were landed, an unknown number of suspected enemy were observed evading from the area. U.S. Army helicopter gunships supporting the ground force were cleared by the senior GVN representative on the operation to engage the evading personnel with aerial machinegun and rocket fire. The RF soldiers searched the strike area and found seven Vietnamese, later identified as civilians, (4 men and 3 women) killed and 17 other Vietnamese civilians (including 12 men and 5 women) wounded by the gunship fire. The wounded were evacuated by helicopter for further treatment, following initial first aid. The incident is being investigated. There was no reported ground contact with the enemy and there were no RF or U.S. casualties.

- SVN TAC AIR: U.S. pilots flew 355 sorties (USAF 222, USMC 115, and USN 18), killing 17 enemy soldiers, triggering 40 secondary explosions, and igniting 76 fires. They also destroyed or damaged 311 fortifications, 307 bunkers and 11 sampans.

- B-52s flew 11 missions: 19, 20, and 21 miles NNE of Phuoc Binh; 22, 24, and 26 miles NNE of Phuoc Binh; 17 miles north of Phuoc Binh; 18 miles NE of Phuoc Binh; 17 miles ENE of Phuoc Binh; 9 miles WNW of Tuy Hoa; and 20 miles east of A Shau.

17 September (Wednesday)

- HQ MACV -- During the night, seven enemy indirect fire attacks were reported throughout the country, three of which were against U.S. units or installations. Fourteen other attacks were considered insignificant, causing no casualties or damage. The following significant attacks were against U.S. forces:

III MAF:

161800 -- QUANG TRI PROVINCE -- An element of the 1st Brigade, U.S. 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized), in night defense at Con Thien (105 miles NW of Da Nang and two miles south of the Demilitarized Zone), received less than five rounds of undetermined caliber rocket fire. Light casualties, no damage.

161815 -- QUANG TIN PROVINCE -- An element of the 196th Brigade, AMERICAL Division, in night defense nine miles west of Tam Ky (33 miles SSE of Da Nang), received about 10 rounds of 82mm mortar fire. Light casualties, no fatalities or damage.

I FFV:

161843 -- PLEIKU PROVINCE -- An element of the 3rd Brigade, U.S. 4th Infantry Division, in night defense 12 miles SW of Pleiku City (235 miles NNE of Saigon), received about 30 rounds of 82mm mortar fire. Light casualties and damage, no fatalities.

- HQ MACV -- During the 24-hour period ending at 0800 today, 34 enemy indirect fire attacks were reported throughout the country, 18 of which were against U.S. units or installations. Ten of the 34 attacks caused casualties or damage. U.S. casualties were two killed and 17 wounded.

- III MAF (QUANG TRI PROVINCE) -- Two events occurred, both in the same general area, and both involving the 3rd Marine Division:
1. At 0050 an element of the 3rd Regiment, U.S. 3rd Marine Division, in night defense two miles NNW of the Rockpile (105 miles NW of Da Nang) and four miles south of the Demilitarized Zone, was probed from the north and east by an unknown size North Vietnamese Army force employing small arms, automatic weapons, and grenades. At 0200, the enemy assaulted the position from the east supported by mortar fire and rocket-propelled grenades. The Marines fired back with unit weapons, and were supported by artillery, U.S. Army helicopter gunships, USAF AC-47 gunships and F-4's from the 37th and 366th Tactical Fighter Wings. During the fighting, an unknown number of enemy soldiers penetrated the perimeter but were killed or repulsed. The enemy withdrew at 0300 and at 0400 another enemy force assaulted the position from the northwest. The Marines again repulsed the enemy attack with automatic weapons and close supporting fire. At 0430 the enemy withdrew. The Marine position continued to receive sporadic enemy mortar fire until daylight when elements of the 3rd and 4th Marine regiments reinforced the area. The bodies of 41 NVA soldiers were found in a search of the battlefield, and two crew-served and 12 individual weapons were captured. U.S. casualties were 16 killed and 34 wounded.

2. At 1320 an element of the 4th Regiment, U.S. 3rd Marine Division, received heavy small arms, automatic weapons, and rocket-propelled grenade fire from an unknown size North Vietnamese Army force while operating in an area of earlier contact four miles NNW of the Rockpile and three miles south of the Demilitarized Zone. The enemy fired from fortified positions and the Marines fired back with unit weapons. Contact was lost at 1345. At an unreported time later, the Marine unit received an unknown number and caliber mortar rounds and rocket-propelled grenade fire from an unknown size NVA force while evacuating casualties in the same general area. The Marines returned fire with unit weapons and fighting continued until dark when contact was lost as the enemy withdrew. Enemy losses were seven killed. U.S. casualties were nine killed and 29 wounded.

- OPERATION GENEVA PARK (QUANG NGAI PROVINCE) -- At 1720 an element of the 198th Brigade, AMERICAL Division, supported by armored cavalry troopers from the division, in tanks and armored personnel carriers, received small arms fire and automatic weapons fire from an unknown size enemy force 15 miles NW of Quang Ngai City (65 miles SSE of Da Nang). The ground forces returned fire with unit weapons and attacked the enemy while getting support from artillery and tactical aircraft. Contact was lost at an unreported time during the night when the enemy withdrew. In a later search of the battle area, 22 enemy dead were found. U.S. casualties were one killed and four wounded.

- III MAF (DMZ) -- At 1935 a U.S. and Army of the Republic of Vietnam fire support base four miles east of Gio Linh and two miles south of the Demilitarized Zone, received less than 10 rounds of 82mm mortar fire from an enemy position located to the north of the base and about 700 meters north of the southern edge of the DMZ. The guns of the cruiser USS BOSTON were directed onto the target, silencing the mortar. Enemy losses are unknown. There were no friendly casualties from the attack.

- III MAF (QUANG NGAI PROVINCE) -- At 1500 an element of the 11th Brigade, AMERICAL Division, at a landing zone near Duc Pho (102 miles SSE of Da Nang), received less than five 122mm rockets. U.S. casualties were light with no fatalities. No materiel damage was reported.
- **OPERATION FREDERICK HILL (QUANG TIN PROVINCE)** -- At 1500 an element of the 196th Brigade, AMERICAL Division, 24 miles west of Tam Ky (32 miles south of Da Nang), found a mass grave containing the bodies of 17 enemy soldiers. It is not known how or when they were killed.

- **I FFV (BINH THUAN PROVINCE)** -- At 1335 a U.S. Army I FFV Ranger element, 16 miles NNW of Phan Thiet (100 miles ENE of Saigon), engaged an estimated enemy platoon with small arms and automatic weapons. The Rangers were supported by helicopter gunships and tactical aircraft. The enemy withdrew at 1430, leaving 14 dead on the battlefield. U.S. casualties were three wounded with no fatalities.

- **TOAN THANG OFFENSIVE (BIEN HOA PROVINCE)** -- At 1010 U.S. Army and Navy helicopter gunships observed an unknown number of enemy soldiers five miles SW of Phu My (24 miles SE of Saigon) and attacked them, killing 12 before the remainder evaded. No U.S. casualties.

- **TOAN THANG OFFENSIVE (TAY NINH PROVINCE)** -- At 1325 helicopters of the 1st Brigade, U.S. 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), transporting troops on a combat assault, received heavy ground fire while approaching the landing zone 12 miles NE of Phu Khoong (60 miles NNW of Saigon). The enemy positions were engaged by helicopter gunships and USAF tactical aircraft, after which the air cavalry troops were air-assaulted into the zone. No ground contact was made; however, the bodies of ten NVA soldiers were found in the strike area. One U.S. soldier in a helicopter was wounded by the enemy groundfire.

