

MAC-V  
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SUMMARY OF MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

3d Quarter 1966

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During the quarter, U.S. strength in South Vietnam increased from 276,000 to 316,000. Other Free World strength increased from 30,000 to 47,000.

Allied ground operations continued to deny the enemy the initiative and frustrate his plans for offensive action.

Heavy losses were inflicted upon the enemy during the quarter in terms of losses in men, materiel, and morale. However, the enemy maintained an estimated strength in South Vietnam of 282,000 to 283,000 throughout September. The enemy continued small-scale military actions against allied forces and installations, carried out resupply activities, continued the infiltration effort, and sought to improve his posture.

The major ground operation of the quarter was Operation Prairie which continues in Quang Tri Province. The other most significant operations were Hastings, Paul Revere II, Smithfield, Golden Fleece 7-1, Macon and Maeng Ho 6.

In the Republic, U.S. aircraft struck confirmed enemy buildups, including those in the DMZ. B-52 and tactical air strikes kept the enemy off-balance and destroyed his fortifications, supply areas and base camps, forced him to relocate his forces on a continuing basis, and inflicted significant manpower losses. A high strike sortie level was maintained. B-52s struck 117 times during the quarter, with several strikes on multiple targets.

Air provided invaluable logistical support through passenger and cargo airlift and air evacuation, and other invaluable support in aerial reconnaissance, rescue operations, defoliation, leaflet drops, revolutionary development, psychological broadcasts and airborne television. More than 502 million leaflets were dropped over South Vietnam and more than 132 million leaflets over North Vietnam.

The tempo of the air war over North Vietnam increased with U.S. strike pilots flying 9,657 missions against military targets in North Vietnam during the quarter. Strikes were concentrated on lines of communication, SAM sites, and POL storage areas.

North Vietnam air defenses were built up during the quarter, and attacking U.S. pilots encountered extremely heavy flak barrages over North Vietnam. Enemy antiaircraft, SAMs and MIGs were employed against our air attacks in coordinated efforts, but U.S. pilots continued the steadily increasing pressure.

Seven MIGs were downed by U.S. aircraft during the quarter. Two were MIG-21s; five were MIG-17s. One F-105 was lost in air combat with a MIG-17. MIG encounters and sightings increased monthly. Since MIG engagements began, 21 MIGs have been destroyed by U.S. aircraft, and four U.S. jets have been downed by MIGs.

U.S. Naval Forces, Vietnam, continued to broaden its coverage of the coastal and inland waters of South Vietnam. Facilities at the five MARKET TIME bases along the coast were enlarged; and three new GAME WARDEN bases were activated, bringing the GAME WARDEN base total to seven.

Naval Support Activity, Saigon, provided support for U.S. Naval forces in II, III and IV CTZ, while Naval Support Activity, Da Nang, supported the Free World forces in I CTZ.

Nineteen PCFs were added to the Coastal Surveillance Force, permitting expanded patrol coverage along the coast. Although no major infiltration attempts were detected, the expanded patrol effort resulted in numerous hostile fire and evading junk incidents, and increased naval fire support for friendly troops and coastal outposts.

The focus of in-country naval action shifted to Operation GAME WARDEN as patrol units, augmented by the arrival of 37 more PBRs, successfully pursued their mission of interdicting Viet Cong movement on the rivers of the Mekong Delta and the Rung Sat Special Zone. Increased Viet Cong harassment of patrol units and attempts to mine PBRs were indicative of the effectiveness of GAME WARDEN. The mining of a merchant ship led to further increase in mine countermeasures and patrol activity on the Saigon ship channel.

The Revolutionary Development Program showed overall improvement. As basic indicators, the amount of secured population increased, and the population under Viet Cong control decreased.

Civic action activity continued during the quarter. U.S. and other Free World Forces units in the first two months of the quarter voluntarily contributed more than \$80,000 to Vietnamese needs; worked on several hundred civic action construction projects; distributed over three million pounds of food; distributed over 270,000 pounds of clothing; distributed medical supplies, soap and seed; provided general medical

treatment for more than 600,000 Vietnamese; and provided more than 17,000 surgical operations, 11,000 dental treatments, and 30,000 immunizations for Vietnamese.

## HIGHLIGHTS BY MONTH OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

July 1966

### GENERAL

During July, U.S. strength in country increased from 276,000 to 286,000. Other Free World strength remained about 30,000. Estimated enemy strength in country increased from 271,000 to 277,000.

