to bring some standard of





medical care to the civilians would be limited without teaching local health workers the methods which U.S. medical personnel use.

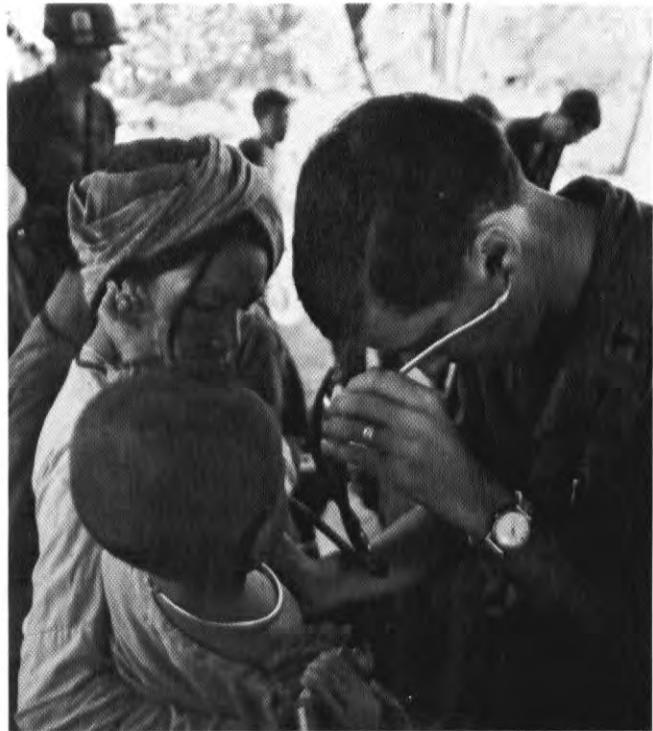
Vietnamese health workers and medics are being trained to go out to the villages and hamlets with medicines and a comprehensive knowledge of first aid. They learn by working with and watching the doctors and medics in their villages diagnosing and treating the all-too-common diseases.

Setting up a preventive dental health program for a nation practically devoid of dentists is no small problem. This is the aim of a joint Vietnamese Ministry of Health - U.S. Army program. There have always been Dentcap programs in which care was prescribed for existing dental disease, but the idea now is to get at the causes of disease. The joint project has assembled a large variety of slide presentations, printed and spoken lectures, brochures and diagrams used as teaching aids to get the message across. The program is delivered to all the schools throughout the country - teachers are trained and thereafter supervise the program.

It took the United States nearly 300 years to develop from a youthful frontier into the most powerful nation in the world. Vietnam, like many developing nations, is trying to modernize in much less time. The Republic of Vietnam is faced with the additional problem of trying to progress in the wake of constant war.

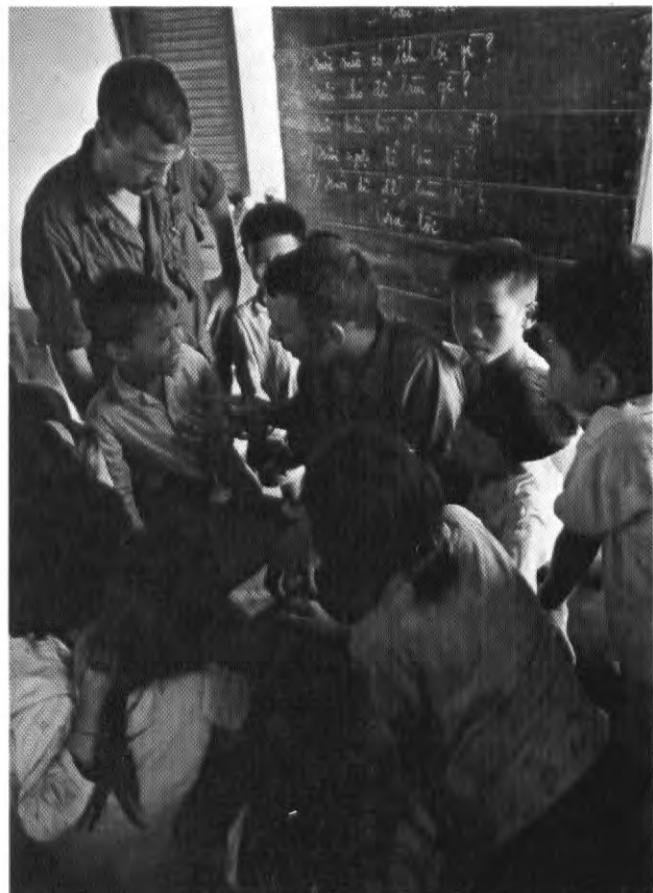
The Republic of Vietnam, the United States, and nations of the free world are not waiting for the war to end in order to help the Vietnamese people. Free world nations are providing many types of assistance: military, medical, educational, agricultural, technical and economic. They are building a new nation.

All this has one common purpose: to enable the people of Vietnam to enjoy the fruits of freedom.



Men of the 1st Signal Bde. help Vietnamese build a schoolhouse (top center).

The RF/PF are the key to pacification at the hamlet level (bottom left). Providing modern medical aid fosters goodwill (above). U.S. soldiers double as teachers for these Montagnard children (below).





The Enemy We Face

They came to my house and told my mother that I had been chosen to be one of them. They wanted me to become a Chien si (soldier). My mother pleaded that I was too young. The North Vietnamese soldier said, 'He is old enough -- the draft age is 15 to 40.'"

