HAMMOND

VIETNAM CONFLICT

INDEX

SOUTH VIETNAM

Area — 65,726 sq. mi. *Geography* — The soil-rich flood plain of the Mekong Delta comprises the southern third of the country. Tropical rain forest is the dominant vegetation in the Uplands, which rise north of the Delta and end in the rugged terrain of the Annamese range. A central plateau region and a narrow strip of coastal plain are the other prominent features. *Climate* — Year-round tropical climate is found in the south, with monsoon rains in summer and temperatures averaging above 80 degrees F. Central Highlands and mountains experience a cooler season from October to March, with monsoon rains in winter. *People* — Ethnic Vietnamese are predominant, with small minorities of Chinese, Khmer (Cambodians) and Montagnards (mountain tribes).

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NORTH VIETNAM

Area — 63,370 sq. mi. *Geography* — The flat Red River Delta in the central portion of the country is the most agriculturally productive region. Most area is mountainous or rugged highlands, covered by thick tropical jungle. A coastal plain and the backbone of the Annamese range share the narrow, southern panhandle. *Climate* — From May to September, hot summer rains arrive in the southwest monsoon, while October to March remains warm and humid, but relatively dry. In the lowlands, a period of fog and drizzle is experienced from December to April. *People* — Almost ninety percent are ethnic Vietnamese, with the remainder spread among small mountain tribes such as Muong, Tai and Meo.

CITIES and TOWNS
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Bac Ninh ... C2
Bac Quang ... C1
Ba Don ... D4
Bai Thuong ... C3
Bao Ha ... C1
Bao Lac ... C1
Bo Trach ... D4
Cam Pha ... D2
Cao Bang ... D1
Cat Ba ... D2
Cho Chu ... C2
Co Lieu ... D4
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Cua Rao ... C3
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Tuyen Quang ... C2
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Van Yen ... C2
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Hon Mat (isl.) ... D3
Hon Me (isl.) ... D3
Hon Niem (isl.) ... C3
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Song Cau (river) ... C2
Song Chay (river) ... C1
Song Chu (river) ... C3
Song Con (river) ... C3
Song Da (Black) (river) ... B2
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LAOS

Area — 91,428 sq. mi. *Geography* — Rugged mountains run the entire length of this landlocked country's eastern boundary. From this chain, plateaus of dense jungle slope gradually to lowland of the Mekong River, which drains the entire country. *Climate* — Three seasons bring heat, humidity and heavy rains from May through September, cooler and drier weather through January, and a short hot and dry season from February to April. *People* — About half are Lao, lowland inhabitants descended from Thai people. Mon-Khmer tribes predominate in central and southern uplands, with small minorities of Vietnamese and Chinese throughout.

CITIES and TOWNS
Ang Kham ... C4
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Ban Don Noun ... B4
Ban Keng Kok ... C4
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Ban Phonmuang (Kham Keut) ... C3
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Boten (Botene) ... A4
Boun Tai ... B2
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Dong-Hen ... C4
Khok He ... B3
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Muang Houn ... A2
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Muang Khongxedon (Khong Sedone) ... C5
Muang Khoua ... B2
Muang Kong (Khong) ... C5
Muang Mai (Attopeu) ... D5
Muang Nane ... B3
Muang Ngoi ... B2
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Muang Xai (Sai) ... A2
Muang Xepon (Tchepone) ... D4
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Phiafay ... D5
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Saravan (Saravane) ... D5
Savannakhet ... C4
Thac Hiet ... D5
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Nam Seng (river) ... B2
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Phou Co Pi (mt.) ... C4
Phou Loi (mt.) ... B2
Phu Xai Lai Leng (mt.) ... C3
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CAMBODIA

Area — 68,898 sq. mi. *Geography* — The flat, central basin of the Mekong River and Tonle Sap (Great Lake) is agriculturally rich. This plain rises to the Cardamom Mountains along the Thailand border in the west, the Dangrek Chain, an escarpment in the northwest, and the foothills of the Vietnamese Central Highlands in the east. *Climate* — The hot, tropical monsoon cycle brings rains from late May to November, with high humidity year round. *People* — Ninety percent are ethnic Khmer, with small minorities of Chinese and Vietnamese.