Known enemy personnel losses were 5,359 killed, 474 captured, and 813 military returnees. Enemy weapons losses were 1,248 individual weapons and 121 crew-served weapons. The number of enemy incidents during July (2,993) decreased from the number during June (3,431).

The tempo of the air war over North Vietnam increased noticeably as U.S. pilots struck at POL storage areas and facilities, lines of communication, military convoys, and flak and SAM sites. USAF F-104 Starfighters returned to southeast Asia.

U.S. strike aircraft flew a record number of sorties in support of military activities in South Vietnam on 27 July. Tactical air strikes into the DMZ were begun on 24 July to interdict heavy enemy infiltration of men and materials through the zone. B-52s struck in the DMZ for the first time on 30 July. Their targets were enemy troop concentrations and storage areas.

The Revolutionary Development Program showed continued progress.

In the area of civic action, the Psychological Operations Directorate coordinated the unloading and distribution of more than 800 tons of relief

goods received through project ACTT, a nationwide drive sponsored jointly by the Junior Chamber of Commerce and the Young Democrat and Young Republican Clubs in the United States. Since its inception last December, the ACTT drive shipped more than 3,000 tons of food, clothing, tools and medical supplies to Vietnam in support of more than 500,000 needy Vietnamese refugees, war widows and orphans. Free World Military Forces contributed over 4,800,000 piasters in support of hospitals, orphanages, religious organizations and schools within the Republic of Vietnam. Nearly 317,000 medical treatments (general, dental and surgical) were provided by medical civic action teams and Free World Military Forces. In addition, 34 tons of recovered rice were redistributed to the people.

#### GROUND OPERATIONS

Operation El Paso II, which was conducted in Binh Long Province from 2 June through 13 July, resulted in 855 enemy killed, 37 enemy captured, 1,512 tons of rice and 25 tons of salt captured. Of the enemy killed, 322 were killed in July.

The major operation of the month was Operation Hastings conducted in the Cam Lo region south of the DMZ in Quang Tri Province. This brigade-size search and destroy operation was launched against the the North Vietnamese Army 324B Division which had moved across the DMZ into Quang Tri Province. The operation spoiled the 324B Division's offensive and accounted for a total of 824 enemy killed, 14 captured, and 254 weapons captured.

Each of the above operations were supported by over a thousand tactical air sorties.

Operation Macon in Quang Nam Province also stood out with 207 enemy killed by the end of the month and the operation continuing.

Operation Paul Revere I continued in southwestern Pleiku Province. Enemy activity there was increasing at the close of the month, and the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) prepared to commit troops to reinforce the 3d Brigade, 25th Infantry Division.

#### AIR OPERATIONS

U.S. strike aircraft continued hitting military targets in North and South Vietnam. Principal targets in North Vietnam were war materiel and lines of communication. Heavy air strikes were flown into the lower panhandle of North Vietnam. In South Vietnam, U.S. strike aircraft continued to support ground operations and exact enemy losses.

B-52s hit suspected staging areas and enemy sanctuaries in South Vietnam during the month. They hit targets in Quang Tri Province on 10 days and in Tay Ninh Province on eight days.

In air combat in North Vietnam, two USAF F-4C Phantoms downed two MIG-21s and a USN F-4B shot down a MIG-17. A USAF F-105 was downed by a MIG-17.

#### NAVAL SURFACE OPERATIONS

During July, U.S. Navy ships, boats and aircraft and U.S. Coast Guard cutters in Operation Market Time inspected 32,947 junks/sampans,

boarded and searched 19,644 others, held 123, and detained 1,096 persons.

U.S. Navy patrol craft in Operation Game Warden inspected 4,597 junks/sampans, boarded and searched 5,527 others, held 88, and detained 899 persons.

Fourteen ships from the Seventh Fleet provided naval gunfire during July. More than 13,250 three, five, six and eight-inch shells; about 6,000 five-inch rockets and over 2,000 40mm rounds were fired at enemy targets. Total damage listed: 1,650 structures, 57 sampans, 54 junks, 10 cargo barges, 8 bunkers and one cave destroyed; 1,430 structures, 59 sampans and 28 junks damaged.

