

Vietnam Communique

Jan. 14-Jan. 19

25th Inf blasts 181 VC in III Corps

25th Inf Div

Soldiers of the 25th Infantry Division reported sporadic action during the week as they killed 181 of the enemy.

On Jan. 14 soldiers of the 25th Division and supporting elements killed 122 NVA in repulsing ambushes on resupply convoys to Dau Tieng and Tay Ninh City.

Soldiers of the 3rd Bde, with artillery and air support broke up two would-be ambushes on Highways 14 and 239 the same day.

Enemy activity in the area of the ambushes, five to nine miles west of Dau Tieng, flared momentarily during the morning hours, but was quelled by elements of the 2nd Bn., 22nd Inf. before the convoys arrived from the division's Cu Chi base camp.

On Jan. 17, tanks and armored personnel carriers of the 25th Infantry Division plowed through a long-time enemy stronghold nine miles northeast of Go Dau Ha, killing 43.

In other action the same day, 2nd Bde, soldiers of the 2nd Bn., 12th Inf., supported by airstrikes, killed four Viet Cong in a clash which flared sporadically over a five-hour period six miles north-northwest of Cu Chi.

1st Cav Div

Infantrymen of the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) and supporting airstrikes killed 31 enemy in actions on Jan. 17.

The day's largest action came when gunship crews from B Troop, 1st Squadron, 9th Air Cav. spotted an estimated platoon-size enemy force 11 miles north of Dong Xoai. The gunners fired mini-guns and rockets and reported killing 18 NVA soldiers. Later in the same area, soldiers from the 1st Bn., 12th Cav. killed four NVA and received one Hoi Chanh.

The following day elements of the 1st Cavalry Division and supporting forces killed 25 enemy in scattered actions mostly around An Loc.

Chopper gunners from the 1st Squadron, 9th Air Cav. accounted for 10 of the enemy killed.

Nine miles north of An Loc, three enemy were reported killed by 2nd Bde elements.

Americal Div

Americal Division forces killed 30 enemy in scattered actions on Jan. 16.

Soldiers from the 198th Light Inf. Bde's 3rd Bn., 21st Inf. killed seven enemy in five actions 11 miles west of Tam Ky, while other brigade elements added three more elsewhere.

On Jan. 19, Americal forces reported killing 24 enemy in scattered actions.

Operating in the mountainous jungle around Tam Ky, elements of the 198th Light Inf. Bde's 2nd Bn., 1st Inf. killed four enemy in three contacts.

Riflemen of the 3rd Bn., 21st Inf. added three more enemy killed in actions northwest of Tam Ky, while a brigade recon patrol killed one enemy in the same area.

Gunship crews of the 174th Assault Helicopter Co. teamed with soldiers of the 1st Bn., 20th Inf. to kill five enemy in two contacts 12 miles northwest of Duc Pho. Other brigade elements accounted for one enemy killed.

1st Inf Div

In light action during the week, Big Red One soldiers of the 1st Infantry Division reported killing 13 enemy.

On Jan. 14, in scattered actions three VC were killed.

A patrol from the 1st Bn., 18th Inf. engaged two VC, killing one six miles southeast of Lai Khe, while a patrol from the 2nd Bn., 18th Inf. killed one enemy near Thu Duc. Eight miles northeast of Lai Khe one more enemy was killed by a patrol from the 1st Bn., 28th Inf.

4th Inf Div

Soldiers of the 4th Infantry Division killed 12 enemy and unearthed two and one half tons of rice on Jan. 15.

Gunship crews from the 7th Squadron, 17th Air Cav. engaged 10 to 15 enemy 24 miles southeast of Camp Enari, reportedly killing nine. An aero-rifle platoon detained four suspects in the same area later in the day.

On the following day seven enemy were killed by elements of the 4th Infantry Division in scattered actions.

9th Inf Div

Heavy contact was reported by soldiers of the 9th Infantry Division as they

killed 151 enemy during the week.

In scattered actions on Jan. 14 9th Division soldiers and supporting elements killed 44 Viet Cong.

