

The “TET” OFFENSIVE 1968

Planning, Preparation and the Results

TET OFFENSIVE 1968

“TET” is the celebration of the lunar New Year in Vietnam. It is the most important holiday in the Vietnamese tradition, it is time for family reunion, visiting friends, entertainment and trying for lucks

歡
喜
年
華

好



THIÊN-LÝ BỬU-TỎA 12695 Sycamore Ave, San Marin, CA 95046, USA

Dragon Dance



TET CELEBRATION



TET OFFENSIVE 1968

Taking advantage of the cease-fires of the sacred holiday, the communists launched a surprised attack named “General Attacking / General Up-rising” (TCK / TKN) on all major cities in South Vietnam. On military stand point, the attack was a failure but it caused a shock in South Vietnam as well in America

PLANNING

Ha Noi prepared for the attack in the spring 1967, Politic Bureau in Ha Noi requested a change in military tactic. And then the decision numbered 13 was released to call for a victory in a shortest time.

Immediate goal of the VC

Utilize all effort to push the American out of Vietnam to form a federation government in which the National Liberation Front (NLF) plays a vital role.

Communist's goal

Communist cadres and soldiers must take on three duties: Against American in both military and politic. Destroy the Republic of Vietnam (South Vietnam) Armed Forces and cause the distrustful on the RVN's government from the people. Pushed forward strongly the political warfare to urge the people up-raising.

“General Attacking – General Uprising” or TCK-TKN plan

The “General Attacking – General Uprising” or TCK-TKN plan means it includes two phases: first to attack, second to uprising.

PREPARATION

The VC started working on the plan weeks before the Tet. They smuggled weapons, ammunition, explosives into the cities by hiding on the beds of the transportation trucks.

PREPARATION

Once, the weapons got inside the cities, they were kept inside the houses of their secret cells and buried in the cemeteries. These cemeteries were also selected as assembly points for the attacks.