This is how 15 year-old Nguyen Van Qui became one of the enemy you faced. His story is typical. He was taken to a training camp near Com Ninh, in the southern panhandle of North Vietnam. There, he and other recruits were given their khaki uniforms and taught to aim and fire a weapon. The complete training cycle for duty as a regular Chien si in the North Vietnamese Army (NVA) lasted six days.

After his training, Qui and 1,200 others were sent on a eight week journey down the Ho Chi Minh Trail. They

moved in small groups to escape B-52 raids. About 700 of them were armed.

"Many died on the trail," Qui recalled. "Some died of malaria and others died of not enough food. It was very hard. Everybody was sick but they kept pushing us."

Men like Qui from the North Vietnamese Army now compose over half of the total enemy combat forces in the Republic of Vietnam. The percentage of NVA troops is highest in the north and lowest in the Delta. They depend heavily upon infiltration for reinforcements and resupply. Each unit has a political officer who tries to maintain morale with a steady flow of North Vietnamese ideology.

It is probably true to say that these North Vietnamese soldiers pose a more formidable threat on the battlefield

than do the South Vietnamese Communists or Viet Cong, who compose the rest of the enemy's forces. These Viet Cong are organized into units forming the so-called South Vietnamese Liberation Army. There are three types of units within this army.

The elite units are the regiments and battalions of the VC main force. These are the best equipped and trained. They have acquired the name of "Hard Hats" because they often wear metal or fiberboard helmets that distinguish them from other units. These main force units are very mobile and range far afield in their combat operations.

The VC local force units are organized into battalions and companies and, while full-time fighters, are not as well equipped or trained as the main force. They usually operate within a specific province or district and are controlled by the Communist province or district committees.

A weapon which the enemy has always used, especially in stand-off attacks on the U.S. and Republic of Vietnam military bases, is the mortar. Standard mortars in Charlie's arsenal are the 82mm -- backbone of his high-angle fire support -- and the 60mm, normally used in small guerrilla actions.

Ready to fire, the commonly used Chicom 60mm mortar weighs 45 pounds and its 3.2-pound projectile travels up to 1,500 meters. The 82mm in firing position weighs 123 pounds and hurls a 6.72-pound projectile at targets up to 3,040 meters away.

The 82mm round was designed one millimeter larger than the U.S. 81mm round so the Communists can employ

Captured enemy soldiers waiting to see their relatives at the Phu Quoc prison island.



A Viet Cong suspect is interrogated by Allied soldiers.

captured U.S. mortar rounds in their tubes. During 1967 a 120mm mortar capable of hurling a 33.9-pound warhead 5,700 meters was added to the Communist arsenal. With a total weight of 606 pounds, it is more difficult to transport and is not widely used.

The enemy has also stepped up his use of rockets within the past year. Charlie employs rockets in stand-off attacks of military installations and as general support artillery.

The simple but effective Soviet-made 122mm rocket launcher, first used in Vietnam in March 1967, can hurl with area target accuracy a warhead weighing more than 40 pounds up to ranges of 11,000 meters. The 140mm rocket, with a carrying weight of 88 pounds and a warhead weight of 40 pounds, has a range of 9,500 meters. This rocket was first employed in an attack on Da Nang in February 1967.

The latest type of rocket introduced by the enemy is the Chinese-made 107mm, which weighs less than half as much as either of the others and has an estimated effective range of 8,300 meters.

In 1965 the enemy added to his grenade capability with the introduction of the Soviet-made RPG2 antitank grenade launcher. Two years later the RPG7 appeared.

The RPG2 has a maximum effective range of 150 meters and can penetrate six to seven inches of armor. The RPG7,



A weapons cache uncovered in Cambodia. Note the bicycle at top used by the enemy to transport arms and equipment.

with an improved sight, is effective up to 500 meters and can penetrate steel 12 to 14 inches thick.

The third type of VC unit are the guerrilla squads and platoons. These squads and platoons are controlled by the committees of the hamlets and villages where they fight. They seldom leave the vicinity of their homes. The members of these units are often poorly armed and trained and include old men and children. Many are not full-time fighters. Nevertheless, there are many such units in all areas of the country and they perform significant duties by harassing Allied forces and by assisting the other Communist forces in the attack and defense. The VC often draw upon the guerrillas to replace losses in their other units.

During the early days of the conflict, the Communists fought with older weapons used in previous wars by the French, Japanese and Americans. But today, largely as the result of aid from Red China and the Soviet Union, North Vietnamese Army troops and many main force Viet Cong units are equipped with late-model weapons comparable to those used by the U.S. forces.

The most common of these are the SKS carbine, the Soviet AK47 assault rifle, or -- more often -- a Chinese copy of either. These weapons use identical 7.62mm rounds, similar to the round fired by the U.S. M14 rifle, but shorter. Both have a maximum effective range of 400 meters. The assault rifle most often captured is the Chicom (short for "Chinese Communist") Type 56, although soldiers in the field usually refer to it as the AK47, since it is virtually a copy of that weapon. It can be fired on automatic at a rate of 100 to 190 rounds a minute or on semiautomatic. The SKS carbine--or the Chicom 7.62

Until six years ago, the only machine guns available to the VC were obsolete French, Chinese and German models. Today, however, each NVA and main force VC battalion is allocated 36 light machine guns, usually of the Soviet 7.62mm Type RPD or the older and heavier RP-46. Chicom copies are designated Type 58 and Type 56. The 56 can accurately fire 150 rounds a minute up to ranges of 800 meters, while the 85 can fire 230 to 250 RPM. These automatic weapons were first supplied to the North Vietnamese in 1965.