CITIES and TOWNS
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Cheom Khsan ... C5
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Chhoeu Kach ... C7
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Kampong Cham ... C6
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Kampong Speu ... C7
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Kaoh Kong (isl.) ... B7
Kaoh Rong (isl.) ... B7
Koh Rong Samlem (isl.) ... B7
Kaoh Thmey (isl.) ... B7
Kas Tang (isl.) ... B7
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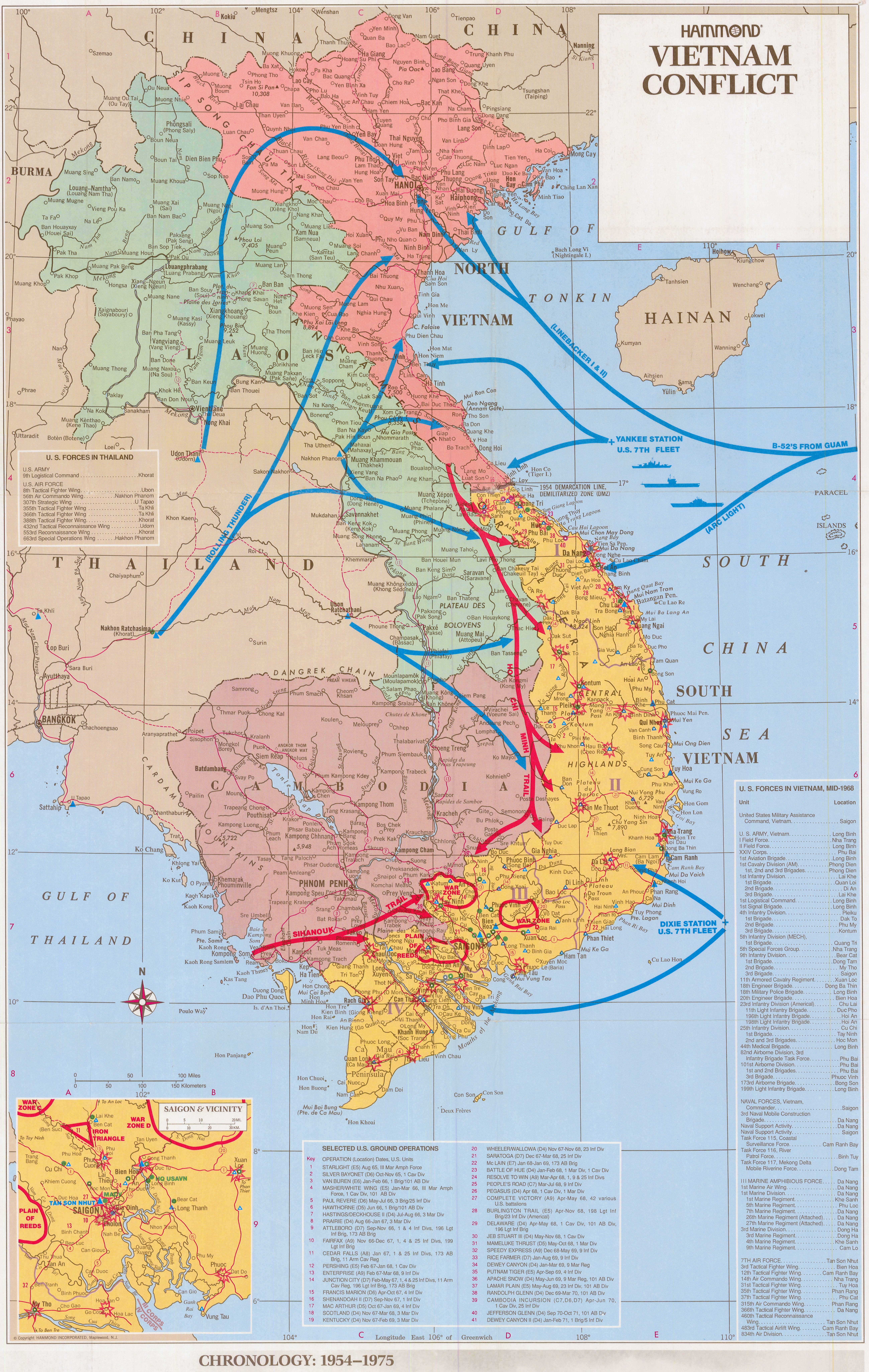
Preas Trapeung (rapids) ... D6
Prek Chhlong (river) ... D6
Prek Te (river) ... D6
Prek Thnot (river) ... C7
Sambor (rapids) ... D6
Samit (point) ... B7
Se San (river) ... D6
Srepok (river) ... D6
St. Chikreng (river) ... C6
St. Porong (river) ... C6
St. Pursat (river) ... B6
St. Sang Ke (river) ... B6
St. Sen (river) ... C6
St. Sreng (river) ... B5
St. Staung (river) ... C6
Tonle Kong (river) ... D6
Tonle Repou (river) ... C5
Tonle Sap (lake) ... B6