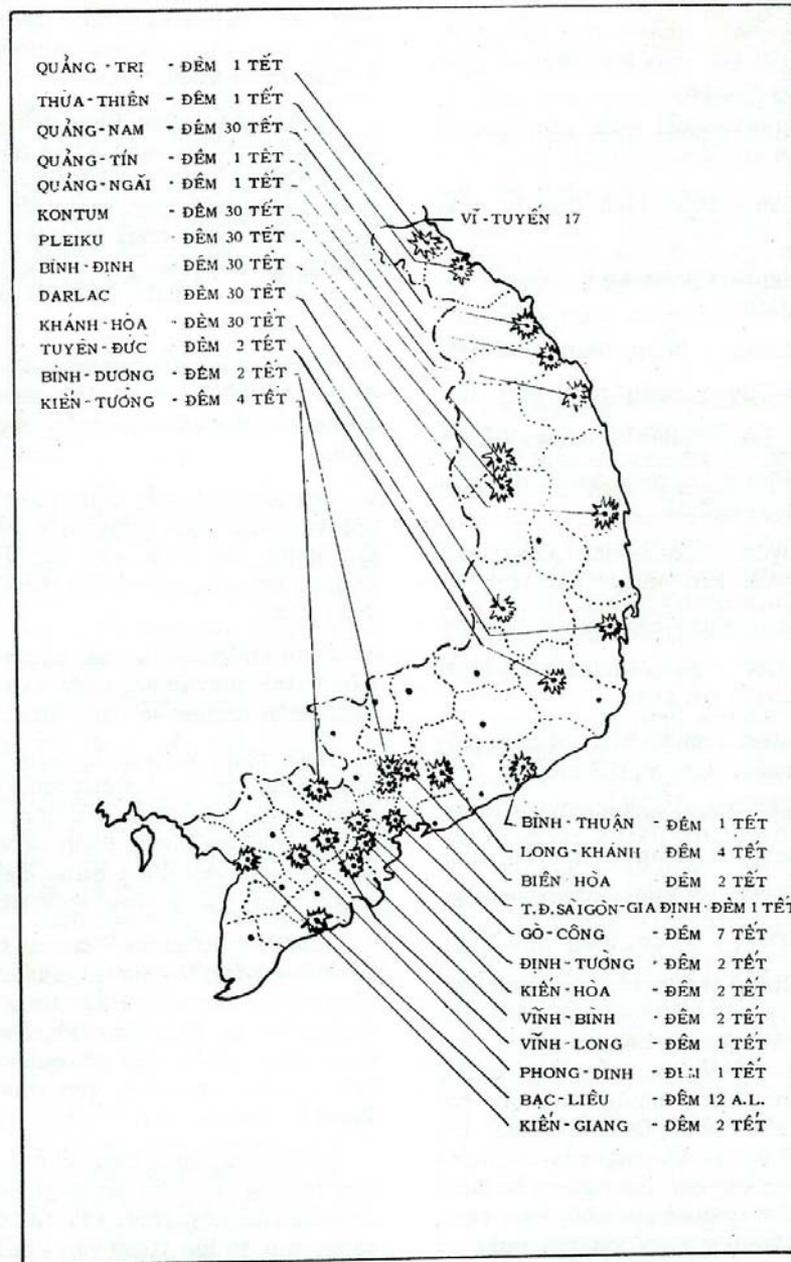
PREPARATION

Days closed to the New Year, many VCs dressed in civilian clothes with fake IDs got inside the cities and were hidden in the houses of their secret cells.

ATTACKING PLAN

- Select important military, governmental installations inside the cities and use sapper units that already infiltrated into the cities for the initial, surprised attacks.
- Regular units will then follow to finish the battles.
- Control populated areas (slumps). Political cadres following these units will do propaganda, urging people to revolt against the RVN government

BẢN ĐỒ HÀNH CHÁNH NAM VIỆT-NAM



LIỆT KÊ CÁC TỈNH LÝ BỊ VIỆT CÔNG TẤN CÔNG TRONG DỊP
TẾT MẬU THÂN 1968

ATTACKS

The communists tried to synchronize the attacks on all over South Vietnam on the first two days of the Lunar New Year. The major attack was Saigon city where they deployed about 15 battalions included regular, regional, and two sapper units

ATTACKS

- Battalion 2 “Go Mon” with a sapper unit J1/F100 attacked gate 4 of the Joint General Staffs Headquarters.
- Sapper unit F100 attacked radio station, gate 5 of the JGS headquarters, Independence Palace, Naval headquarters, US embassy, and Philippine embassy.