Detainees are often able to provide significant intelligence concerning Communist plans.

copy--is a semiautomatic weapon. It weighs nearly nine pounds when loaded with a 10-round magazine.

Although the enemy's equipment has improved with time, the overall effectiveness of his forces has declined noticeably, and in 1970 he has come off second best in virtually all major contacts with Allied forces. The once-confident Vietnamese Communist forces have clearly met their match in Vietnam.

Vietnamese Armed Forces



More than one out of every 10 citizens of the Republic of Vietnam has been trained to fight Communist aggression. Almost a million and a half South Vietnamese are now in the uniformed services, backed by nearly as many civilian home-defense soldiers.

The 1968 Mobilization Decree boosted the Republic of Vietnam's national, territorial and paramilitary forces to put six per cent of the country's total population into full-time military service. Including the People's Self-Defense Force, which is composed of unpaid civilians trained to defend their homes and villages, the number is about 13 per cent.

More than 100,000 Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces (RVNAF) personnel have been killed fighting the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese regulars since 1960. The enemy lost 102,593 killed in 1970 alone.

The Communist attacks during Tet 1968 marked a turning point for the Republic's armed forces in terms of morale, manpower and equipment. The Viet Cong (VC) and North Vietnamese Army (NVA) hurled 84,000 troops, many of them their most combat-experienced, against the Republic of Vietnam forces and their allies. Hanoi had



ARVN soldiers on patrol in Thang Binh (left). An ARVN trooper emerges from an enemy spider hole (top below). A flotilla of Republic of Vietnam Navy river patrol boats helping to secure the Mekong River (bottom below).

assured its forces that RVNAF units would desert in masses to the Communist banner. However, not a single unit went over to the enemy.

The enemy lost almost half his attacking force during the Tet attacks: 20,300 to the RVNAF; 18,581 to the U.S. and other free world forces. Within two days, the VC/NVA forces were pushed out of most towns and cities.

Much of the RVNAF toll of the enemy, however, has not been the result of large operations, but of small actions. Many of these involved Regional and Popular Forces (RF/PF). Stationed in villages and hamlets or operating from small bases, RF/PF personnel make up more than 50 per cent of the RVNAF. These Regional and Popular Forces consist of locally recruited personnel who serve in their home areas.

The RF/PF have greatly increased in efficiency since the issuance of M16s began. All maneuver battalions of RVNAF have been equipped with M16s, M60 machine guns and are receiving 60mm and 81mm mortars. Deliveries of the M79 grenade launchers and M113 armored personnel carriers are about 90 per cent complete.

Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) combat units increased their transportation capability by replacing old vehicles with new models while communications were improved by newer, lightweight PRC25 radios.

In addition to separate armored, infantry and artillery units, the ARVN consists of 10 numbered divisions, an airborne division and Special Forces organized along the same lines as the U.S. The average ARVN division has 3,000 to 4,000 fewer men than a U.S. division. Although usually employed in offensive operations against the VC and NVA main force units, ARVN units also provide security for key areas and installations.



The destruction of enemy materiel and personnel has not been the ARVN's sole job over the years. The Republic's initial pacification work was done by the members of the nation's young army and today many of the elements of the armed forces have pacification as their primary mission.

In addition to the Army divisions, the Republic of Vietnam has a 13,000-man Marine Division. Although primarily concerned with amphibious operations, the Marines often engage in joint operations with the Vietnamese Army and other free world forces.

Also supporting the ARVN is the Vietnamese Air Force (VNAF), which is playing an increasingly large role in the war. VNAF currently flies more than 50 per cent of the fixed-wing tactical air missions throughout the Republic of Vietnam.

Organized in 1955 with a total of 92 pilots and 32 planes, VNAF now has more than 700 aircraft.

There are seven VNAF bases in Vietnam, six of them in joint use with 7th Air Force. Soc Trang is the only all-Vietnamese base. VNAF will assume complete responsibility for operating and maintaining all facilities and equipment in all joint-use American and Vietnamese bases by the end of the summer.

The Navy consists of the Fleet Command, the Coastal Forces, River Forces and the River Assault and Interdiction Division (RAIDS).

The Army of the Republic of Vietnam, Vietnamese Navy, Vietnamese Air Force and the Vietnamese Marines as well as the 4,200-member Women's Armed Forces Corps are headed by the RVNAF Joint General Staff (JGS). The JGS is headquartered just outside Tan Son Nhut Air Base. In addition to the forces themselves, JGS is also responsible for the training of RVNAF personnel.



Vietnamese Air Force jets prepare for an air strike.

The South Vietnamese Armed Forces school system includes the National Military Academy and the Command and General Staff College at Dalat, the Naval Academy and the Air Force Training Center at Nha Trang, the Reserve Officers School at Thu Duc, and a number of branch and trade schools.