## HIGHLIGHTS BY MONTH OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

AUGUST 1966

### GENERAL

During August, U.S. strength in country increased from 286,000 to 306,000. Other Free World strength increased from 30,000 to 35,000. Estimated enemy strength in country increased from 277,000 to 282,000.

Known enemy personnel losses were 5,511 killed, 759 captured, and 350 military returnees. Enemy weapons losses were 1,246 individual weapons and 18 crew-served weapons. The number of enemy incidents during August (2,424) decreased from the number during July (2,993) and June (3,431).

The most successful military action in August, in terms of enemy casualties, was Operation Paul Revere II in Pleiku Province.

The enemy has been denied a major victory for more than five months and has suffered heavy losses in men, materiel and morale.

The Revolutionary Development Program showed overall improvement.

In the area of civic action, U.S., GVN and other Free World Military forces contributed 4,675,062 piasters in support of hospitals, orphanages, religious organizations, schools, and individual and community welfare. Over 347,000 medical treatments (general, dental and surgical) were provided by Medical Civic Action teams and military forces. Also, 27 tons of rice were redistributed to the populace.

Over North Vietnam, U.S. pilots continued strikes on transportation facilities, SAM sites and POL storage areas.

A third aircraft carrier was added to the USN strike force against North Vietnam.

For the second consecutive month an enemy SAM missile was seen to impact in a populated area of North Vietnam. On 7 August seven U.S. strike aircraft were lost to enemy action over North Vietnam.

Tactical airstrikes and B-52 strikes continued to pound the enemy buildup and infiltration in the DMZ.

#### GROUND OPERATIONS

The month of August started with increased attention to Pleiku Province. Operation Paul Revere I in Pleiku Province was terminated 31 July with 546 enemy killed, and was followed immediately there with an expanded multi-brigade operation, Operation Paul Revere II, which extended to 25 August and accounted for 809 enemy killed and 104 captured.

Operation Smithfield, conducted by the 6th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, resulted in the major military victory of the month. Designed as a search and destroy operation, it was conducted in the Nui Dat and Xa Long area of Phuoc Tuy Province. The battle took place late on the afternoon of 18 August when two reinforced Viet Cong battalions attempted to overrun an Australian company. A valiant company defense aided by accurate and intense artillery support and timely reinforcement dealt a severe defeat to the enemy. Enemy losses from the battle were 245 killed and three captured. Australian losses were 17 killed and 22 wounded.

On 26 August in Operation Amarillo a patrol from the 1st Infantry Division and a reinforced Viet Cong battalion engaged in battle in the Phu Loi area 27 miles north of Saigon. The 1st Infantry Division committed a multi-battalion force to the battle. The battle was hard-fought and resulted

in 102 enemy killed and six captured. Overall U.S. casualties were light; however, casualties in the battalion-size force most heavily engaged were moderate.

Elements of the NVA 324B Division were encountered in company strength or larger on five occasions during Operation Prairie. The largest engagement involved an attack by two companies, supported by mortars, against Marine positions at Cam Lo.

#### AIR OPERATIONS

U.S. strike aircraft missions and sorties over North Vietnam increased. Antiaircraft gun positions, railroads and rail marshalling lines, trucks, roads, PCL, and barges were hit daily. A significant number of enemy PT boats were sunk or damaged.

In South Viet Nam, strike aircraft continued support of allied ground operations and smashed enemy attacks on Special Forces Camps and other outposts.

B-52s struck daily at targets in the Republic hitting targets in Tay Ninh Province (War Zone C) on 11 days and in Quang Tri Province on eight days.

In air combat over North Vietnam, a USAF F-105 Thunderchief shot down a MIG-17.

#### NAVAL SURFACE OPERATIONS

During August, U.S. Navy ships, boats and aircraft and U.S. Coast Guard cutters in Operation Market Time inspected 33,135 junks/sampans, boarded and searched 23,478 others, held 135, and detained 970 persons.

U.S. Navy patrol craft in Operation Game Warden inspected 10,723 junks/sampans, boarded and searched 10,339 others, held 85, and detained 547 persons.

Twenty-two Seventh Fleet ships fired about 9,000 five and eight-inch shells and over 1,200 five-inch rockets at enemy targets during August.

An outstanding individual mission was fired by inshore fire support ship USS Carronade on 8 August when, in a two-hour period, she fired at two different targets with devastating results. Expending over 700 rockets, the ship destroyed or damaged 273 enemy structures and destroyed nine sampans.