- **TOAN THANG OFFENSIVE (BINH DUONG PROVINCE)** -- At 1950 an element of the 2nd Brigade, U.S. 1st Infantry Division, nine miles east of Lai Khe (28 miles NNE of Saigon), engaged an unknown size enemy force in an exchange of small arms fire with the troopers getting support from helicopter gunships. The enemy withdrew at 2055 leaving behind ten bodies. One enemy soldier was detained, and four individual weapons were captured. No U.S. casualties.

- **TOAN THANG OFFENSIVE (TAY NINH PROVINCE)** -- At 0920 an element of the 1st Brigade, U.S. 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), 21 miles NE of Tay Ning City, engaged an unknown size enemy force in an exchange of small arms fire and was supported by artillery and helicopter gunships. At 1100 the enemy withdrew, leaving behind one body and one individual weapon. U.S. casualties were one killed and nine wounded.

- **TOAN THANG OFFENSIVE (LONG AN PROVINCE)** -- At 0730 an element of the 3rd Brigade, U.S. 9th Infantry Division, nine miles NE of Tan An (54 miles north of Saigon), engaged an unknown size enemy force in an exchange of small arms fire and was supported by artillery and helicopter gunships. At 1330 the enemy withdrew, leaving 18 bodies on the battlefield. One individual weapon was captured. U.S. casualties were one killed and one wounded. During the fighting a UH-1 helicopter and an AH-1 helicopter gunship, both from the 3rd Brigade, collided in air and crashed, destroying the aircraft. All ten personnel in the UH-1, including two pilots, two crew members and six passengers were killed. Both pilots of the helicopter gunship were also killed in the crash. Among the passengers were Colonel Dale J. Crittenberger, 42, McClean, Vir., Commanding Officer of the 3rd Brigade, U.S. 9th Infantry Division, and Lt. Col. Leo P. Sikorski, 36, Camp Springs, Md., Commanding officer, 5th Battalion, 60th Infantry of the 3rd Brigade. The names of the remaining personnel are being withheld pending notification of next of kin.
- **SVN TAC AIR**: U.S. pilots flew 391 sorties (USAF 264, USMC 111, and USN 16), killing 19 enemy soldiers, triggering 29 secondary explosions and igniting 18 fires. They also destroyed or damaged 253 fortifications, 334 bunkers, and 11 sampans.

- An Army OH-6 light observation helicopter was downed by enemy ground fire 14 miles SE of A Shau in Thua Thien Province, destroying the aircraft. There were no casualties.

- B-52s flew 7 missions: 18 miles ENE of Phuoc Binh; 16 miles NNW of Bong Son; 6 miles west of Lai Khe; 7 miles NE of Phuoc Binh; 14 miles NW of Phu Cat; and 30 and 31 miles NE of Phuoc Binh.

18 September (Thursday)

- **HQ MACV**: During the night, four significant enemy indirect fire attacks were reported throughout the country, two of which were against U.S. units or installations. Eleven other attacks were considered insignificant, causing no damage or casualties. The following significant attacks were against U.S. forces:

  **III MAF**:

  171815 — QUANG NGAI PROVINCE — An element of the 11th Brigade, AMERICAL Division, in night defense at a landing zone six miles SE of Duc Pho (105 miles SSE of Da Nang), received about ten rounds of 82mm mortar fire. Light casualties, no fatalities. Five of the mortar rounds were reported to contain CS-type riot control agent.

  **II FFV**:

  172335 — TAY NINH PROVINCE — An element of the 1st Brigade, U.S. 25th Infantry Division, at a fire support base seven miles NW of Phu Khuong (60 miles NW of Saigon), received about 15 rounds of 82mm mortar fire. Very light casualties, no fatalities.

- **HQ MACV**: During the 24-hour period ending at 0800 today, 24 indirect fire attacks were reported throughout the country, 18 of which were against U.S. units or installations. Five of the 24 attacks caused casualties or damage. U.S. casualties were six wounded, no fatalities.

- **III MAF (QUANG NAM PROVINCE)** — At 2010 an element of the 5th Regiment, U.S. 1st Marine Division, one mile NNE of An Hoa (22 miles SSW of Da Nang), ambushed 12 enemy soldiers on a trail, killing five of them and capturing one individual weapon. No U.S. casualties.

- **III MAF (QUANG NAM PROVINCE)** — At 1200 a reconnaissance element of the U.S. 1st Marine Division, while in a location seven miles SSW of An Hoa (30 miles SSE of Da Nang), heard an unknown number of enemy soldiers approaching their position. The Marines engaged them with small arms fire and directed tactical aircraft onto the enemy position. After the strike the Marines found the bodies of 11 enemy soldiers. There were no U.S. casualties.
III MAF (QUANG NAM PROVINCE) -- At 1830 an element of the 26th Regiment, U.S. 1st Marine Division, observed 35 enemy soldiers crossing a river six miles SSE of Hoi An (21 miles SSE of Da Nang). Artillery fire was directed onto the enemy location and the bodies of ten enemy soldiers were observed in the strike area following the engagement. No U.S. casualties.

OPERATION FREDERICK HILL (QUANG TIN PROVINCE) -- At 0945 a landing zone of the 196th Brigade, AMERICAL Division, 25 miles west of Tam Ky (34 miles south of Da Nang), received less than five rounds of 82mm mortar fire. U.S. casualties were light with no fatalities. The same landing zone received two other attacks -- one at 1520 and the other at 1615 -- each of less than five rounds, and neither of which caused casualties or damage. On 17 September the landing zone had received six separate 82mm mortar attacks, each of less than five rounds, and none of which caused casualties or damage.

OPERATION GENEVA PARK (QUANG TIN PROVINCE) -- At 0930 infantrymen from an element of the 198th Brigade, AMERICAL Division, discovered three enemy bunkers inside of huts while operating 28 mile, WSW of Chu Lai (55 miles south of Da Nang). In the bunkers, the troopers found eight 122mm rocket launchers with tripods and aiming sights. This is the largest number of these weapons ever found in a single location. The 122mm rocket launcher with tripod weighs 121 pounds. The five inch diameter tube is about eight feet long and, at a maximum firing elevation on the tripod, is eight feet high.

I FFV (BINH DINH PROVINCE) -- At 1530 an air cavalry element of the U.S. 4th Infantry Division, 16 miles NE of An Khe (273 miles NNE of Saigon), observed an estimated 70 enemy in a bunker complex. The troopers directed artillery and helicopter gunships onto the enemy position. A search of the area after the mission revealed 20 enemy killed by the strike. No U.S. casualties.

I FFV (PLEIKU PROVINCE) -- At 1745 an element of the 3rd Brigade, U.S. 4th Infantry Division at a fire support base 22 miles SE of Pleiku (232 miles NNE of Saigon), observed eight to ten enemy soldiers approaching the fire support base. The troopers engaged them with small arms fire and the enemy withdrew. The troopers then established an ambush and engaged ten more enemy soldiers in a brief encounter a short while later before the enemy withdrew. A search of the area revealed the bodies of seven enemy soldiers and one individual weapon. No U.S. casualties.

TOAN THANG OFFENSIVE (LONG AN PROVINCE) -- At 1500 an element of the 3rd Brigade, U.S. 9th Infantry Division, discovered the bodies of 12 enemy soldiers eight miles ENE of Tan An (18 miles SW of Saigon). They apparently had been killed by artillery fire one to two days earlier.