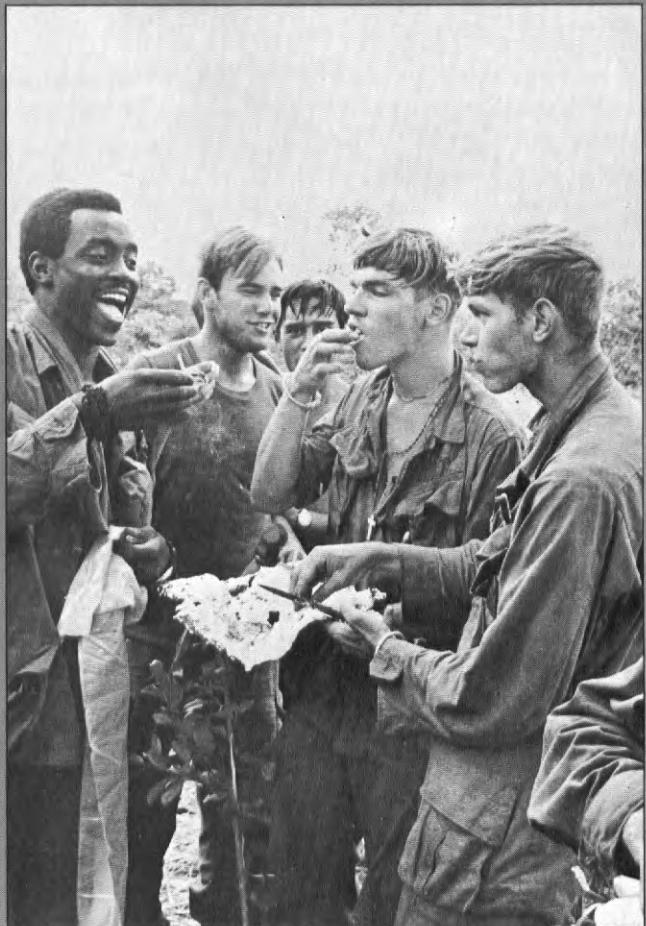
Additionally, all divisions have their own training centers and there are also national training centers for basic and advanced training.

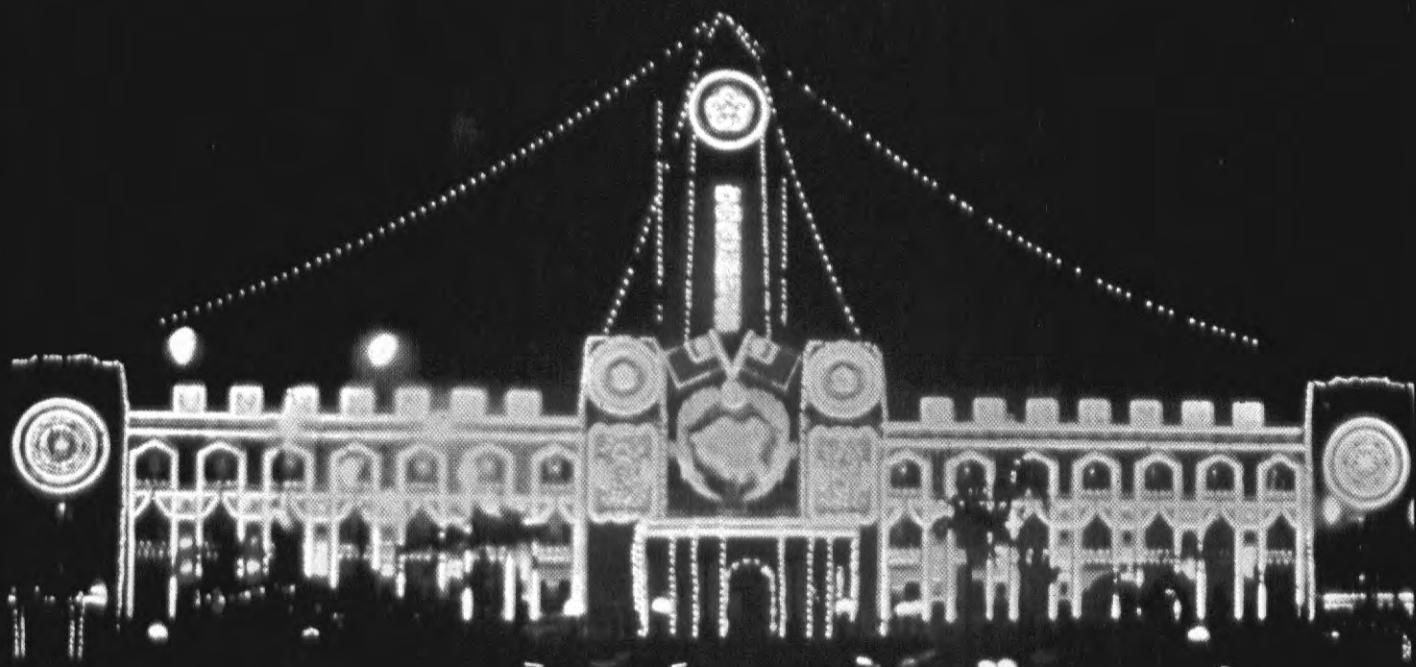
A tank of the ARVN 5th Cavalry Regiment operating with III Corps Task Force 333 pulls into a night defensive position near Svay Rieng.



PLEASANT MOMENTS







R&R, A TIME TO RELAX

Just as every cloud has a silver lining, so a tour in Vietnam has its little bright side called Rest and Recuperation (R&R), and no story about 'Nam would be complete without its mention.

Begun in 1962 using C54 and C118 aircraft, the R&R program was designed to take people serving in Vietnam and forward bases in Thailand away from the rigors of combat for a short vacation because there were no suitable sites for in-country leave. The R&R program began using commercial airlines with the Vietnam buildup in 1966. By 1967, transportation for the program was completely contracted to commercial jets.

Increased numbers of U.S. personnel in the Republic of Vietnam added more emphasis to the program because recreational facilities in Vietnam were limited. The program also reduced the money being poured into an already inflated economy and diverted these funds to Hawaii and other allied countries. To the average GI R&R was that precious week when he ate off a tablecloth, enjoyed a society composed of two genders instead of one, and slept in a real bed with clean sheets. The chance to get away from it all and see another part of the world is an

experience you will remember the rest of your life, regardless of which R&R location you chose.