U. S. FORCES IN THAILAND

U.S. ARMY	
9th Logistical Command	Khorat
U.S. AIR FORCE	
8th Tactical Fighter Wing	Ubon
56th Air Commando Wing	Nakhon Phanom
307th Strategic Wing	U Tapao
355th Tactical Fighter Wing	Ta Khli
366th Tactical Fighter Wing	Ta Khli
388th Tactical Fighter Wing	Khorat
432nd Tactical Reconnaissance Wing	Udorn
553rd Reconnaissance Wing	Khorat
663rd Special Operations Wing	Hakhon Phanom

U. S. FORCES IN VIETNAM, MID-1968

Unit	Location
United States Military Assistance Command, Vietnam	Saigon
U. S. ARMY, Vietnam	Long Binh
I Field Force	Nha Trang
II Field Force	Long Binh
XXIV Corps	Phu Bai
1st Aviation Brigade	Long Binh
1st Cavalry Division (AM)	Phong Dien
1st, 2nd and 3rd Brigades	Phong Dien
1st Infantry Division	Lai Khe
1st Brigade	Quan Loi
2nd Brigade	Di An
3rd Brigade	Lai Khe
1st Logistical Command	Long Binh
1st Signal Brigade	Long Binh
4th Infantry Division	Pleiku
1st Brigade	Dak To
2nd Brigade	Phu My
3rd Brigade	Kontum
5th Infantry Division (MECH), 1st Brigade	Quang Tri
5th Special Forces Group	Nha Trang
9th Infantry Division	Bear Cat
1st Brigade	Dong Tam
2nd Brigade	My Tho
3rd Brigade	Saigon
11th Armored Cavalry Regiment	Xuan Loc
18th Engineer Brigade	Dong Ba Thin
18th Military Police Brigade	Long Binh
20th Engineer Brigade	Bien Hoa
23rd Infantry Division (Americal)	Chu Lai
11th Light Infantry Brigade	Duc Pho
196th Light Infantry Brigade	Hoi An
198th Light Infantry Brigade	Hoi An
25th Infantry Division	Cu Chi
1st Brigade	Tay Ninh
2nd and 3rd Brigades	Hoc Mon
44th Medical Brigade	Long Binh
82nd Airborne Division, 3rd Infantry Brigade Task Force	Phu Bai
101st Airborne Division	Phu Bai
1st and 2nd Brigades	Phu Bai
3rd Brigade	Phuoc Vinh
173rd Airborne Brigade	Bong Son
199th Light Infantry Brigade	Long Binh
NAVAL FORCES, Vietnam, Commander	Saigon
3rd Naval Mobile Construction Brigade	Da Nang
Naval Support Activity	Da Nang
Naval Support Activity	Saigon
Task Force 115, Coastal Surveillance Force	Cam Ranh Bay
Task Force 116, River Patrol Force	Binh Tuy
Task Force 117, Mekong Delta Mobile Riverine Force	Dong Tam
III MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE	Da Nang
1st Marine Air Wing	Da Nang
1st Marine Division	Da Nang
1st Marine Regiment	Khe Sanh
5th Marine Regiment	Phu Loc
7th Marine Regiment	Da Nang
26th Marine Regiment (Attached)	Da Nang
27th Marine Regiment (Attached)	Da Nang
3rd Marine Division	Dong Ha
3rd Marine Regiment	Dong Ha
4th Marine Regiment	Khe Sanh
9th Marine Regiment	Cam Lo
7TH AIR FORCE	Tan Son Nhut
3rd Tactical Fighter Wing	Bien Hoa
12th Tactical Fighter Wing	Cam Ranh Bay
14th Air Commando Wing	Nha Trang
31st Tactical Fighter Wing	Tuy Hoa
35th Tactical Fighter Wing	Phan Rang
37th Tactical Fighter Wing	Phu Cat
315th Air Commando Wing	Phan Rang
366th Tactical Fighter Wing	Da Nang
460th Tactical Reconnaissance Wing	Tan Son Nhut
483rd Tactical Airlift Wing	Cam Ranh Bay
834th Air Division	Tan Son Nhut