Gunship crews from D Troop, 3rd Squadron, 5th Armored Cav., supporting 2nd Bde, Mobile Riverine Force soldiers, accounted for nine enemy killed six miles south of Dong Tam. Elements of the 4th Bn., 47th Inf. killed five enemy while conducting eagle flights in the same vicinity.

On Jan. 15 9th Infantry Division soldiers and supporting elements killed 32 enemy in scattered actions.

A night ambush patrol from the 2nd Bn., 60th Inf. engaged an enemy sampan carrying seven enemy; killing three, 11 miles east of Tan An.

1st Avn Bde

Gunship crews from the 164th Combat Aviation Group reported killing 110 Viet Cong sinking 13 sampans, and destroying 21 structures in several actions in the IV Corps Tactical Zone on Jan. 14.



A CAREFUL APPROACH is made by members of Co. C, 4th Bn., 503rd Inf., 173rd Airborne Brigade as they move along a trail toward a suspected Viet Cong village near An Khe.

The day's heaviest action came when gunship crews from B Troop, 7th Squadron, 1st Air Cavalry engaged a large enemy force about 20 miles north of Vinh Long. The gunners reported 47 enemy killed and added 14 additional enemy in actions later that day in the same area.

Eleven more enemy were killed during an engagement about 22 miles southwest of Can Tho the same day.

11th Armored Cav Regt

Soldiers from the 2nd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment and supporting forces have been conducting a cordon and search operation in a village east of Lai Khe, which has resulted in 77 suspects detained including 10 ralliers under the Chieu Hoi program.

The village, long a haven for Viet Cong and NVA forces, was sealed by the Blackhorse soldiers along with elements of the 3rd Bn., 8th Regt., 5th ARVN Infantry Division.

173rd Abn Bde

Paratroopers of the 173rd Airborne Bde. experienced light contact during the week, killing 17 enemy soldiers.

Ten NVA soldiers were killed during two abortive enemy ambushes near An Khe on Jan. 15. A mechanized unit with the 173rd Airborne Brigade met an NVA company while on a mine sweep six miles west of An Khe and killed eight enemy in the ensuing battle.

199th Light Inf Bde

During light and scattered actions on Jan. 15, elements of the 5th Bn., 12th Inf. killed one Viet Cong outside a night defensive position three miles south of Duc Hoa. Five miles west of Ben Luc, other battalion infantrymen uncovered six 55-gallon drums of gasoline along with a small amount of munitions and other supplies.

54th Arty Gp

Cannoneers from the 54th Artillery Group's Btry. B, 2nd Bn., 35th Arty. responded to an aerial observer's sighting of an estimated 30 Viet Cong in the open six miles south of Bear Cat on Jan. 18. Artillery was directed at the fleeing enemy, and a later sweep by Australian forces revealed 12 enemy bodies.

In other action three miles southeast of Xuan Loc, Btry. A and Btry. B of the 7th Bn., 8th Arty. destroyed 15 bunkers during an afternoon fire mission.

101st Abn Div

Soldiers of the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) killed 12 enemy in a single contact on Jan. 16.

Elements from the 2nd Bn., 327th Inf. engaged an estimated 25 enemy from their night position near the Thua Luu bridge, six miles east of Phu Loc. The soldiers allowed the enemy to get within 30 yards of their position before opening fire, killing 12 and capturing six individual weapons.

On the following day 101st soldiers killed 10 enemy in scattered action.

3rd Bde, 82nd Abn Div

Soldiers from the 3rd Bde., 82nd Airborne Division's 1st Bn., 508th Inf. found the bodies of four enemy apparently killed by artillery ten miles northwest of Saigon on Jan. 14.

1st Bde, 5th Inf Div

Reconnaissance elements of the 4th Squadron, 12th Armored Cav. engaged and killed four enemy in a jungle area nine miles south of Quang Tri. Two individual weapons were captured.

Elements of the 1st Bn., 11th Inf. detained six Viet Cong suspects after discovering a small enemy base camp 15 miles south of Quang Tri.