The 124,784 men and women who chose Hawaii for their week's respite will never forget that island paradise. Hawaii not only held the promise of fun, but a chance to meet your loved ones. To have the chance again to set foot on soil belonging to the States helped make Hawaii the most visited R&R site.

Honolulu, the "crossroads of the Pacific," offered every activity you could have possibly desired, from bikini-watching on sunny beaches to a zestful and colorful nightlife that included Hawaiian luaus and top-name American entertainment.

The variety of exotic foods from all over the world served in Honolulu's finest restaurants was only limited by the size of your wallet. Luaus offered a combination of Polynesian food and entertainment all rolled into one. Another special treat the weary Vietnam visitor found was the chance to drive a car that wasn't OD. Of course, if you didn't rent a car, remember how nice it was to be able to understand the bus route signs.

Fishing, swimming, surfing and boat tours offered plenty to do in the daytime if you hadn't planned on sleeping late,

lying in the sun or shopping. When the sun went down there was still plenty to do with a multitude of nightclubs to choose from. An R&R spent in the beautiful 50th state is indeed something to talk about.

If you weren't the sun and surf type and chose Bangkok, the memories of the pomp and grandeur of the ancient court of Siam were impressive. There are almost 23,500 temples in Thailand and you had the chance to see 381 of them right in Bangkok. The 5½-ton solid gold Buddha you might have seen in one of them was not easy to forget. Temples, however, were not the only attractions the guidebooks listed.

That sprawling city of 3½ million, with abundant hotels and restaurants faced gleaming contemporary office buildings next to classical Thai architecture. In Bangkok, a visit to any of the many nightclubs convinced you that you were in a swinging city.

Souvenirs were everywhere and the tourist in Bangkok could not pass up the chance to buy a few samples of Thai silk noted for its luxurious texture, bright colors, durability and resistance to wrinkling. Rubies, black star sapphires and cat's-eyes made the jewelry counters sparkle before your very eyes. If you didn't purchase jewelry or silk, maybe the teakwood carvings or bronzerware found their way into your baggage. The Thai food was highly seasoned whether you ate in one of the plush restaurants or an open-air eatery, and the deliciously different fruit will linger on your tastebuds for a long time.

If you sought something off the beaten path and chose your R&R in Taipei, you couldn't possibly have been disappointed. The low prices alone were enough to make the trip worthwhile.

For the Chinese food fiend, Taipei was the place. Hundreds of restaurants all serving Chinese cuisine for less than a dollar made San Francisco somehow not so attractive at the moment. Of course, for the barbecue fans, there were those delicious Ghengis Khan dinners where all you could eat cost less than two dollars.

If a night on the town with so much to see and do didn't make you tired, the endless shopping routes should have. Jade seemed to grow on the trees and was priced as if it did. It was also sad to have to pass up all those bargains on books and records. Taiwan, the nation without copyright laws which sold a full 20-volume encyclopedia for less than \$20 and a long-playing album for 25 cents was something else.

For the serious shopper who decided to spend an R&R in Hong Kong, the biggest problem was to figure out how to get all those goodies in his hold baggage allowance. Everything you ever wanted and then some was available in this city of the eternal shopper.

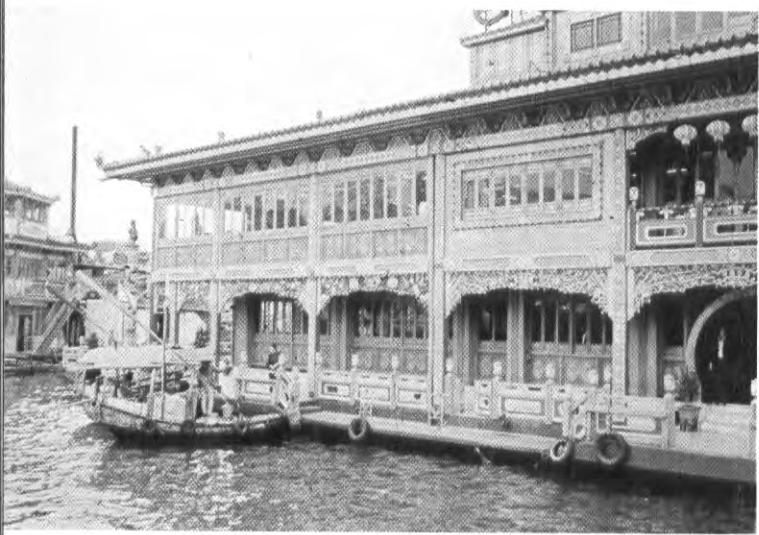
Known for its outstanding contribution to the gourmet's world, Hong Kong boasted some of the world's finest restaurants featuring the finest cuisine. Of course, the nightclubs full of smiling hostesses didn't make the trip unpleasant either. The entertainment varied from classical Oriental opera to "girly" shows.

With free port prices being only a fraction of stateside



Chiang Kai-shek's palace (opposite page). A Hawaiian Luau (top). Classic Thai dancing girl (above). Gold Buddha, Bangkok (below).





The world of the "Boat People," Hong Kong (top). One of Hong Kong's famous floating restaurants (above). Feeding the kangaroos in Sydney (below).

prices, many cameras and stereo sets found themselves a new home. Naturally with thousands of tailors literally beckoning you, new handmade clothes were a shopper's must.

A trip around Hong Kong Island revealed the "boat people." Thousands of junks bobbed up and down holding families that were born and raised and probably would die on a boat. Being able to see mysterious Red China with your own eyes was the crowning finish to your stay in an intriguing city.

