

Vietnam communique

April 7 to April 13

Ground units encounter light contact

Communist gunners hit military and civilian targets near Saigon with a heavy barrage of mortars and rockets in the middle of the week, but ground contact throughout Vietnam was relatively light.

Soldiers of the 15th Infantry Division killed many enemy in several actions near Trang Bang. Sixty-one enemy died when division soldiers found an enemy battalion-sized base camp near Tay Ninh.

North of Saigon, American Division soldiers ran into enemy resistance northwest of Tam Ky while sweeping in Operation Frederick Hill.

25th Inf Div

Elements of the 1st Bde., 25th Infantry Division went after a new enemy battalion-sized base camp northwest of Tay Ninh April 10 and drew fire from the area. Heavy artillery and four airstrikes were directed into the area and a post-strike assessment disclosed 61 NVA soldiers killed and four anti-aircraft positions destroyed.

That same day, other division elements uncovered a 51-bunker complex south of Tay Ninh.

The next day, a division night defensive position was fired upon. The infantrymen returned fire and called in artillery and Spooky gunships. After a little more than an hour's fighting, the action stopped and a sweep at dawn revealed 33 enemy dead.

Also on April 11, 3rd Bde. soldiers engaged an enemy squad, killing 12 six miles northeast of Dau Tieng.

On April 7, 1st Bn., 5th Inf. soldiers killed 33 NVA soldiers in a second day of fighting eight miles east of Trang Bang.

April 12 saw 2nd Bde. mechanized infantrymen engage an estimated 100 NVA soldiers five miles northeast of Trang Bang, killing 24 enemy.

South of Go Dau Ha April 8, enemy movement was detected near a fire support base. The enemy unit was dispersed by artillery, airstrikes and gunship fire but the NVA regrouped to move against the U.S. position. They got to within 800 meters of the Americans and then were routed by allied weaponry. Eight enemy bodies were found, along with 25 pounds of bloody clothing, after the action.

An hour-long firefight between the 3rd Squadron, 4th Armored Cav. and an NVA force six miles northeast of Go Dau Ha resulted in 13 enemy killed on April 9.

9th Inf Div

In several contacts April 11, 9th Infantry Division elements of the 3rd Brigade's 4th Bn., 47th Inf., supported by air strikes and artillery, killed 29 VC in the thick nipa palm three miles northeast of Ben Tre, while two 1st Bde. companies that day teamed up with artillery and gunships to kill 28 VC in contacts centered 12 miles west of Cai Be.

Late on the night of April 8, 3rd Bde. soldiers ambushed an estimated 75 enemy three miles south of Ben Luc. In the three hours of fighting that ensued, the infantrymen, gunship crews, artillery and elements of the ARVN 25th Infantry Division killed 47 enemy.

On April 10, 2nd Bde. Mobile Riverine Force elements accounted for 40 VC, 17 in ambushes.

Reconos of the 1st Bde. killed 35 enemy soldiers in small encounters reported for April 11, while 2nd Bde. Riverine troops added 35 enemy deaths to the tallies.

In scattered action in Long An Province that day, 3rd Bde. soldiers and supporting units killed 23 VC.

1st Cav Div

"A bullet . . . can move faster than a man's legs," observed Capt. Lance Lane, operations officer of C Troop, 1st Squadron, 9th Air Cav., after chopper gunners cut down five enemy with machine gun fire after spotting some 15 VC six miles northwest of Phuoc Vinh April 12.

On April 13, a detainee led elements of

the 1st Bn., 12th Cav., to an area less than three miles from Phuoc Vinh, where they found a cache of 7,200 rounds of small arms ammunition, 28 B-41 rockets and charges, 25 B-40 rockets and charges, 63 60mm mortar rounds, 70 mortar fuses and 200 pounds of C-4 explosive.

In another action that day, an element of the 2nd Bn., 12th Cav., working with an element of the 1st Bn., 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, made contact with an unknown-size enemy force in bunkers five miles southeast of Phu Khuong. The Americans killed 11 VC.