Total bombardment damage listed: Over 1,300 structures either destroyed or damaged, over 30 sampans destroyed, and extensive damage to enemy fortifications.

**MAC-V**  
HIGHLIGHTS BY MONTH OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 1966

GENERAL

During September, U.S. strength in country increased from 305,000 to over 315,000. Other Free World strength increased from 35,000 to about 41,000. Estimated enemy strength in country increased from 282,000 to 283,000.

Known enemy personnel losses (based on partial returns) were over 4,000 killed, over 700 captured, and 885 Chieu Hoi returnees. Enemy weapons losses were over 1,000 individual weapons and over 90 crew-served weapons.

B-52s hit infiltration routes and enemy troop and materiel concentrations in the DMZ and just north of the DMZ in North Vietnam. B-52 pilots flew their 5,000th sortie in South Viet Nam.

Air action in North and South Vietnam increased through the month. On 10 September, U.S. strike pilots flew a record number of sorties over North Vietnam. On 11 September, they flew a record 171 missions over North Vietnam.

Balloons were noticed over North Vietnam near Haiphong. Purpose of these balloons was unknown.

GROUND OPERATIONS

In the month of September, main attention returned to the III MAF area with the major actions there being Prairie, Golden Fleece 7-1, and Macon.

Operation Prairie was initiated 3 August in Quang Tri Province against major NVA forces crossing into the province through the DMZ. Presence of

the 90th, 803d, and 812th Regiments of the NVA 324B Division was confirmed. The operation continued at the end of the month with 943 enemy killed and three captured. Marine casualties in the brigade-size operation are moderate.

Operation Golden Fleece 7-1, a rice harvest protection/search and destroy operation in Quang Ngai Province terminated with 244 enemy killed and light friendly casualties. An estimated 7,620 tons of rice were harvested under the protection of the Marine and ARVN forces in the area.

Operation Macon continued throughout the month in Quang Nam Province and at the end of the month had accounted for 442 enemy killed and seven captured. Marine casualties in the battalion-size operation are moderate.

The Capital Republic of Korea Infantry Division in Binh Dinh Province terminated one major operation and immediately initiated another. Operation Su Bok which was conducted from 26 March to 22 September terminated with 615 enemy killed and 299 captured. Operation Maeng Ho 6 at the end of the month was continuing with 351 enemy killed and 158 captured. Republic of Korea casualties are light in both operations.

#### AIR OPERATIONS

MIG sightings and encounters became more numerous during September as U.S. strike aircraft continued to hit targets in North Vietnam. Despite heavy flak concentrations, enemy POL, railroad rolling stock, truck parks, barges and storage areas were hit daily. USN jets isolated railroad cars at Thanh Hoa and Ninh Binh railroad yards and destroyed and damaged a significant number of these cars. USAF jets pounded storage areas, particularly in the lower panhandle, and interdicted roads and

railroads running northeast and northwest of Hanoi. Bridges, barges and PT boats were hit heavily.

In South Viet Nam, USAF Dragon-ships regularly disrupted enemy night attacks on friendly units, and daily tactical air strikes continued to knock the enemy off-balance and to support Free World forces ground operations.

USAF B-52s continued to strike enemy base camps and troop concentrations, and struck enemy infiltration routes through the DMZ. Many of the B-52 attacks were in support of U.S. ground operations. B-52s struck in Quang Tri Province or just north of Quang Tri Province on 18 days in September, and in Binh Dinh Province on 9 days.

In air combat over North Vietnam two USAF F-105 Thunderchiefs shot down 2 MIG-17s, and a USAF F-4C Phantom downed a MIG-17.

#### NAVAL SURFACE OPERATIONS

During September, U.S. Navy ships, boats and aircraft and U.S. Coast Guard cutters in Operation Market Time inspected 24,254 junks/sampans, boarded and searched 19,119 others, held 177, and detained 464 persons.

U.S. Navy patrol craft in Operation Game Warden inspected 7,471 junks/sampans, boarded and searched 8,400 others, held 91, and detained 555 persons.

Twenty-three ships fired naval gunfire support in the Republic, firing over 7,100 three, five, six and eight-inch shells; 1,310 rounds of 40mm ammunition and over 4,200 five-inch rockets, at enemy targets during September. Naval gunfire destroyed or damaged 1,797 structures and 36 sampans.