TOAN THANG OFFENSIVE (TAY NINH PROVINCE) -- At 1910 an element of the 1st Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) in night defense 19 miles NNE of Tay Ninh City (58 miles NNW of Saigon), received about 10 rounds of undetermined caliber mortar fire followed by a ground probe from an unknown size enemy force using small arms and automatic weapons. The troopers returned fire and contact was lost a short while later. At 1940, the position was again probed by an unknown size enemy force firing small arms and automatic weapons. The enemy fire was returned with unit weapons supported by artillery, helicopter gunships and a USAF AC-119 gunship from the 14th Special Operations Wing. At 2020 the enemy withdrew. In a later
search of the area 25 dead NVA were counted. U.S. casualties were six wounded, no fatalities.

TOAN THANG OFFENSIVE (TAY NINH PROVINCE) — At 0700 an element of the 1st Brigade, U.S. 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), 15 miles NE of Tay Ninh City (55 miles NNW of Saigon), engaged an unknown size enemy force with unit weapons and directed artillery and tactical aircraft onto the enemy position. A short while later, the enemy withdrew, leaving six bodies on the battlefield. In addition, one individual and one crew-served weapon was captured. No U.S. casualties.

TOAN THANG OFFENSIVE (PHUOC LONG PROVINCE) — At 0950 a Ranger element of the U.S. 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), nine miles north of Phuoc Vinh (45 miles north of Saigon), engaged three enemy soldiers, who withdrew to the north without returning fire. The Rangers pursued and an element of the air cavalry squadron of the division was air-assaulted into the area and engaged an unknown size enemy force in bunkers, killing one in a brief skirmish before the remainder withdrew. In the bunker complex, the troopers found one 122mm rocket, 40 Bangalore torpedoes, and 680 CHICOM grenades. U.S. casualties were one killed.

HQ MACV — The U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, announced today that the major combat units which will be redeployed to implement President Nixon’s decision to reduce the authorized strength in Vietnam to 484,000 by December 15, 1969, will include the remainder of the 3rd Marine Division and supporting elements of the 1st Marine Air Wing plus the 3rd Brigade of the 82nd Airborne Division. The Command said that other units involved would include combat support and support units of all services. (The complete text of the release is contained in the CHRONOLOGY OF TROOP REDEPLOYMENT, in this summary).

HQ MACV — Secretary of Defense Melvin D. Laird’s statement, regarding the additional redeployment of U.S. troops, was released as a memorandum to the press. It is contained in this summary in the CHRONOLOGY OF TROOP REDEPLOYMENT.

SVN TAC AIR: U.S. pilots flew 268 sorties (USAF 186, USMC 78, and USN 4), killing two enemy soldiers, triggering 21 secondary explosions and igniting 11 fires. They also destroyed or damaged 136 fortifications, 228 bunkers, and two enemy sampans.

B-52s flew 6 missions: 32 and 34 miles NNE of Phuoc Binh; 30 and 32 miles NNE of Phuoc Binh; and 27 and 29 miles NNE of Phuoc Binh.

19 September (Friday)

HQ MACV — During the night, seven significant enemy indirect fire attacks were reported throughout the country, two of which were against U.S. forces. Twelve other attacks were considered insignificant, causing no damage or casualties. The following significant attacks were against U.S. forces:

III MAF:

181350 — QUANG NGAI PROVINCE — The base camp of Hq 11th Brigade, AMERICAL Division, at a landing zone near Duc Pho (100 miles SSE of Da Nang), received about 10 rounds of 82mm mortar fire. Very light casualties, no fatalities or damage.
190113 — QUANG TRI PROVINCE — The Dong Ha Combat Base, Headquarters of the U.S. 3rd Marine Division, received less than 10 rockets of undetermined caliber, causing very light casualties, and no fatalities or damage.

HQMACV — During the 24-hour period ending at 0800 today, 31 enemy indirect fire attacks were reported throughout the country, 13 of which were against U.S. units or installations. Twelve of the 31 indirect fire attacks caused casualties or damage. U.S. casualties were eight wounded, no fatalities.

III MAF (QUANG TRI PROVINCE) — At 0500 an element of the 3rd Regiment, U.S. 3rd Marine Division, in night defense two miles NW of the Rockpile (105 miles NW of Da Nang), received a large number of hand grenades thrown by an unknown number of enemy. At 0655 the Marines received rocket-propelled grenades, hand grenades, and small arms fire from an estimated enemy company, and returned the fire with small arms and automatic weapons. The Marines were reinforced at 0830 by another element of the regiment, and at 0850 the unit received an unknown number of rocket-propelled grenades and mortar rounds, and again fired back with unit weapons until the enemy withdrew. A search of the area revealed three enemy bodies. U.S. casualties were one killed and eight wounded.

III MAF (QUANG NAM PROVINCE) — At 1010 an aerial observer from the 5th Regiment, U.S. 1st Marine Division, sighted an unknown number of enemy soldiers in three boats attempting to cross a river four miles north of An Hoa (18 miles SW of Da Nang). The enemy were engaged with aerial rocket fire, destroying one boat and killing five enemy. A short while later, and about a mile to the east, the observer sighted an estimated 60 enemy soldiers near ten boats along the river bank. Nearby, an estimated 80 enemy soldiers — sighted at about the same time — fled into bunkers and a treeline as the aircraft approached. Artillery fire and helicopter gunships were directed onto the enemy location with unknown results.

III MAF (THUA THIEN PROVINCE) — At 0830 an element of the 2nd Brigade, U.S. 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile), discovered a mass grave partially uncovered by recent heavy rains in the foothills eight miles south of Hue (45 miles NW of Da Nang). The grave contained the bodies of 150 Vietnamese in civilian clothing believed to be civilians reported missing from the area during the enemy's 1968 Tet offensive. An investigation by Government of Vietnam authorities is being conducted.

III MAF (QUANG NAM PROVINCE) — At 0300 an element of the 7th Regiment, U.S. 1st Marine Division, while in an ambush position 10 miles SE of An Hoa (26 miles south of Da Nang) received about 50 rocket-propelled grenades from an unknown number of enemy, causing no casualties. The ambush element returned to their nearby fire support base. At 0110 the fire support base received a probe from an unknown size enemy force firing small arms and grenades, supported by about ten rounds of 82mm mortar fire, about 25 rounds of 82mm recoilless rifle fire and less than five 122mm rockets. The Marines fired back with small arms and automatic weapons, and the enemy withdrew at an unreported time. Enemy losses are unknown. U.S. casualties were two killed and 11 wounded.

OPERATION IRON MOUNTAIN (QUANG NGAI PROVINCE) — At 0930 an element of the 11th Brigade, Americal Division, two miles south of Due Pho (102 miles SSE of Da Nang), found the bodies of five enemy soldiers on the ground. They had been killed by small arms fire within the previous 24 hours.
TOAN THANG OFFENSIVE (HAU NGHIA PROVINCE) -- At 1040 a mechanized infantry element of the 2nd Brigade, U.S. 25th Infantry Division, engaged an estimated two enemy Platoons in an exchange of heavy small arms and automatic weapons fire three miles north of Cu Chi (22 miles NW of Saigon). The troopers were supported by artillery, helicopter gunships, and USAF A-37's from the 3rd Tactical Fighter Wing in addition to heavy machineguns on their armored personnel carriers. Fighting continued through the afternoon until 1610 when the enemy withdrew. The bodies of 20 enemy soldiers were found in the battle area, and two enemy soldiers were detained. One crew-served and two individual weapons were captured. No U.S. casualties. One of the detained enemy was a newly-infiltrated North Vietnamese Army soldier. He identified himself as an NVA private and rifleman, and stated that he is 18 years old and was born in Hai Phong in North Vietnam. The soldier said his infiltration group, of approximately 300 NVA soldiers, arrived in the Republic of Vietnam from North Vietnam, via Laos and Cambodia on the 15th of September. He was waiting assignment to a VC unit as a replacement when detained by U.S. forces.