ATTACKS

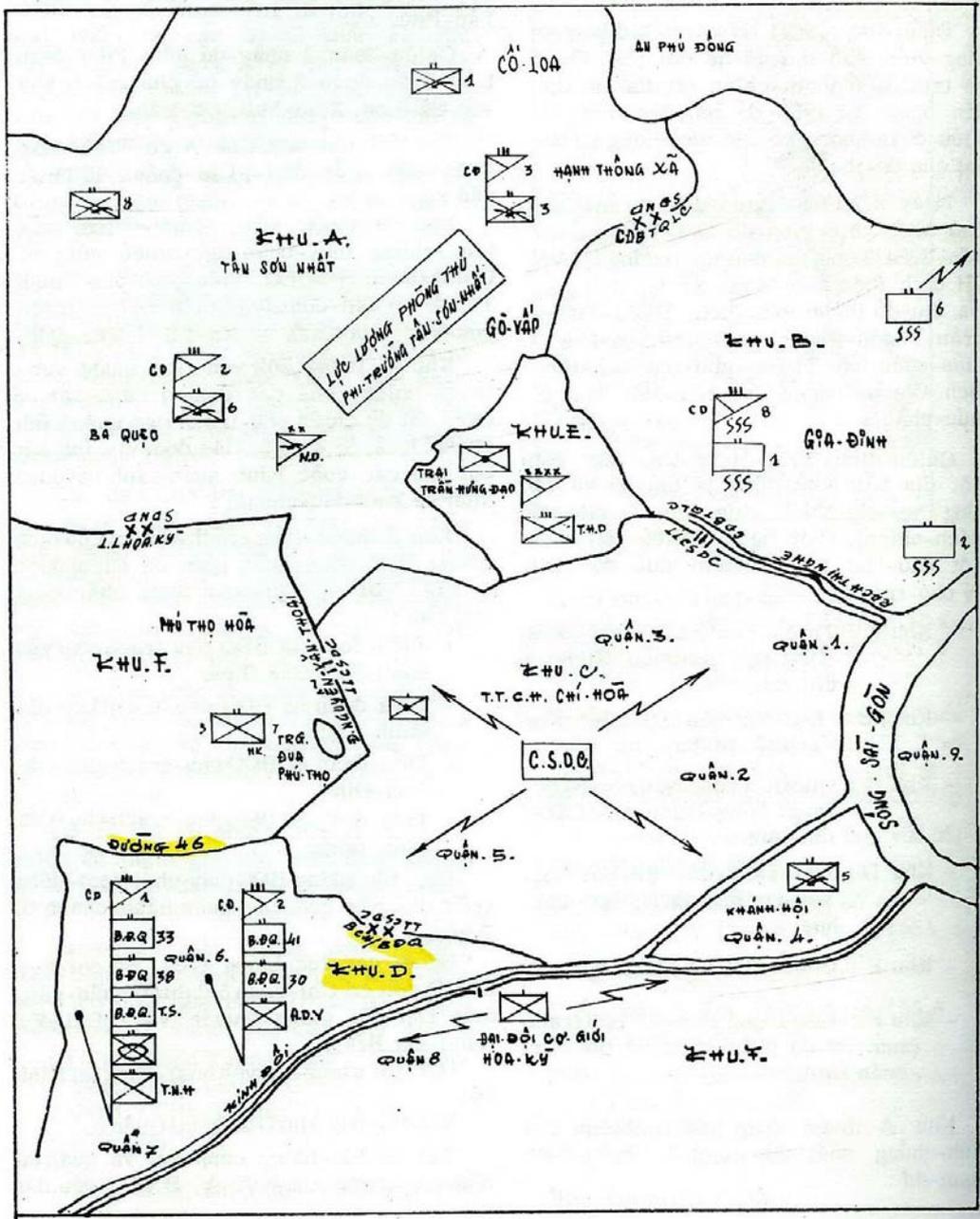
- Battalions 267, 269 with unit from 271 regiment attacked Tan Son Nhat airbase.
- Battalion 3 “Di An” or 3/165A attacked the Hang Xanh area.
- Battalion 6 “Binh Tan” or 6/165A attacked the areas of Phu Tho and Ba Hat.
- Battalion 508 “Long An” attacked the area of Binh Tay.

ARVN's COUNTERATTACK

On the 5th of February, 1968, the ARVN opened the campaign "Tran Hung Dao", name of the general who defeated the Mongol to sweep the communists out of the city.

General Cao Van Vien, Chief of Joint General Staffs directly was in charge of the campaign

SƠ-ĐỒ PHÂN RANH VÀ PHỐI TRÍ QUÂN BAN
 TRONG CHIẾN DỊCH TRẦN-HÙNG-ĐẠO TẠI THỦ-ĐỒ



RVN CASUALTIES

Army Republic of Vietnam:	Feb, 1968	Mar, 1968
• Killed in action:	3,501	1,453
• Wounded:	10,678	4,419
• Missing in action:	543	383
Weapons lost:		
• Team operated:	106	78
• Individual:	1,418	741

ALLIED CASUALTIES

Allied

- Killed in action: 2,832 1,292
- Wounded: 15,832 3,453
- Missing in action: 352 252

RVN and Allied Aircraft

• Destroyed:	63	60
• Heavy damage:	154	60
• Light damage:	99	116

ENEMY CASUALTIES

- Killed in action: 41,181 17,192
- Captured: 7,391 2,070

Weapons lost (captured by ARVN):

- Team operated: 1,504 837
- Individual: 3,241 1,646

(captured by Allied)

- Team operated: 1,419 491
- Individual: 5,838 2,463

CIVILIAN CASUALTIES

- Killed: 14,300
- Wounded: 24,000
- Houses destroyed: 72,000
- Refugees: 627,000