Soldiers of the 2nd Bn., 5th Cav. followed up an air strike 18 miles north of Tay Ninh April 9 and found more than 300 bicycle rims and tires, 150 to 200 axes and a number of bicycle frames in the ruins of nine bunkers.

Seventeen bodies and 130 200-pound sacks of rice were found by Skytroopers seven miles northeast of Phu Khuong after they called in artillery and air strikes on an NVA bunker complex April 7.

Americal Div

Armored troops of the Americal Division's 1st Squadron, 1st Cav. killed 17 enemy in Operation Frederick Hill April 11.

Cavalrymen from Troops A and B encountered enemy soldiers throughout the day on Barrier Island, less than 20 miles north-northwest of Tam Ky. In several skirmishes, the troopers killed 13 enemy. Four more VC were killed in a rice paddy area six miles west of Tam Ky by cavalrymen of Troop C.

While searching an area more than 35 miles west-northwest of Tam Ky April 8, men of Co. C, 4th Bn., 31st Inf. found an NVA base camp of two camouflaged huts and two underground classrooms.

In the camp were 40 wooden practice grenades, vine used to simulate barbed wire, 10 pairs of wire cutters, 15 AK-47 magazines, 31 B-40 rocket boosters, five 25-pound charges, 14 Bangalore torpedoes and 250 pounds of rice.

In Operation Frederick Hill April 12, troopers of the 1st Squadron, 1st Cav. encountered a VC force 18 miles north-northwest of Tam Ky. The Americans killed four in the fire fight that followed, while in other nearby action, squadron elements killed six VC.

1st Inf Div

In three separate contacts April 9, units of the 1st Infantry Division's 2nd Bn., 16th Inf. and 2nd Bn., 28th Inf. and the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment accounted for seven VC killed and five AK-47 rifles, two RPG rounds and an RPG launcher captured. Elements of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment destroyed 25 bunkers in an action seven miles east of Lai Khe.

On April 11, soldiers of the 2nd Bn., 34th Armor, killed 11 enemy northwest of Lai Khe, while men of the 2nd Bn., 18th Inf. found four enemy bodies northwest of An Loc.

April 8 saw elements of the 1st Bn., 16th Inf. and 2nd Bn., 28th Inf. team up with elements of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment to kill six enemy about 10 miles east of Lai Khe.

101st Abn Div

Screaming Eagles of the 101st Airborne Division killed 15 enemy in sporadic contacts April 7. The largest action of the day saw the 1st Bn., 502nd Inf. kill six enemy and capture two crew-served weapons and three individual weapons southwest of Hue.

On April 10, 101st soldiers again chalked up 15 enemy kills as they followed up contacts made during the previous days.

4th Inf Div

Soldiers of the 4th Infantry Division made a major dent in the enemy's food supplies during the week, chiefly through



1st Cav Photo

COMMANDOS AND TANKS of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment link up in a push against the enemy north of Tan Uyen.

a 99,400-pound rice haul April 10.

The bulk of the April 10 rice was discovered by D Troop, 7th Squadron, 17th Air Cav. about 16 miles southeast of Pleiku. In a morning search, they found approximately 12,000 pounds of polished grain in a hole. The rice was evacuated to a Montagnard village. During the afternoon, the cavalrymen found a cache of 5,000 pounds, then one of 78,000 pounds located in 19 huts.

While searching an area 22 miles west of Camp Enari that day, men of the 1st Squadron, 10th Armored Cav. found caches of 4,400 pounds and 2,000 pounds in 11 huts.

Elements of A Troop, 7th Squadron, 17th Air Cav. swooped down on a VC propaganda and indoctrination training site some 29 miles southeast of Camp Enari April 13, killing seven VC in the process.

23rd Arty Gp

Cannoneers of the 23rd Artillery Group blasted a number of enemy positions during the week. Btry. A, 6th Bn., 27th Arty. killed four VC April 11 about 20 miles southwest of Quan Lai, destroying 10 bunkers and two anti-aircraft positions.