TOAN THANG OFFENSIVE (BINH DUONG PROVINCE) -- At 1100 helicopters of the armored cavalry squadron of the U.S. 1st Infantry Division found an enemy base camp occupied by an unknown number of enemy soldiers nine miles SE of Dau Tieng (33 miles NNW of Saigon), and directed artillery and tactical aircraft onto the position. Ground troops from the unit were air-assaulted into the area and found the bodies of seven enemy soldiers killed by the strikes. There was no ground contact and no U.S. casualties.

TOAN THANG OFFENSIVE (BINH DUONG PROVINCE) -- At 1240 an element of the 1st Brigade, U.S. 1st Infantry Division, was air-assaulted into an area six miles NW of Ben Cat (29 miles NNW of Saigon). The troopers observed about ten enemy soldiers and directed helicopter gunships onto the enemy location. In a search of the area the troopers found the bodies of six enemy soldiers killed by the gunships, and detained two soldiers, and captured two individual weapons. No U.S. casualties.

TOAN THANG OFFENSIVE (TAY NINH PROVINCE) -- At 1655 a helicopter from the air cavalry element of the U.S. 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), 12 miles SE of Katum (60 miles north of Saigon), received automatic weapons fire from an unknown number of enemy soldiers and returned the fire and directed artillery onto the enemy position. After the mission the crewmen reported six enemy dead and a destroyed machinegun. No U.S. casualties.

TOAN THANG OFFENSIVE (LONG AN PROVINCE) -- At 1345 troopers from a mechanized infantry element of the 3rd Brigade, U.S. 9th Infantry Division, discovered the bodies of 11 enemy soldiers seven miles SE of Tan An (24 miles SSW of Saigon). They had been killed by small arms fire three days earlier.

SVN TAC AIR: U.S. pilots flew 240 sorties (USAF 185, USMC 49 and USN 6), killing five enemy soldiers, and triggering 10 secondary explosions and igniting three fires. They also destroyed or damaged 76 fortifications, 113 bunkers, and 14 sampans.

An Army OH-6 light observation helicopter was downed by enemy ground fire 10 miles south of An Hoa in Quang Nam Province, wounding three men aboard and destroying the aircraft.

An Army OH-6 light observation helicopter was downed by enemy ground fire 20 miles east of Moc Hoa in Kien Phong Province, wounding one man aboard. The aircraft was destroyed.
- An Army OH-6 light observation helicopter was downed by enemy ground fire 17 miles SE of Katum in Tay Ninh Province, wounding one man aboard and destroying the aircraft.

- B-52s flew 10 missions: 24 and 25 miles NNE of Phuoc Binh; 22 and 23 miles NNE of Phuoc Binh; 20 and 21 miles NNE of Phuoc Binh; 25 miles NNE of Phuoc Binh; 27 miles NNE of Phuoc Binh; 15 miles NW of Phu Cat; and 20 miles SE of Xuan Loc.

20 September (Saturday)

- HQ MACV -- During the night there was one significant enemy indirect fire attack reported from throughout the country. It was not against a U.S. unit. Eleven other indirect fire attacks were considered insignificant, causing no casualties or damage.

- HQ MACV -- During the 24-hour period ending at 0800 today, 21 indirect fire attacks were reported throughout the country, ten of which were against U.S. units or installations. Three of the 21 attacks caused casualties or damage. U.S. casualties were one killed and seven wounded.

- III MAF (THUA THIEN PROVINCE) -- At 1605 a forward air controller of the 1st Brigade, U.S. 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile), observed 12 to 15 enemy soldiers in an open area 16 miles SSW of Phu Bai (43 miles west of Da Nang). He directed tactical aircraft onto the position, killing six of the enemy. No U.S. casualties.

- III MAF (QUANG TIN PROVINCE) -- Landing Zone SIBERIA, located 25 miles west of Tam Ky (34 miles south of Da Nang), and occupied by an element of the 196th Brigade, AMERICAL Division, received four separate 82mm mortar attacks since those reported yesterday. Each of the attacks consisted of less than five rounds, none of which caused casualties or damage.

- III MAF (QUANG NAM PROVINCE) -- At 1625 an element of the 1st Regiment, U.S. 1st Marine Division, was directed by a Vietnamese civilian to a cache site four miles NW of Hoi An (14 miles SSE of Da Nang), where they found a total of thirty 122mm rockets and fifteen-hundred 7.62mm rounds.

- III MAF (QUANG TIN PROVINCE) -- At 1625 an element of the 196th Brigade, AMERICAL Division, located at Landing Zone WEST, 20 miles west of Tam Ky (32 miles south of Da Nang), received less than five rounds of 82mm mortar fire. Light casualties, no fatalities or damage.

- III MAF (QUANG NGAI PROVINCE) -- At 0730 the base camp of Hq 11th Brigade, AMERICAL Division, located at Landing Zone BRONCO, near Duc Pho (100 miles SSE of Da Nang), received less than ten 122mm rockets. Light casualties, no damage.

- III MAF (QUANG TRI PROVINCE) -- At 1430 an element of the 1st Brigade, U.S. 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized), discovered the bodies of 15 enemy soldiers 10 miles WNW of Dong Ha (102 miles NW of Da Nang) and about three miles south of the Demilitarized Zone. They appeared to have been killed by artillery about six months ago.
--- III MAF (QUANG NAM PROVINCE) --- At 1601 a USAF F-4 of the 366th Tactical Fighter Wing collided in-air with an Air Vietnam DC-4 approximately two miles NW of Da Nang Air Base. The pilot landed the F-4 safely at Da Nang Air Base after the navigator ejected safely and was recovered uninjured. The DC-4 crashed approximately one mile NW of the base. Initial reports are that 77 people died in the crash, including two persons on the ground and 75 aboard the DC-4, all Vietnamese nationals. The 75 included 52 adults, 13 children, and 10 babies. The crash is being investigated.

--- I FFV (BINH DINH PROVINCE) --- At 1100 helicopter gunships from an air cavalry element of the U.S. 4th Infantry Division sighted an engaged unknown number of enemy soldiers near a bunker complex 14 miles NE of An Khe (275 miles NNE of Saigon), and also directed Air Force F-100’s from the 31st Tactical Fighter Wing onto the location. Following the strike, 16 dead enemy and one destroyed 12.7mm machinegun were observed in the area. No U.S. casualties.

--- TOAN THANG OFFENSIVE (TAY NINH PROVINCE) --- At 1135 a mechanized element of the 1st Brigade, U.S. 25th Infantry Division, and a Regional Force Company, found a cache nine miles NE of Go Dau Ha (34 miles NNW of Saigon). It contained eight AK-47 rifles, twelve rifles, two rocket-propelled grenade launchers, and an estimated two tons of assorted medical supplies. The cache appeared to have been in position about three months and was in poor condition.