SELECTED U.S. GROUND OPERATIONS

Key	OPERATION (Location) Dates, U.S. Units
1	STARLIGHT (E5) Aug 65, III Mar Amph Force
2	SILVER BAYONET (D6) Oct-Nov 65, 1 Cav Div
3	VAN BUREN (E6) Jan-Feb 66, 1 Brig/101 AB Div
4	MASHER/WHITE WING (E5) Jan-Mar 66, III Mar Amph Force, 1 Cav Div, 101 AB Div
5	PAUL REVERE (D6) May-Jul 66, 3 Brig/25 Inf Div
6	HAWTHORNE (D5) Jun 66, 1 Brig/101 AB Div
7	HASTINGS/DECKHOUSE II (D4) Jul-Aug 66, 3 Mar Div
8	PRAIRIE (D4) Aug 66-Jan 67, 3 Mar Div
9	ATTLEBORO (D7) Sep-Nov 66, 1 & 4 Inf Divs, 196 Lgt Inf Brig, 173 AB Brig
10	FAIRFAX (A9) Nov 66-Dec 67, 1, 4 & 25 Inf Divs, 199 Lgt Inf Brig
11	CEDAR FALLS (A8) Jan 67, 1 & 25 Inf Divs, 173 AB Brig, 11 Arm Cav Reg
12	PERSHING (E5) Feb 67-Jan 68, 1 Cav Div
13	ENTERPRISE (A9) Feb 67-Mar 68, 9 Inf Div
14	JUNCTION CITY (D7) Feb-May 67, 1, 4 & 25 Inf Divs, 11 Arm Cav Reg, 196 Lgt Inf Brig, 173 AB Brig
15	FRANCIS MARION (D6) Apr-Oct 67, 4 Inf Div
16	SHENANDOAH II (D7) Sep-Nov 67, 1 Inf Div
17	MAC ARTHUR (D5) Oct 67-Jan 69, 4 Inf Div
18	SCOTLAND (D4) Nov 67-Mar 68, 3 Mar Div
19	KENTUCKY (D4) Nov 67-Feb 69, 3 Mar Div
20	WHEELER/WALLOWA (D4) Nov 67-Nov 68, 23 Inf Div
21	SARATOGA (D7) Dec 67-Mar 68, 25 Inf Div
22	Mc LAIN (E7) Jan 68-Jan 69, 173 AB Brig
23	BATTLE OF HUE (D4) Jan-Feb 68, 1 Mar Div, 1 Cav Div
24	RESOLVE TO WIN (A9) Mar-Apr 68, 1, 9 & 25 Inf Divs
25	PEOPLE'S ROAD (C7) Mar-Jul 68, 9 Inf Div
26	PEGASUS (D4) Apr 68, 1 Cav Div, 1 Mar Div
27	COMPLETE VICTORY (A9) Apr-May 68, 42 various U.S. battalions
28	BURLINGTON TRAIL (E5) Apr-Nov 68, 198 Lgt Inf Brig/23 Inf Div (Americal)
29	DELAWARE (D4) Apr-May 68, 1 Cav Div, 101 AB Div, 196 Lgt Inf Brig
30	JEB STUART III (D4) May-Nov 68, 1 Cav Div
31	MAMELUKE THRUST (D5) May-Oct 68, 1 Mar Div
32	SPEEDY EXPRESS (A9) Dec 68-May 69, 9 Inf Div
33	RICE FARMER (D7) Jan-Aug 69, 9 Inf Div
34	DEWEY CANYON (D4) Jan-Mar 69, 9 Mar Reg
35	PUTNAM TIGER (E5) Apr-Sep 69, 4 Inf Div
36	APACHE SNOW (D4) May-Jun 69, 9 Mar Reg, 101 AB Div
37	LAMAR PLAIN (E5) May-Aug 69, 23 Inf Div, 101 AB Div
38	RANDOLPH GLENN (D4) Dec 69-Mar 70, 101 AB Div
39	CAMBODIA INCURSION (C7,D6,D7) Apr-Jun 70, 1 Cav Div, 25 Inf Div
40	JEFFERSON GLENN (D4) Sep 70-Oct 71, 101 AB Div
41	DEWEY CANYON II (D4) Jan-Feb 71, 1 Brig/5 Inf Div