In other missions that day, Btry. A, 1st Bn., 27th Arty. was credited with killing two VC northeast of Dau Tieng.

Btry. B, 2nd Bn., 32nd Arty. joined in support of 25th Infantry Division soldiers April 10 in an action northwest of Tay Ninh that claimed 61 enemy dead.

1st Avn Bde

Chopper crews of the 1st Aviation Brigade were kept busy during the week. On April 11 a Stinger gunship crew from the 116th Assault Helicopter Co., 259th Combat Aviation Bn., broke up a would-be Viet Cong ambush 15 miles northwest of Duc Hoa. The crew sighted a possible ambush while flying along a hedgerow. Moving in to confirm their suspicions, the crew made under fire from the site and then blasted the enemy with machine gun fire. Three VC bodies were found later by infantrymen of the 3rd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division.

That same day, the men of the 243rd Assault Helicopter Co., 10th Combat Avn. Bn., marked their 20,000th accident-free air hour since the unit became operational in Vietnam on Nov. 19, 1967.

199th Inf Bde

At least 23 enemy bunkers were destroyed throughout the 199th Light Infantry Brigade's area of operations April 12, principally by the sharp eyes of Maj. Thomas Farga, a forward air controller, who called in air strikes on the bunkers.

In other action that day, Co. D, 2nd Bn., 3rd Inf. found a VC body six miles southwest of Saigon, while 75th Inf. elements found a munitions cache near Duc Hoa.

On April 9, elements of Co. D, 5th Bn., 12th Inf., probing with long poles, uncovered an underground munitions cache containing 36 60mm mortar rounds with fuses and 18 boxes of 7.62mm machine gun ammunition.

Members of the brigade's civic action section were honored April 13 at a luncheon in Ho Nai village. The villagers gave the luncheon to show their appreciation for the rebuilding the brigade has done for them since the 1968 Tet offensive.

3rd Bde, 82nd Abn Div

Soldiers of the 3rd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division continued to press the enemy during the week.

On April 11, elements of the brigade moved in to sweep the scene of a VC ambush that had been broken up by helicopter gunship crews. The brigade soldiers found three VC bodies in the area about 15 miles northwest of Duc Hoa.



GRASPING A HANDFUL of bamboo, Spec. 4 David Williamson makes his exit from one of the many canals in the Mekong Delta. He is assigned to the 9th Infantry Division's 3rd Bn., 47th Inf.

Grass doesn't hide Charlie from infantrymen, gunships

TAN AN — Third Brigade Infantrymen of the 9th Infantry Division's 2nd Bn., 60th Inf. teamed up with gunships of the 3rd Squadron, 17th Cavalry and

gunships of the 7th Squadron, 1st Cavalry to kill 33 enemy soldiers during airmobile operations in the Plain of Reeds.

At 9:35 a.m. a Capital Military

Assistance Command helicopter reported strong sniffer indications in his area of operations approximately 16 miles northwest of here. One half hour later initial elements of the 2nd Bn. were inserted into the area.

"A light observation helicopter had a squad size element of VC under observation and radioed us to follow his ship to them," said Spec. 4 Chester Bailey, a Co. A rifleman. "As soon as we were in the area, two VC opened fire on us and then began running away. We killed them. A few minutes later, our tiger scout found another VC hiding in the bush."

"That's how it went all day long," added Sgt. Richard Carter, a squad leader. "It was mostly just a case of finding them hiding in the grass."

Less than two hours after their insertion, Co. A had racked up a total of five enemy dead and six detainees.

By noon Companies B and C, as well as the reconnaissance platoon of 2nd Bn. had been inserted into the area which was believed to hold an enemy base camp.

"We had just sat down and began our sweep," recalled Pfc. Richard Jenkins, Co. B point man. "When all of a sudden a VC popped up out of a concealed hole and cut loose with his AK47. He missed and luckily, I didn't."