For the kangaroo fans, it was no contest - Sydney had it all. That fabulous land Down Under with that Australian accent enticed more than 90,000 R&R tourists during fiscal year 1970.

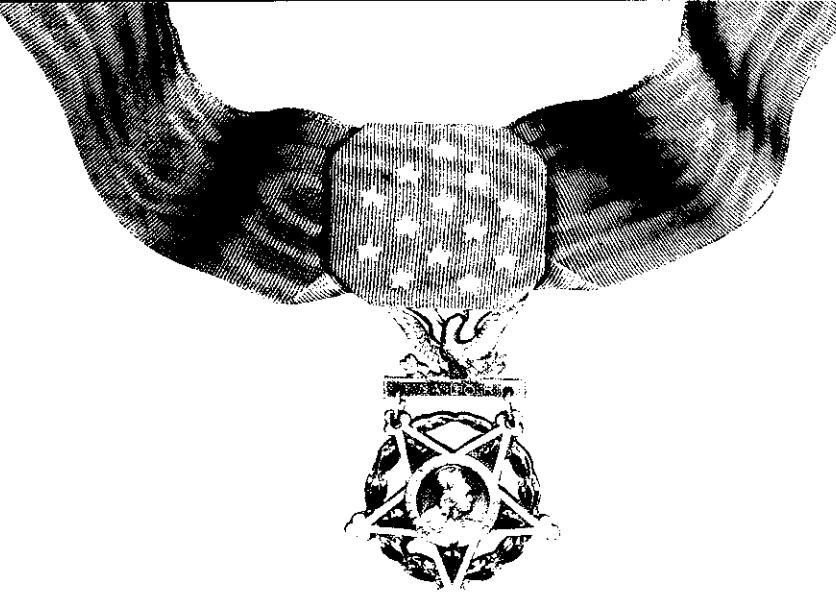
Good old hospitality and beautiful women made the trip one of a lifetime. Beautiful beaches, the wilderness, sailing and other entertainments too numerous to mention made a week in Sydney one of swinging adventure.

Restaurants and bars where a good meal of steak and potatoes could be had for a reasonable price, made C-rations seem far in the past. The nightclubs didn't do anything to spoil the impression either. The must on every shopper's list was a stuffed koala bear and a boomerang. Perhaps a small sheepskin rug made the scene also. Of course just looking through the American-type department stores made it more like a little bit of home.

A chance to spend a week with an Australian family lured many people to this fabulous city. Just being out in the wide-open spaces without worrying about unfriendlies made a Sydney R&R the trip of a lifetime.

Regardless of where you went, what you did or how many souvenirs you bought back, R&R has to linger as one of the nicest things about a Vietnam tour.





“Above And Beyond The Call Of Duty”