LEGEND

⊛ Capitals of Countries	U.S. Forces in South Vietnam, 1968 (See table)	
International Boundaries	U.S. ARMY	
Canals	● HQ or Division	
All Weather Roads	○ Brigade	
Unimproved Roads	U.S. MARINE CORPS	
Demilitarized Zone	● HQ or Division	
III Corps Boundaries and Designations	○ Brigade	
U.S. Air Strikes (stylized)	U.S. NAVY	
Viet Cong Zones of Operation	● HQ or Support Activity	
Major Battles, 1968 Tet Offensive	○ Task Force	
7 Locations of Selected U.S. Ground Operations (See chart for details)	U.S. AIR FORCE	
	▲ HQ or Wing	
	△ Tactical Airfields	
▲ Mountain Peaks (Height in Feet)		

CHRONOLOGY: 1954–1975

1954–63

7 MAY 54 — Viet Minh forces defeat French at Dien Bien Phu.

3 JUN 54 — French grant independence to the State of Vietnam under leadership of Bao Dai.

7 JUL 54 — Ngo Dinh Diem is appointed Premier by Bao Dai.

21 JUL 54 — French and Viet Minh sign cease-fire "Final Declaration" at Geneva. Vietnam is divided at 17th parallel to allow both sides to regroup, French to the south, Communists to the north. Provisions call for general elections in 1956, and state explicitly that the 17th parallel is not to be used as a political boundary. Neither the State of Vietnam, nor the United States are party to the agreement.

FEB 55 — U.S. Military Assistance Advisory Group (MAAG), Vietnam, is established to train the forces of South Vietnam.

27 APR 55 — Troops loyal to President Diem defeat the Binh Xuyen, an outlaw gang that opposed Diem with its own army.

26 OCT 55 — Following a lopsided referendum victory, Pres. Diem proclaims the Republic of Vietnam.

JUN 56 — U.S. Sen. John F. Kennedy supports Diem's decision not to allow the elections called for at Geneva in 1954.

1956-1959 — Terror attacks are launched by Communists in the South, the Viet Cong. Assassinations and kidnapping of government officials increase each year. As the decade ends, Viet Cong units begin to welcome cadre members from North Vietnam.

8 JUL 59 — Maj. Dale Buis and Master Sgt. Chester Ovnard are the first American casualties, killed by Viet Cong at Bien Hoa.

11 NOV 60 — A revolt against the Diem government succeeds in barricading Diem inside the Presidential Palace in Saigon, before two loyal divisions respond.

JAN 61 — Radio Hanoi announces formation of the National Liberation Front (NLF) in South Vietnam.

23 MAR 61 — Pres. Kennedy supports neutrality for Laos. Within two weeks, a cease-fire is agreed upon and a 14-nation conference convenes in Geneva.

13 MAY 61 — Vice Pres. Lyndon B. Johnson and Pres. Diem announce expansion of U.S. defense and economic aid.

30 NOV 61 — Defoliant chemicals are authorized (RANCH HAND) to clear major transportation routes.

11 DEC 61 — Two Army helicopter companies arrive to assist Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) operations, raising U.S. forces in Vietnam to 3,000.

8 FEB 62 — U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) is established with Gen. Paul Harkins as Commander.

MAR 62 — South Vietnam begins Strategic Hamlet program, forcefully relocating peasants into defended compounds.

15 MAY 62 — In response to Communist efforts in Laos, Pres. Kennedy deploys U.S. Marines and jet fighters to Thailand.

23 JUL 62 — Geneva accords assure neutrality of Laos.

OCT 62 — 2nd Air Division is created to coordinate U.S. Air Force efforts in Vietnam. U.S. begins airlifting ARVN troops into battle.

JAN 63 — At Ap Bac, V.C. destroy five U.S. helicopters, damage nine others, and inflict heavy casualties upon ARVN units.

APR 63 — Chieu Hoi program begins, granting clemency and aid to Viet Cong who surrender.