--- SVN TAC AIR: U.S. pilots flew 269 sorties (USAF 195, USMC 74), killing 20 enemy soldiers, triggering 16 secondary explosions, and igniting 24 fires. They also destroyed or damaged 139 fortifications, 251 bunkers, and nine enemy sampans.

--- Two Army OH-6 light observation helicopters were downed by enemy ground fire 12 miles NE of Cao Lanh in Kien Long Province. Two men were wounded and both aircraft were destroyed.

--- B-52s flew 8 missions: 51 miles NE of Xuan Loc; 12 miles NNE of Xuan Loc; 13 miles NE of Tay Ninh; 12 miles west of Cam Lo; 5 and 6 miles north of the Rockpile; 6 and 7 miles NNW of the Rockpile.

21 September (Sunday)

--- HQ MACV --- During the night, six significant indirect fire attacks were reported throughout the country, four of which were against U.S. units or installations. Ten other attacks were considered insignificant, causing no casualties or damage. The following significant attacks were against U.S. forces:

--- III MAF:

201806 --- QUANG NGAI PROVINCE --- An artillery element of the AMERICAL Division located at Minh Long CIDG Camp 15 miles SSW of Quang Ngai (85 miles SSE of Da Nang), received about 50 rounds of 82mm mortar fire. Light casualties, no fatalities or damage.

201950 --- QUANG NAM PROVINCE --- An element of the 7th Regiment, U.S. 1st Marine Division, in night defense 17 miles SSW of Hoi An (25 miles south of Da Nang), received less than five rounds of 60mm mortar fire. Light casualties, no fatalities.
202046 -- QUANG NAM PROVINCE -- An element of the 1st Regiment, U.S. 1st Marine Division, in night defense seven miles SSW of Da Nang), received about five rounds of 60mm mortar fire. Light casualties, no fatalities.

I FFV:

201840 -- NINH THUAN PROVINCE -- The Phan Rang Air Base, 170 miles ENE of Saigon, received less than five 107mm rockets. Light casualties, no fatalities, and very light materiel damage.

III MAF -- During the 24-hour period ending at 0800 today, 22 indirect fire attacks were reported throughout the country, 13 of which were against U.S. units or installations. Nine of the 22 attacks caused casualties or damage. U.S. casualties were 18 wounded, no fatalities.

OPERATION FREDERICK HILL (QUANG TIN PROVINCE) -- At 1635 a reconnaissance element from the 196th Brigade, AMERICAL Division, directed mortar fire onto seven enemy soldiers they had sighted 12 miles west of Tam Ky (35 miles south of Da Nang), killing five of them. No U.S. casualties.

III MAF (QUANG TRI PROVINCE) -- At 2000 a reconnaissance team from the U.S. 3rd Marine Division received small arms fire and hand grenades from an estimated 20 enemy soldiers four miles west of the Rockpile (108 miles NW of Da Nang). The Marines returned fire with small arms and hand grenades, and then directed artillery fire onto the enemy location, killing five before the remainder withdrew. U.S. casualties were two wounded, no fatalities.

III MAF (DMZ) -- At 1925 a U.S. and Army of the Republic of Vietnam fire support base four miles east of Gio Linh and about 3 km south of the Demilitarized Zone, received about five rounds of 82mm mortar fire from an enemy position to the north of the base and about 100 meters north of the southern boundary of the DMZ. The guns of the cruiser USS Boston were directed onto the target, silencing the mortar. Enemy losses are unknown. There were no friendly casualties.

OPERATION IRON MOUNTAIN (QUANG NGOAI PROVINCE) -- At 1910 an element of the 11th Brigade, AMERICAL Division, in night defense 14 miles west of Duc Pho (92 miles SSE of Da Nang), was engaged by an unknown size enemy force using small arms and about 45 rounds of mortar fire. The troopers fired back with small arms, and were supported by helicopter gunships and a USAF AC-119 gunship. Enemy losses are unknown. U.S. casualties were 11 killed and 10 wounded.

I FFV (Binh Dinh Province) -- At 1025 a light observation helicopter from an air cavalry element of the U.S. 4th Infantry Division observed three to five enemy soldiers in a bunker complex 16 miles NE of An Khe (275 miles NNE of Saigon) and directed tactical aircraft onto the position. The crewmen reported 12 enemy dead in the strike area. No U.S. casualties.

TOAN THANG OFFENSIVE (PHUOC LONG PROVINCE) -- At 1255 a U.S. Army Ranger element engaged an unknown size North Vietnamese Army force 13 miles SW of Song Be (66 miles north of Saigon). Heavy small arms and automatic weapons fire was exchanged with the enemy also using rocket-propelled grenades. The Rangers were supported by artillery and helicopter gunships. Fighting continued into the afternoon, and
troopers from the air cavalry squadron of the U.S. 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) were air-assaulted into the vicinity to reinforce at 1530. Action continued until 1630 when the enemy withdrew, leaving 14 of his dead. U.S. casualties were two wounded, no fatalities.

TOAN THANG OFFENSIVE (TAY NINH PROVINCE) -- At 1120 an element of the 1st Brigade, U.S. 25th Infantry Division, 17 miles NNW of Tay Ninh (58 miles NW of Saigon) and about 300 meters east of the Cambodian border, engaged an estimated enemy squad in an exchange of small arms fire with the troopers getting support from artillery and helicopter gunships. At 1220 the enemy withdrew, leaving eight of his dead. One sampan was destroyed. U.S. casualties were two wounded, no fatalities. One former enemy soldier serving as a scout with the U.S. unit was also wounded.

TOAN THANG OFFENSIVE (HAU NGHIA PROVINCE) -- At 1400 an element of the 2nd Brigade, U.S. 25th Infantry Division engaged seven enemy soldiers occupying bunkers three miles NE of Trang Bang (27 miles NW of Saigon), killing five and detaining two in a brief action. No U.S. casualties.

TOAN THANG OFFENSIVE (TAY NINH PROVINCE) -- At 1150 an element of the 1st Brigade, U.S. 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), discovered an enemy cache in a bunker complex 23 miles NE of Tay Ninh City. It consisted of eight 250-lb. bags of rice; 27 bicycles; six CHICOM anti-tank mines; and three cross-cut saws.

SVN TAC AIR: U.S. pilots flew 435 sorties (USAF 292, USMC 111, and USN 32), killing 19 enemy soldiers, triggering 44 secondary explosions and igniting 36 fires. They also destroyed or damaged 303 fortifications, 362 bunkers, and 9 sampans.

An Army AH-1 helicopter gunship was downed by enemy ground fire 26 miles NW of Da Nang in Thua Thien Province, wounding one man aboard and destroying the aircraft.

B-53s flew 6 missions: 6 miles NNW of the Rockpile; 11 miles WNW of Katum; 6 miles NNE of the Rockpile; 16 miles NW of Tay Ninh City; 12 miles east of Phuoc Vinh; and 16 miles NNW of Phan Thiet.

22 September (Monday)

HQ MACV -- During the night, four significant indirect fire attacks were reported throughout the country, two of which were against U.S. units or installations. Nine other attacks were considered insignificant, causing no casualties or damage. The following significant attacks were against U.S. forces:

III MAF:

2122010 -- QUANG NAM PROVINCE -- An element of the 1st Regiment, U.S. 1st Marine Division, in night defense six miles NNW of Hoi An (8 miles SSE of Da Nang),
received less than five rounds of an unknown caliber mortar fire. Light casualties no fatalities.