Action was sporadic throughout the afternoon. The instances of contact added up, however, and as evening fell, the battalion's troops had accounted for 16 enemy dead and nine detainees.

LP fights to safety

Cav soldiers smash attack

QUAN LOI — Viet Cong troops came out second-best after tackling a group of 1st Cavalry Division Skytroopers on Hill 54, an observation post near here.

A mortarman of the 1st Bn., 7th Cav. guarding the northern side of the perimeter spotted two figures moving towards him early in the morning. He had to hold his fire because of a listening post stationed to his front. Then the unbelievable happened — an NVA grenade bounced off his helmet, without going off.

That signaled the start of a four-hour B40 rocket attack and raging gun battle.

All of the above-ground bunkers were falling under the barrage of B40's, forcing the inhabitants to the mortar pits.

As Cobra gunships arrived, the ammo dump began to blow, adding to the confusion. The Cobras' fire was restricted as two listening posts were still outside the perimeter.

An estimated force of two enemy platoons positioned themselves on both sides of a ridge-line to the southeast of Hill 54. From there they fired B40's and threw Chicom grenades at the bunkers.

Working around the ridge were several caves from the listening post (LP). They were trapped in the middle of the two enemy platoons and their muzzle flashes were drawing enemy grenades. The concussion from the frags knocked one of

the Skytroopers out and he rolled to the bottom of the hill. When he came to he noticed trip flares going off to mark friendly positions. He started running up the hill, gnashing on a rock-hard piece of gum. As he reached the wire, two of his buddies came down and pulled him through the wire into a bunker.

One of the two remaining from the LP could be heard yelling at the bottom of the hill. Six cavalrymen broke from the bunker to get him, shooting an NVA on the way. When they were all back in the bunker, only one man from the LP was still outside the perimeter.

He'd gone around the northern

side of the ridge and crawled into a bomb crater. There he passed out from wounds. When he came to, he heard two NVA talking next to him. He shot one of them and started up the hill. He shot another just outside the perimeter. When his buddies pulled him into the bunker, he wouldn't let go of his rifle. He said he was going to hold onto it until the day he went home.

With everybody from the LP accounted for, the .30 caliber was free to sweep the hillside.

Contact broke at 5:30 a.m. Twelve enemy bodies and several hundred pounds of enemy equipment were found within a few yards of the perimeter.

Cobras, troops trap, destroy enemy force

SAIGON—Elements of the 2nd Bn., 505th Inf., 3rd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division joined with Vietnamese troops to kill 15 Viet Cong, detain one person and capture seven AK47 rifles about 12 miles northwest of here.

Brigade intelligence reported that elements of a VC regiment were in the marshy lands bordering the Saigon river.

Elements of Co. D, 505th Inf. boarded helicopters from the 1st Aviation Brigade's 120th Assault Helicopter Co. Gunboats worked their way up the river with the remainder of the company for a riverine assault. Meanwhile B Troop, 1st Squadron, 17th Cav. was maneuvering armored personnel carriers into blocking positions.

As troops were dropped into the area, Viet Cong were discovered hiding along the river bank. Gunships killed nine. Two more were seen running into a nearby hut which was destroyed by the Cobras. Following this contact, Co. D made a sweep of the area, detaining a suspect.

Through the night, action continued, as more Viet Cong were killed in fire-fights with 82nd Airborne troops.

A bunker complex was uncovered and destroyed, and a tunnel complex was located with no sign of enemy activity.



HUMPING AN M60 machinegun is hard work for most, but Pfc. Nolan Thompson dwarfs the weapon beside his 6 ft., 2 inch frame. Thompson is a member of the 101st Airborne Division's Co. D, 3rd Bn., 406th Inf., operating near Phan Thiet.

UpTight is uptight, Newsweek picks it

LONG BEACH—UpTight, the U.S. Army Vietnam quarterly magazine, has been named winner in special category of the Department of Defense (DOD) Thomas Jefferson Award competition. The award is given for overall excellence in supporting internal information objectives.