11 JUN 63 — Buddhist monk Thich Quang Duc immolates himself in protest of Diem policies. Riots break out in Saigon during summer, leading to nationwide martial law in August.

1 NOV 63 — A military coup deposes Diem and sets up a provisional government under Maj. Gen. Duong Van Minh. Next day, Diem is assassinated in Cholon, as is his brother, Ngo Dinh Nhu.

24 NOV 63 — Two days after the Kennedy assassination, Pres. Johnson proclaims his determination to support South Vietnam.

31 DEC 63 — U.S. military personnel in Vietnam total 16,300.

1964

7 FEB — U.S. dependents are ordered out of Vietnam.

1 JUN — Gen. William Westmoreland takes command of MACV.

29 JUN — A New Zealand Army Engineer detachment arrives. This is the first third-country assistance.

2 AUG — North Vietnam PT boats attack destroyer *USS Maddox* in Gulf of Tonkin. A second attack is reported two days later.

7 AUG — Congress approves the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, authorizing "the use of armed force" to assist any nation of the Southeast Asia Collective Defense Treaty.

NOV — Viet Cong attacks intensify — mortars destroy five aircraft at Bien Hoa, causing 23 American casualties.

DEC — The first North Vietnam regiment enters South Vietnam in Kontum province. Three others infiltrate within a month.

28 DEC — Viet Cong 9th Division overruns Binh Gia, inflicting heavy casualties upon ARVN troops.

1965

8 FEB — In retaliation for an attack on U.S. forces at Pleiku, air strikes (FLAMING DART) hit targets in North Vietnam.

10 FEB — U.S. enlisted men's billet is destroyed at Qui Nhon, killing 23. A second wave of air strikes against the North is flown a day later (FLAMING DART II).

2 MAR — Operation ROLLING THUNDER begins sustained air war against North Vietnam.

8 MAR — First U.S. combat troops land in Viet Nam as two Marine battalions come ashore near Da Nang.

30 MAR — A truck loaded with plastic explosives is blown up outside the U.S. Embassy in Saigon, killing 11.

14 MAY — Offshore naval gunfire first assists ground operations.

MAY — 173rd Airborne Brigade arrives at Bien Hoa air base, increasing U.S. forces to 50,000.

18 JUN — B-52 bombers from Guam (ARC LIGHT) first strike enemy locations in South Vietnam.

19 JUN — Following a series of short-lived governments and coalitions, Nguyen Van Thieu is proclaimed Chief of State and Nguyen Cao Ky is installed as Premier.

AUG — U.S. Marines fight the first regiment-sized battle since the Korean War (STARLIGHT). 700 Viet Cong are killed.

SEP — 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) arrives at Qui Nhon and An Khe, increasing U.S. forces to 119,000.

OCT — Korean Capital (Tiger) Division arrives in II Corps, followed by ROK 2nd Marine (Dragon) Brigade.

NOV — After U.S. Special Forces are attacked at Plei Me, the Battle of Ia Drang Valley (SILVER BAYONET) forces two North Vietnam regiments to retreat into Cambodia.

25 DEC — As part of a Christmas truce, bombing of North Vietnam is suspended, not to be resumed until January 31, 1966.

1966

20 JAN — A 4-day cease fire is effected during the Tet holiday.

15 MAY — ARVN troops retake Da Nang, which has been held by rebellious Buddhist and student factions since March.

30 JUN — U.S. bombers hit petroleum storage areas in Hanoi and Haiphong, first strikes on these urban areas.

OCT-NOV — Over 22,000 allied troops confront Viet Cong 9th Division in central Tay Ninh province (ATTLEBORO).

24 OCT — In Manila, Pres. Johnson meets with Saigon leaders and those of five other nations with forces in South Vietnam.

25 OCT — Operation SEA DRAGON begins attacks on military shipping in the coastal waters of North Vietnam.

26 OCT — Pres. Johnson decorates troops at Cam Ranh Bay.

1967

18 JAN — 19-day operation (CEDAR FALLS) in Iron Triangle destroys underground enemy headquarters. The town of Ben-Suc, used as a Viet Cong supply center, is evacuated and razed.