211950 -- QUANG NAM PROVINCE -- An element of the 1st Regiment, U.S. 1st Marine Division, in night defense seven miles south of Da Nang, received about five rounds of 60mm mortar fire. Light casualties, no fatalities.

HQ MACV -- During the 24-hour period ending at 0800 today, 17 enemy indirect fire attacks were reported throughout the country, eight of which were against U.S. forces or installations. Five of the 17 attacks resulted in casualties or damage. U.S. casualties were three wounded with no fatalities.

OPERATION FREDERICK HILL (QUANG TIN PROVINCE) -- At 0945 an element of the 196th Brigade, AMERICAL Division, was air-assaulted into an area 16 miles west of Tam Ky (34 miles south of Da Nang). Three UH-1 helicopters were hit by enemy ground fire and made forced landings in the vicinity, destroying two of the helicopters and damaging the third. The infantrymen contacted and engaged an unknown size enemy force in the area of the landing zone. Heavy small arms and automatic weapons fire was exchanged and the enemy employed rocket-propelled grenades. As action continued, another element of the Brigade reinforced, and fighting continued into the early afternoon with helicopter gunships and artillery supporting the ground troops. At 1310 the enemy withdrew, leaving 15 of his dead, and one crew-served weapon. U.S. casualties were five killed (including two helicopter crewmen), and 12 wounded (including 5 helicopter crewmen).

III MAF (QUANG TIN PROVINCE) -- At 1430 an element of the 196th Brigade, AMERICAL Division, 19 miles west of Tam Ky (32 miles south of Da Nang), received about ten rounds of 82mm mortar fire. Light casualties, no fatalities.

III MAF (DMZ) -- At 1745 the U.S. and Army of the Republic of Vietnam fire support base near Gia Linh (97 miles NW of Da Nang) received less than ten rounds of 82mm mortar fire from an enemy position located to the north and about 100 meters north of the southern boundary of the Demilitarized Zone. U.S. Marine Corps artillery returned the fire, silencing the mortar. Enemy losses are unknown. U.S. casualties were three wounded with no fatalities. ARVN casualties were light.

III MAF (QUANG NAM PROVINCE) -- At 0930 an element of the 7th Regiment, U.S. 1st Marine Division, observed an estimated 30 enemy soldiers moving northeast on a trail nine miles SW of Hoi An (17 miles south of Da Nang). The Marines directed artillery onto the enemy position and found the bodies of six enemy soldiers after the mission. No U.S. casualties.

TOAN THANG OFFENSIVE (BINH DUONG PROVINCE) -- At 0615 U.S. Navy river patrol boats (PBRs), with an element of the 1st Brigade, U.S. 1st Infantry Division, engaged an estimated 30 enemy soldiers moving northeast on a trail nine miles SE of Dau Tieng (31 miles NW of Saigon). The troopers were supported by artillery and helicopter gunships. The troopers searched the area and found the bodies of 25 enemy soldiers, and captured one individual weapon and 16 back-packs. No U.S. casualties.

TOAN THANG OFFENSIVE (BINH DUONG PROVINCE) -- At 2100 U.S. Navy river patrol boats (PBRs) observed and engaged an unknown number of enemy crossing the Saigon River
from southeast to northwest at a point six miles south of Dau Tieng (34 miles NNW of Saigon) and killed 17 before the remaining enemy were able to evade further observation. In addition, ten backpacks were captured. No U.S. casualties.

- **TOAN THANG OFFENSIVE (TAY NINH PROVINCE)** -- At 1845 a light observation helicopter of the air cavalry element of the U.S. 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) received small arms fire from an unknown number of enemy located 12 miles SE of Katum (60 miles NNW of Saigon) and returned the fire with unit weapons, supported by artillery. The crewmen observed 11 enemy dead in the strike area. About 30 minutes later, in the same general area, three other helicopters from the unit also received small arms fire from an unknown number of enemy and the crewmen again directed artillery onto the enemy position, killing five more enemy soldiers. No U.S. casualties in either action.

- **TOAN THANG OFFENSIVE (LONG KHANH PROVINCE)** -- At 0825 an element of the 199th Light Infantry Brigade engaged an unknown number of enemy soldiers four miles NNW of Xuan Loc (40 miles ENE of Saigon). Small arms and automatic weapons fire was exchanged and contact was lost about five minutes later when the enemy withdrew. Enemy losses are unknown. U.S. casualties were six wounded, no fatalities.

- **HQ MACV** -- It was announced that over 5,000 Navy personnel will leave Vietnam by mid-December, with most of the personnel coming from Seabee units at Da Nang, Quang Tri, and Dong Ha. (The complete text of the release is contained in the CHRONOLOGY OF TROOP REDEPLOYMENT, in this summary):

- **SVN TAC AIR**: U.S. pilots flew 394 sorties (USAF 266, USMC 96, and USN 32), killing seven enemy soldiers, triggering 24 secondary explosions, and igniting seven fires. They also destroyed or damaged 235 fortifications, 315 bunkers, and nine enemy sampans.

- **B-52s flew 9 missions**: 22 miles NNE of Xuan Loc; 11 miles SSE of Katum; 17 miles north of Xuan Loc; 8 miles NW of Cam Lo; 9 miles NNW of Phuoc Vinh; 3 and 9 miles NNE of Loc Minh; 11 miles east of Katum; and 14 miles east of Katum.

23 September (Tuesday)

- **HQ MACV** -- During the night, six significant enemy indirect fire attacks were reported throughout the country, three of which were against U.S. units or installations. Eight other indirect fire attacks were considered insignificant, causing no casualties or damage. The following significant attacks were against U.S. forces:

**III MAF:**

221825 -- QUANG TIN PROVINCE -- An element of the 196th Brigade, AMERICAL Division, in night defense 20 miles west of Tam Ky (35 miles south of Da Nang), received less than 10 rounds of 82mm mortar fire. Light casualties, no fatalities.

**I FFV:**

222230 -- NHIN THUAN PROVINCE -- The Phan Rang Air Base, 170 miles ENE of Saigon, received about 10 rounds of 82mm mortar fire. No casualties or damage.
II FFV:

221925 — TAY NINH PROVINCE — The base camp of an element of the U.S. 25th Infantry Division near Tay Ninh City, 57 miles NW of Saigon, received about five rounds of 122mm rocket fire. No casualties or damage.

HQ MACV — During the 24-hour period ending at 0800 today, 21 indirect fire attacks were reported throughout the country, seventeen of which were against U.S. units or installations. Five of the 21 attacks caused damage or casualties. U.S. casualties were 11 wounded, no fatalities.

III MAF (QUANG TIN PROVINCE) — At 1345 U.S. Army helicopter gunships from the AMERICAL Division observed an unknown number of suspected enemy soldiers in black and green clothing attempting to evade while operating in an area 25 miles west of Tam Ky (35 miles south of Da Nang). The gunships fired their rockets and machine-guns onto the location with unknown results. There was no reported return fire from the area and there were no U.S. casualties. At an unreported time, a U.S. MACV Advisory Team in the area reported that 14 Vietnamese civilians (including 12 men and 2 women) had been killed by the helicopter fire and seven other Vietnamese men (including five civilians and two RF/PF soldiers) had been wounded by the fire. The incident is being investigated.

III MAF (DMZ) — At 2120 an element of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam 2nd Regiment, 1st Division, four miles east of Gio Linh (95 miles NW of Da Nang), received about 40 rounds of 82mm mortar fire from an enemy position 400 meters south of the Ben Hai River in the southern half of the Demilitarized Zone, causing no casualties or damage. The cruiser USS BOSTON returned the fire, silencing the mortar. Enemy losses are unknown.