CPT Roger H. C. Donlon
5th Special Forces (Abn), 6 July 1964

2LT Charles Q. Williams
5th Special Forces (Abn), 9-10 June 1965

SSG Larry S. Pierce*
173rd Abn Bde, 20 September 1965

PFC Milton L. Olive III*
173rd Abn Bde, 22 October 1965

SP5 Lawrence Joel
173rd Abn Bde, 8 November 1965

2LT Walter J. Marm
1st Cav Div (AM), 14 November 1965

1LT James A. Gardner*
101st Abn Div (AM), 7 February 1966

SP4 Daniel Fernandez*
25th Inf Div, 18 February 1966

2LT Robert J. Hibbs*
1st Inf Div, 5 March 1966

SGT James W. Robinson*
1st Inf Div, 11 April 1966

SGT Jimmy G. Stewart*
1st Cav Div (AM), 18 May 1966

SP4 David C. Dolby
1st Cav Div (AM), 22 May 1966

CPT Ronald E. Ray*
25th Inf Div, 19 Jun 1966

SGT Charles B. Morris
173rd Abn Bde, 29 June 1966

SGT Donald R. Long*
1st Inf Div, 30 June 1966

PFC Billy L. Lauffer*
1st Cav Div (AM), 21 September 1966

SP4 John F. Baker Jr.
25th Inf Div, 5 November 1966

CPT Robert F. Foley
25th Inf Div, 5 November 1966

CPT Euripides Rubio Jr.*
1st Inf Div, 8 November 1966

1LT Joseph X. Grant*
25th Inf Div, 13 November 1966

SGT Ted Belcher*
25th Inf Div, 19 November 1966

PFC Louis Albanese*
1st Cav Div (AM), 1 December 1966

SSG Delbert O. Jennings
1st Cav Div (AM), 27 December 1966

1LT John E. Warren Jr.*
25th Inf Div, 14 January 1967

SP4 Donald W. Evans Jr.*
25th Inf Div, 27 January 1967

1LT George K. Sisler*
5th Special Forces (Abn), 5-7 February 1967

PFC James H. Monroe* <i>1st Cav Div (AM), 16 February 1967</i>	2LT Harold B. Durham Jr.* <i>1st Inf Div, 17 October 1967</i>
SSG Elmelindo R. Smith* <i>4th Inf Div, 16 February 1967</i>	CPT Riley L. Pitts* <i>25th Inf Div, 31 October 1967</i>
1SG Maximo Yabes* <i>25th Inf Div, 26 February 1967</i>	SP4 Robert P. Stryker* <i>1st Inf Div, 7 November 1967</i>
PSG Matthew B. Leonard* <i>1st Inf Div, 28 February 1967</i>	1LT James Taylor <i>23rd Inf Div (Americ), 8-9 November 1967</i>
2LT Stephen E. Karopczyc* <i>25th Inf Div, 12 March 1967</i>	PFC John A. Barnes III* <i>173rd Abn Bde, 12 November 1967</i>
1LT Ruppert L. Sargent* <i>25th Inf Div, 15 March 1967</i>	PFC Sammy L. Davis <i>9th Inf Div, 18 November 1967</i>
SP4 Charles C. Hgemeister <i>1st Cav Div (AM), 20 March 1967</i>	MAJ Charles J. Watters* <i>173rd Abn Bde, 19 November 1967</i>
SP4 Carmel B. Harvey Jr.* <i>1st Cav Div (AM), 21 March 1967</i>	PFC Carlos J. Lozada* <i>173rd Abn Bde, 20 November 1967</i>
SFC Charles E. Hosking* <i>5th Special Forces (Abn), 21 March 1967</i>	CPT Angelo J. Liteky <i>199th Inf Bde, 6-7 December 1967</i>
MSG David H. McNerney <i>4th Inf Div, 22 March 1967</i>	SGT Allen J. Lynch* <i>1st Cav Div (AM), 15 December 1967</i>
SP4 Don L. Michael* <i>173rd Abn Bde, 8 April 1967</i>	MAJ Patrick H. Brady <i>44th Medical Bde, 8 January 1968</i>
PFC Louis E. Willett* <i>4th Inf Div, 15 April 1967</i>	CPL Jerry W. Wickam* <i>11th ACR, 6 January 1968</i>
SP4 George A. Ingalls* <i>1st Cav Div (AM), 16 April 1967</i>	PFC Clarence E. Sasser <i>9th Inf Div, 10 January 1968</i>
SGT Kenneth E. Stumpf <i>4th Inf Div, 25 April 1967</i>	PFC William D. Port* <i>1st Cav Div (AM), 12 January 1968</i>
PFC Leonard B. Keller <i>9th Inf Div, 2 May 1967</i>	SP5 Dwight H. Johnson <i>4th Inf Div, 15 January 1968</i>
PFC Raymond R. Wright <i>9th Inf Div, 2 May 1967</i>	SGT Gordon Yntema* <i>5th Special Forces (Abn), 16-18 January 1968</i>
PSG Bruce A. Grandstaff* <i>4th Inf Div, 18 May 1967</i>	PFC Gary G. Wetzel <i>1st Avn Bde, 18 January 1968</i>
SP4 Dale E. Wayrynen* <i>101st Abn Div (AM), 18 May 1967</i>	CW2 Frederick E. Ferguson <i>1st Cav Div (AM), 31 January 1968</i>
PFC Leslie Bellrichard* <i>4th Inf Div, 20 May 1967</i>	SSG Drew D. Dix <i>MACV Advisory Group, 31 January 1968</i>
SSG Frankie Z. Molnar* <i>4th Inf Div, 26 May 1967</i>	SFC Eugene Ashley Jr.* <i>5th Special Forces (Abn), 6-7 February 1968</i>
SP5 Edgar L. McWethy Jr.* <i>1st CAv Div (AM), 21 June 1967</i>	PFC Thomas J. Kensman <i>9th Inf Div, 16 February 1968</i>
SSG Webster Anderson <i>101st Abn Div (AM), 15 October 1967</i>	SSG Fred W. Zabitosky <i>5th Special Forces (Abn), 19 February 1968</i>