Newsweek magazine, which is cosponsoring this year's competition with DOD, judged UpTight to be the winner. The USARV magazine—the most current issue of which is now being distributed in Vietnam—was the only winner from the U.S. Army Pacific area.

The publication was in competition with similar periodicals from all U.S. armed services world-wide.

Maj. David L. Stanley, editor-in-chief of the publication, has been selected to represent USARV at the awards presentation. The Thomas Jefferson award will be presented in Williamsburg, Va., on May 15, and subsequently returned to USARV. Newsweek will also present a plaque to the major for his being "the individual who contributed most toward the winning entry."

Subsequently, the major will be Newsweek's guest in New York for a one-week internship with the magazine.

Stanley departs Vietnam early in May, after having served as command information officer for a year, being reassigned to duties with Department of Defense in Washington.

"Although I am receiving the award," he said, "the real credit goes to the many contributors to the magazine. These include not only the writers and photographers assigned at USARV's information office, but the many combat writers and photographers with the various units of USARV. It is through their efforts the publication has been able to provide a varied and informative content of interest to soldiers in Vietnam."

Force guards war's biggest tactical zone

g lands stretched
d interior of the
is the largest tactical

tical zone, both
exercised by I

eneral of Field
mand received to
is now chief of
corcoran previous
ates Military As-

Field Force with

Cambodian and
ating enemy sup-
ing the Viet Cong
of the Binh Dinh

mbat activities in
ters is co-located
on Army Republic
ordination. Under
together in multi-

id Force artillery

four aviation bat-
ies mobility to the

nd nation building
ation and revolu-
visory activity is
for themselves a



CHOPPER FROM THE 17TH AVIATION GROUP BRINGS INFANTRYMEN IN FOR A GROUND SWEEP NEAR KONTUM.



PARATROOPERS FOLLOW A SCOUT DOG.



A LRP POINTS TOWARD A SUSPECTED ENEMY POSITION NEAR PLEIKU.

ANF Photos



GUNNER SCANS PLAIN DURING OPERATION CONTROLLED BY I FIELD FORCE.

I Field Force

NHA TRANG (ANF)—From fertile, rice-growing lands stretched along the South China Sea deep into the rugged interior of the Central Highlands, U.S. Army I Field Force guards the largest tactical zone in the Republic of Vietnam.

Control of the war effort in II Corps tactical zone, from military and pacification standpoints, is exercised by I Field Force Headquarters located here.

Lt. Gen. William R. Peers, commanding general of I Field Force since March 1968, transferred his command recently to Lt. Gen. Charles A. Corcoran. General Peers is now chief of Reserve Components, Washington, D.C. General Corcoran previously held the position of chief of staff, United States Military Assistance Command, Vietnam.

Five major combat elements provide I Field Force with firepower and mobility:

- The 4th Infantry Division guards the Cambodian and Laotian borders in the western highlands, preventing enemy supplies and troops from infiltrating into the area.
- The 173rd Airborne Brigade, vital in denying the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese the rich rice harvests of the Binh Dinh province, is based near An Khe.
- Task Force South controls American combat activities in the southern provinces of II Corps. Its headquarters is co-located with the command post of the 23d Infantry Division (ARVN), permitting on-the-spot coordination. Under their respective commanders, these units operate together in multi-battalion operations.
- The 41st and 52nd Artillery Groups of I Field Force provide the necessary fire support.
- The 17th Combat Aviation Group, with four aviation battalions and one air cavalry squadron, contributes mobility to the forces.

Also of great importance is the pacification and nation-building effort performed by the I Field Force Civil Operation and Revolutionary Development Support (CORDS). This advisory activity is dedicated to helping the Vietnamese establish for themselves a strong and free country.



4TH INFANTRY DIVISION COBRA STRIKES ENEMY POSITIONS NEAR BAN ME THUOT



173RD AIRBORNE BRIGADE STRIKES ENEMY POSITIONS NEAR BAN ME THUOT