III MAF (QUANG TIN PROVINCE) — At 0805 an element of the 196th Brigade, AMERICAL Division, in night defense 17 miles west of Tam Ky (32 miles south of Da Nang), received about five rounds of 60mm mortar fire. Light casualties.

I FFV (BINH DINH PROVINCE) — At 1235 helicopter crewmen from an air cavalry element of the U.S. 4th Infantry Division observed an unknown number of enemy soldiers in fortified positions 16 miles NE of An Khe (275 miles NNE of Saigon). U.S. Army artillery fire and USAF F-4's from the 12th and 37th Tactical Fighter Wings were directed onto the enemy location. Following the engagement, the bodies of 37 enemy soldiers were observed in the strike area. No U.S. casualties.

I FFV (BINH DINH PROVINCE) — At 2330 an element of the U.S. 173rd Airborne Brigade five miles east of Bong Song (305 miles NNE of Saigon), engaged and killed five enemy soldiers in a brief action. The troopers were supported by helicopter gunships during the engagement. U.S. casualties were two wounded, no fatalities.

TOAN THANG OFFENSIVE (BINH DUONG PROVINCE) — Two events occurred, both closely related in locale, and both involving the same units:

1. At 1920 U.S. Navy river patrol boat crewmen sighted an unknown number of enemy soldiers attempting to swim across the Saigon River eight miles SE of Dau Tieng (33 miles NW of Saigon). They engaged the enemy with automatic weapons, and
killed five. In addition, they captured five enemy rucksacks. No U.S. casualties.

2. At 2245 in the same general area, U.S. Navy river patrol boat crewmen sighted and engaged an unknown number of enemy soldiers attempting to swim across the Saigon River. Nine enemy soldiers were killed in the action. No U.S. casualties.

TOAN THANG OFFENSIVE (TAY NINH PROVINCE) -- At 1230 an armored element of the U.S. 25th Infantry Division engaged an unknown size enemy force two miles west of Phu Khuong (55 miles NW of Saigon). Automatic weapons fire was exchanged and the troopers employed tank guns and were supported by helicopter gunships, and USAF F-100's from the 3rd Tactical Fighter Wing. At 1325 the enemy withdrew, leaving 11 of his dead and seven AK-47 rifles. No U.S. casualties.

TOAN THANG OFFENSIVE (HAU NGHIA PROVINCE) -- At 0215 an element of the 2nd Brigade U.S. 25th Infantry Division, located at a patrol base three miles east of Trang Bang (25 miles NW of Saigon), observed an estimated ten enemy soldiers outside their perimeter and directed artillery fire onto the enemy position. The troopers counted the bodies of nine enemy soldiers after the fire mission. There were no U.S. casualties.

TOAN THANG OFFENSIVE (TAY NINH PROVINCE) -- At 1000 a helicopter from the air cavalry element of the U.S. 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) received small arms fire from an unknown number of enemy soldiers nine miles SE of Katum (61 miles NNW of Saigon) and directed tactical aircraft onto the enemy position. The helicopter crewmen reported seven enemy dead after the mission. No U.S. casualties.

TOAN THANG OFFENSIVE (HAU NGHIA PROVINCE) -- At 1100 an element of the 3rd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division, supported by helicopter gunships from an air cavalry element of the U.S. Army 12th Combat Aviation Group, engaged an unknown size enemy force while operating two miles south of Duc Hoa (16 miles west of Saigon). Five enemy were killed in the brief action, one enemy was detained, and one AK-47 rifle was captured. No U.S. casualties.

TOAN THANG OFFENSIVE (LONG KHANH PROVINCE) -- At 1550 an element of the 199th Light Infantry Brigade engaged an unknown size enemy force five miles NNW of Xuan Loc (40 miles ENE of Saigon). Small arms and automatic weapons fire was exchanged and the enemy employed rocket-propelled grenades. The troopers were supported by helicopter gunships and artillery. At 1615 the enemy withdrew with unknown losses. U.S. casualties were five killed and two wounded.

SVN TAC AIR: U.S. pilots flew 399 sorties (USAF 277, USMC 90 and USN 32), killing 25 enemy soldiers, triggering 33 secondary explosions and igniting 45 fires. They also destroyed or damaged 281 fortifications, 345 bunkers and 15 sampans.

B-52s flew 8 missions: 13 and 16 miles east of Katum; 11 miles NE of Loc Minh; 8 miles east of Katum; 8 miles NW of Cam Lo; 7, 8, and 9 miles NW of Cam Lo.

24 September (Wednesday)

HQ MACV -- During the night, six significant indirect fire attacks were reported throughout the country, three of which were against U.S. units or installations.
Nine other attacks were considered insignificant, causing no casualties or damage. The following significant attacks were against U.S. forces:

**III MAF:**

231800 -- QUANG NAM PROVINCE -- An element of the 7th Regiment, U.S. 1st Marine Division, in night defense six miles ESE of An Hoa (22 miles south of Da Nang) received about ten rounds of 60mm mortar fire. Light casualties, no fatalities.

231910 -- THUA THIEN PROVINCE -- An element of the 1st Brigade, U.S. 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile), in night defense five miles SW of Camp Evans (65 miles SW of Da Nang), received about 15 rounds of an unknown caliber mortar fire. U.S. casualties were light with no fatalities.

**II FFV:**

232400 -- BINH DUONG PROVINCE -- The headquarters of the U.S. 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) at Camp Gorvan near Phuoc Vinh (36 miles north of Saigon) received less than fifteen 107mm rockets. No casualties or damage.

- HQ MACV -- During the 24-hour period ending at 0800 today, 22 indirect fire attacks were reported throughout the country. Thirteen of the attacks were against U.S. units or installations. Seven of the 22 attacks caused casualties or damage. U.S. casualties were two killed and 22 wounded.

- TOAN THANG OFFENSIVE (TAY NHIN PROVINCE) -- At 1030 an element of the 1st Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), engaged an unknown size enemy force 15 miles ENE of Tay Ninh City (47 miles NW of Saigon). Heavy small arms and automatic weapons fire was exchanged and the troopers were supported by USAF F-100's from the 3rd and 35th Tactical Fighter Wings and U.S. Army helicopter gunships. During the tactical air strikes one secondary explosion with a smoke column 1,600 feet high was observed. Contact was lost at 1100 when the enemy withdrew. In a search of the area in the vicinity of the secondary explosion, the bodies of 24 enemy soldiers and a significant munitions cache was found. Two of the enemy soldiers had been killed by small arms fire and the remainder had been killed by the air strikes. The cache, which weighed two tons, contained the following: seventy-five 107mm rockets; 100 CHICOM hand grenades; 25 anti-tank mines; one individual weapon; 6 bicycles; 1 claymore-type mine; two rocket-propelled (RPG-2) grenades; and a small quantity of medical supplies.

- TOAN THANG OFFENSIVE (BINH DUONG PROVINCE) -- At 2240 an element of the 2nd Brigade U.S. 25th Infantry Division engaged an estimated 25 enemy soldiers nine miles SW of Ben Cat (24 miles NW of Saigon). The troopers were supported by artillery, and a USAF AC-47 gunship. Contact was lost at 0130 (25 Sep.) when the enemy withdrew. The bodies of 16 enemy soldiers were sighted in the strike area. No U.S. casualties.