22 FEB — Operation JUNCTION CITY, largest to date, begins in War Zone C, involving first use of parachute troops.

6 APR — Gen. Creighton W. Abrams, Jr. is appointed Deputy Commander of MACV.

12 APR — Task Force OREGON (3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division and 196th Light Infantry Brigade) forms in I Corps, designated 23rd Infantry Division (Americal) in September.

15 APR — Anti-war protesters rally in New York and San Francisco.

18 MAY — U.S. Marines and ARVN units first enter the DMZ.

3 SEP — General Thieu elected President, Air Vice Marshall Ky elected Vice President of Republic of Vietnam.

4 OCT — North Vietnamese Siege of Con Thien is broken by massive air strikes and artillery.

29 OCT — Viet Cong attack Loc Ninh. 1st Brigade of 1st Infantry Division reinforces ARVN units, repelling V.C. by November 8.

24 DEC — U.S. forces now total 486,000.

1968

20 JAN — U.S. Marines (SCOTLAND) encounter enemy forces on Hill 881 North in the first fighting of the Siege of Khe Sanh. Next day, mortars destroy the base's largest ammunition dump.

31 JAN — Pre-dawn attacks on most provincial and district capitals signal the beginning of the Tet Offensive. Viet Cong penetrate the U.S. Embassy in Saigon and the flight line at Tan Son Nhut airport. Sixteen battalions attacking Cholon are defeated by three U.S. Marine and eleven ARVN battalions, supported by the 1st Air Cavalry Division. Most regional attacks are turned back quickly, except in Hue, where triumphant soldiers raise the North Vietnamese flag above the Imperial Citadel.

12 FEB — Gen. Westmoreland requests additional troops.

25 FEB — The Imperial Citadel of Hue is retaken after being held for 25 days. 5,000 Communist troops are killed in the house-to-house fighting. 3,000 residents are executed during the occupation.

12 MAR — Senator Eugene McCarthy, staunch foe of U.S. Vietnam policy, captures 42% of the New Hampshire Democratic Primary voting.

31 MAR — Pres. Johnson announces his decision not to seek re-election. He orders a partial halt to the bombing of North Vietnam, removing the northern region, including Hanoi and Haiphong, from the target list. He calls for a negotiated settlement to the war.

3 APR — North Vietnam agrees to direct negotiations.

8 APR — Elements of the 1st Cavalry Division (PEGASUS) link up with defenders of Khe Sanh along Route 9, ending the siege.

8 APR — Operation COMPLETE VICTORY involves 42 American and 37 Vietnamese battalions. Although the two-month operation is largest of the war, most of the over 7,000 enemy casualties are the result of small-scale fighting.

13 MAY — Preliminary talks begin in Paris between the U.S. and North Vietnam.

11 JUN — Gen. Abrams assumes command of U.S. forces in Vietnam. He begins employing smaller unit tactics of ambush and withdrawal.

19 JUL — Presidents Johnson and Thieu meet in Hawaii. Thieu insists upon complete Communist withdrawal as a condition for South Vietnamese participation in the Paris talks.

15 AUG — XXIV Corps is established at Phu Bai to coordinate U.S. Army operations in I Corps.

26 AUG — Democratic Convention convenes in Chicago as protesters battle city police.

31 OCT — Operation ROLLING THUNDER ends as Pres. Johnson halts bombing in North Vietnam, five days before Richard M. Nixon is elected President.

1969

18 MAR — U.S. Air Force begins secret B-52 bombing (MENU) of enemy sanctuaries in Cambodia.

30 APR — U.S. forces in Vietnam peak at 543,400.

MAY — Troops of 101st Airborne Division (APACHE SNOW) suffer heavy casualties while taking Ap Bia ("Hamburger Hill").

31 MAY — Operation SPEEDY EXPRESS claims over 10,000 enemy casualties, highest total for a U.S. combat operation.

8 JUN — Pres. Nixon announces withdrawal of 25,000 U.S. troops by the end of August.

JUL — 9th Infantry Division units begin leaving Vietnam.

3 SEP — North Vietnamese leader Ho Chi Minh dies and is succeeded by Ton Duc Thang.

29 SEP — Reduction of 6,000 U.S. troops in Thailand is announced due to reduced requirements of the Vietnam War.

9 OCT — Defense Secretary Melvin Laird unveils plans to shift the burden of the war to the South Vietnamese. Pres. Nixon describes this approach as "Vietnamization."