SSG Clifford C. Sims*
101st Abn Div (AM), 21 February 1968

SGT Joe R. Hooper
101st Abn Div (AM), 21 February 1968

SP4 Nicolas J. Cutinha*
25th Inf Div, 2 March 1968

CPT Jack H. Jacobs
9th Inf Div, 9 March 1968

CPT Paul W. Bucha*
101st Abn Div, 16-19 March 1968

SP4 Edward A. DeVore
9th Inf Div, 17 March 1968

SP4 Peter M. Guenette*
101st Abn Div (AM), 18 March 1968

1LT James M. Sprayberry
1st Cav Div (AM), 25-26 April 1968

PFC Milton Lee*
101st Abn Div (AM), 26 April 1968

1LT Douglas B. Fournet*
1st Cav Div (AM), 4 May 1968

SGT Robert M. Patterson
101st Abn Div (AM), 6 May 1968

SP4 Kenneth L. Olson*
199th Inf Bde, 13 May 1968

PFC James W. Fous*
9th Inf Div, 14 May 1968

SGT Anund C. Roark*
4th Inf Div, 16 May 1968

PFC Phillip G. McDonald*
4th Inf Div, 7 June 1968

SP5 John J. Kendenburg*
5th Special Forces (Abn), 13 June 1968

SP4 Hector M. Santiago-Colon*
1st Cav Div (AM), 28 June 1968

PFC Frank A. Herda*
101st Abn Div (AM), 29 June 1968

SSG Paul Lambers
25th Inf Div, 20 Aug 1968

SP4 William W. Seay*
1st Log Cmd, 25 August 1968

SSG Nicky D. Bacon
23rd Inf Div (Americ), 26 August 1968

SGT Marvin R. Young*
25th Inf Div, 8 October 1968

PFC Terry T. Kawamura*
173rd Abn Bde, 20 March 1969

SP4 Donald R. Johnston*
1st Cav Div, 21 March 1969

SFC William M. Bryant*
5th Special Forces (Abn), 24 March 1969

1LT Stephen H. Doane*
25th Inf Div, 25 March 1969

PFC Daniel J. Shea*
23rd Inf Div (Americ), 14 May 1969

SGT Charles C. Fleek*
25th Inf Div, 27 May 1969

1LT Robert L. Poxon*
1st Cav Div, 2 June 1969

LTC Charles C. Rogers
1st Inf Div, 1 November 1968

SSG Laszlo Rabel*
173rd Abn Bde, 13 November 1968

PFC Michael Crescenz*
23rd Inf Div (Americ), 20 November 1968

SGT John N. Holcomb*
1st Cav Div, 3 December 1968

SP4 Ray McKibben*
1st Avn Bde, 6 December 1968

PFC David P. Nash*
9th Inf Div, 28-29 December 1968

SFC Robert L. Howard
5th Special Forces (Abn), 30 December 1968

SSG Rodney J. Yano*
11th ACR, 1 January 1969

PFC Garfield Langhorn*
1st Avn Bde, 15 January 1969

PFC Thomas W. Bennett*
4th Inf Div, 9-11 February 1969

1LT Gary L. Miller*
1st Inf Div, 16 February 1969

SP4 Robert D. Law*
1st Inf Div, 22 February 1969

SP5 Robert W. Hartsock*
25th Inf Div, 23 February 1969

SGT Lester R. Stone Jr.*
23rd Inf Div (Americ), 3 March 1969

SP4 Thomas J. McMahon*
23rd Inf Div (Americ), 19 March 1969

(*indicates posthumous award)

...U.S. Awards Granted In Vietnam



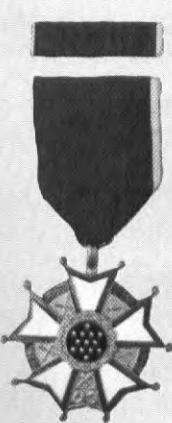
Distinguished Service Cross



Distinguished Service Medal



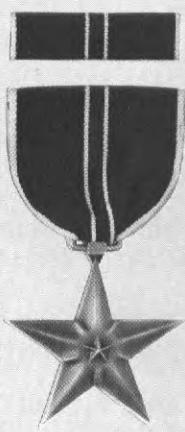
Silver Star



Legion of Merit



Soldier's Medal



Bronze Star Medal



Air Medal



Joint Services Commendation Medal



Purple Heart



Good Conduct Medal



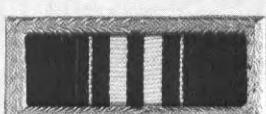
National Defense Service Medal



Combat Medical Badge



Presidential Unit Citation



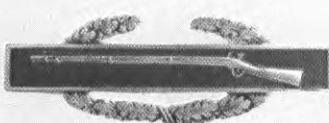
Valorous Unit Award



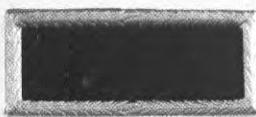
Distinguished Flying Cross



Army Commendation Medal



Combat Infantry Badge



Meritorious Unit Citation

1. Vietnam Advisory Campaign - March 15, 1962 to March 7, 1965
2. Vietnam Defensive Campaign - March 8, 1965 to December 24, 1965
3. Vietnam Counteroffensive Campaign, Phase I - December 25, 1965 to June 30, 1966
4. Vietnam Counteroffensive Campaign, Phase II - July 1, 1966 to May 31, 1967
5. Vietnam Counteroffensive Campaign, Phase III - June 1, 1967 to January 29, 1968
6. Tet Counteroffensive Campaign - January 30, 1968 to April 1, 1968
7. Vietnam Counteroffensive Campaign, Phase IV - April 2, 1968 to June 30, 1968
8. Vietnam Counteroffensive Campaign, Phase V - July 1, 1968 to November 1, 1968
9. Vietnam Counteroffensive Campaign, Phase VI - November 2, 1968 to February 22, 1969
10. Tet Counteroffensive Campaign - February 23, 1969 to June 8, 1969
11. Vietnam Summer-Fall '69 - June 9, 1969 to October 31, 1969
12. Vietnam Winter-Spring - November 1, 1969 to April 30, 1970
13. Current Campaign - May 1, 1970 to a date to be determined

Any member of the Army who is serving or who has served in Vietnam or contiguous waters or air space in accordance with AR 672-5-1, is authorized to wear a bronze battle star on the Vietnam service ribbon for each period in which he served in Vietnam.

... Vietnamese Awards



National Order
Of Vietnam



Army Distinguished
Service Order



Gallantry Cross



Armed Forces Honor Medal



Staff Service Medal



Technical Service Medal



Training Service Medal



Civil Action Medal



Vietnam Campaign Medal



Civil Action Medal
(unit award)



Gallantry Cross
(with palm)
(unit award)



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMANDING GENERAL
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96375



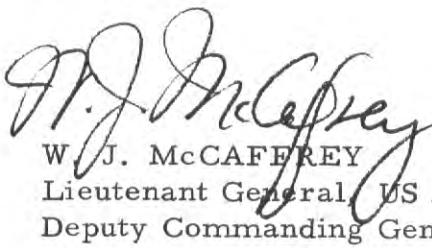
Your tour of duty in the Republic of Vietnam is now complete. Whether you have served in a support role or out in the field, you have contributed to the successful completion of the mission of the United States Army in Vietnam.

This magazine is, in part, a history of Vietnam, its people and the Vietnam conflict both past and present. I hope that it will help you understand the role you have played in this long and difficult struggle.

You will soon be on your way home. Your family and your friends are anxiously waiting for your return.

I extend sincere thanks for the fine job you have done. I suggest that in the years ahead you will take pride in the fact that when called, you served your country. I wish you all success in the years ahead.

Sincerely,


W. J. McCAFFREY
Lieutenant General, US Army
Deputy Commanding General