15 NOV — Washington, D.C. anti-war march draws 300,000.

16 NOV — First reports surface of a massacre at My Lai, on March 16, 1968, involving U.S. forces.

1970

18 MAR — Prince Norodom Sihanouk's Cambodian government is overthrown by Premier and Defense Minister Lon Nol.

15 APR — Defense Department suspends the use of the controversial herbicide Agent Orange.

30 APR — Thirty thousand U.S. troops invade Cambodia a day after ARVN units cross the border. Although the allied forces uncover major supply caches, little enemy contact is made during the 30-mile drive.

4 MAY — As student protests against the Cambodian Incursion become widespread, four are killed by National Guardsmen at Kent State University in Ohio.

29 JUN — Last U.S. ground troops pull out of Cambodia.

1 JUL — Selective Service conducts draft lottery.

7 OCT — Pres. Nixon proposes a stand-still cease fire in Vietnam, but is rejected by North Vietnam the next day.

21 NOV — U.S. Special Forces raid Son Tay prison in Hanoi, only to find American P.O.W.s have been moved earlier to another site.

DEC — U.S. 4th Infantry Division and most of the 25th Infantry Division depart, leaving U.S. strength at 334,000.

1971

8 FEB — ARVN forces invade Laos to intercept enemy activity along the Ho Chi Minh Trail. American support units (DEWEY CANYON II) remain in Vietnam. Huge amounts of weaponry are captured. South Vietnamese claim 19,000 enemy casualties.

29 MAR — Lt. William Calley found guilty of murder at My Lai.

8 OCT — Operation JEFFERSON GLENN, begun in 1970, comes to an end — the last major operation involving U.S. troops.

29 NOV — 23rd Infantry Division (Americal) is disbanded.

31 DEC — U.S. forces are reduced to 156,000.

1972

30 MAR — North Vietnam invades the northern provinces. Quang Tri is captured, but ARVN troops begin to fight back successfully, defeating the North Vietnamese at An Loc in June, and retaking Quang Tri in September.

16 APR — Bombing of North Vietnam resumes (LINEBACKER).

8 MAY — Pres. Nixon announces the mining of Haiphong harbor and other North Vietnamese ports.

23 AUG — 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry becomes the last U.S. ground combat unit to leave Vietnam.

13 DEC — Paris negotiations break down.

18 DEC — U.S. launches "Christmas Bombing" (LINEBACKER II) of North Vietnam, an 11-day onslaught believed to be the heaviest in history.

1973

15 JAN — After secret talks between Henry Kissinger and Le Duc Tho resume, Pres. Nixon halts all U.S. offensive action.

27 JAN — United States, South Vietnam, Viet Cong and North Vietnam sign peace accords in Paris, providing for an end to military action, withdrawal of U.S. and allied troops within 60 days, and recognition of people's right through free elections to determine fate of South Vietnam.

Defense Sec. Melvin Laird announces an end to the military draft.

12 FEB — First American P.O.W.'s are released from North Vietnam, including Everett Alvarez, Jr., held since his plane was downed August 5, 1964.

29 MAR — MACV disbands and 18th Military Police Brigade departs as U.S. completes withdrawal of all troops.

15 AUG — U.S. halts bombing of Cambodia, under orders of Congress.

1974–1975

13 DEC 74 — North Vietnamese attack Phuoc Long province, 50 miles from Saigon, as the final phase of military action begins.

11 MAR 75 — Ban Me Thout is captured by North Vietnamese.

30 MAR 75 — Da Nang falls to the Communists.

1 APR 75 — Cambodian Pres. Lon Nol abdicates 16 days before Khmer Rouge capture Phnom Penh.

21 APR 75 — South Vietnamese Pres. Thieu resigns.

30 APR 75 — U.S. helicopters airlift (FREQUENT WIND) remaining Americans from Saigon rooftops as Gen. Minh surrenders to North Vietnam, ending the war.

1954-75 — Over 47,000 Americans were killed by enemy action. Another 10,000 died by accident or disease in Vietnam. Allied forces suffered over 5,000 casualties. ARVN combat deaths totalled 220,000 prior to the final invasion, for which no figures are available. North Vietnam sources estimate over 600,000 combat dead. In addition, as many as half a million civilian casualties occurred in both halves of Vietnam.

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