- TOAN THANG OFFENSIVE (HAU NGOHIA PROVINCE) -- At 0445 Army of the Republic of Vietnam armored cavalry troops and infantrymen from an element of the ARVN 49th Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, collocated in night defense with a mechanized infantry element of the 2nd Brigade, U.S. 25th Infantry Division nine miles NNE of Cu Chi (35 miles NW of Saigon), received a ground probe from an unknown size enemy force. The enemy employed automatic weapons and rocket-propelled grenades. The
combined U.S. and ARVN troops returned fire with unit weapons, including the heavy machineguns on their armored personnel carriers, and were supported by helicopter gunships and an AC-47 gunship. At 0505 the enemy withdrew, leaving 10 of his dead and four AK-47 assault rifles and 12 CHIGOM hand grenades. U.S. casualties were three wounded, no fatalities. ARVN casualties were very light, no fatalities.

- TOAN THANG OFFENSIVE (PHUOC LONG PROVINCE) -- At 1740 a light observation helicopter from the air cavalry squadron of the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) received heavy automatic weapons fire from an unknown number of enemy soldiers occupying fortified positions 20 miles NE of Song Be (97 miles NNE of Saigon) and 7 miles from the Cambodian border. USAF tactical aircraft and an AC-119 engaged the enemy position, and, following the strikes, the bodies of eight enemy soldiers were observed in the strike area, and 15 bunkers were reported destroyed. No U.S. casualties.

- TOAN THANG OFFENSIVE (HAU NGHIA PROVINCE) -- At 2105 an element of the 2nd Brigade, U.S. 25th Infantry Division, in night defense seven miles NE of Trang Bang (27 miles NNW of Saigon), detected an estimated ten enemy soldiers outside their perimeter and directed artillery onto the enemy position. The troopers reported seven dead enemy in the area after the mission. No U.S. casualties.

- TOAN THANG OFFENSIVE (HAU NGHIA PROVINCE) -- At 2325 an element of the 2nd Brigade, U.S. 25th Infantry Division three miles NE of Trang Bang (26 miles NW of Saigon) engaged five enemy soldiers with unit weapons, killing all of them in a brief encounter. No U.S. casualties.

- TOAN THANG OFFENSIVE (BINH DUONG PROVINCE) -- At 0300 helicopter gunships of the U.S. 1st Infantry Division sighted and engaged an estimated six enemy soldiers nine miles east of Ben Cat (24 miles north of Saigon), killing five before the remaining enemy evaded further observation. There were no U.S. casualties.

- TOAN THANG OFFENSIVE (BINH DUONG PROVINCE) -- At 1600 an element of the 2nd Brigade, U.S. 1st Cavalry Division four miles SW of Phuoc Vinh (34 miles north of Saigon) engaged an estimated five enemy soldiers with small arms and automatic weapons fire, supported by helicopter gunships and artillery fire. The enemy quickly withdrew to the east. Enemy losses are unknown at this time. U.S. casualties were two killed and four wounded.

- TOAN THANG OFFENSIVE (PHUOC LONG PROVINCE) -- At 0910 an element of the 3rd Brigade, U.S. 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), 11 miles WNW of Quan Loi (66 miles north of Saigon), found a cache containing six tons of rice in 200-lb. bags. The rice had been in place about one month.

- SVN TAC AIR: U.S. pilots flew 366 sorties (USAF 244, USMC 98 and USN 24), killing 31 enemy soldiers, triggering 41 secondary explosions and igniting 66 fires. They also destroyed or damaged 180 fortifications, 273 bunkers, and 20 enemy sampans.

- An Army OH-6 light observation helicopter was downed by enemy ground fire 10 miles east of Phuoc Binh (83 miles NNE of Saigon), wounding three men and destroying the aircraft.
- An Army OH-6 light observation helicopter was downed by enemy ground fire 10 miles NW of Phu Vinh in Vinh Binh Province, wounding one crewman and destroying the aircraft.

- B-52s flew 7 missions: 18 miles east of Xuan Loc; 41 miles north of Saigon; 13 miles WNW of Can Lo; 14 and 16 miles NNW of Phuoc Binh; 6 miles NW of Katum; and 8 miles east of Katum.

25 September (Thursday)

- HQ MACV — During the night, eight indirect fire attacks were reported throughout the country, five of which were against U.S. units or installations. Nine other attacks were considered insignificant, causing no casualties or damage. The following significant attacks were against U.S. forces:

**III MAF:**

241800 — QUANG TIN PROVINCE — An element of the 196th Brigade, AMERICAL Division, in night defense 17 miles west of Tam Ky (34 miles south of Da Nang), received less than five rounds of 82mm mortar fire. Light casualties, no fatalities.

241915 — QUANG NAM PROVINCE — An element of the 5th Regiment, U.S. 1st Marine Division, in night defense three miles north of An Hoa (20 miles SSE of Da Nang), received less than ten 60mm mortar rounds. Light casualties, no fatalities.

242340 — QUANG TRI PROVINCE — The U.S. Dong Ha Combat Base headquarters for the U.S. 3rd Marine Division (92 miles NW of Da Nang) received less than ten unknown caliber rockets. Light casualties, no fatalities or damage.

**II FFV:**

241855 — BINH DUONG PROVINCE — The headquarters of the U.S. 1st Infantry Division at Lai Khe (29 miles north of Saigon) received less than five 107mm rockets. No casualties or damage.

242205 — TAY NINH PROVINCE — An air cavalry element of the U.S. 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) in night defense 17 miles north of Tay Ninh City (61 miles NW of Saigon) received less than five rounds of an unknown caliber and type of indirect fire. Light casualties, no fatalities.

- HQ MACV — During the 24-hour period ending at 0900 today, 22 indirect fire attacks were reported throughout the country, 11 of which were against U.S. units or installations. Eight of the 20 attacks caused casualties or damage. U.S. casualties were 24 wounded with no fatalities.

- TOAN THANG OFFENSIVE (HAU NGHIA PROVINCE) — At 2250 an element of the 2nd Brigade U.S. 25th Infantry Division detected 15 enemy soldiers moving near their night defensive positions six miles NE of Trang Bang (27 miles NW of Saigon). Artillery fire was directed onto the enemy location and the bodies of 20 enemy soldiers were observed in the strike area. No U.S. casualties.
- III MAF (DMZ) -- At 1630 a U.S. observation aircraft reconnoitering the southern half of the Demilitarized Zone was hit by automatic weapons fire from an unknown number of enemy soldiers occupying fortified positions four miles north of Gio Linh and 100 meters south of the Ben Hai river in the southern DMZ. Tactical aircraft were directed onto the enemy location, destroying one 12.7mm anti-aircraft machine-gun and silencing the enemy fire. The aircraft received light damage and the pilot returned the aircraft safely. Enemy losses are unknown. No U.S. casualties.

- III MAF (DMZ) -- At 2315 an Army of the Republic of Vietnam and U.S. fire support base located three miles east of Gio Linh and two miles south of the Demilitarized Zone, received 82mm mortar fire from an enemy position to the north and about one-half mile inside the southern edge of the Demilitarized Zone. Naval gunfire from the cruiser USS BOSTON was directed onto the enemy mortar position, silencing the enemy fire. A total of less than 10 rounds of 82mm mortar fire impacted at the base, causing no casualties or damage. Enemy losses are unknown.

- SVN TAC AIR: U.S. pilots flew 425 sorties (USAF 276, USMC 108, and USN 41), killing 27 enemy soldiers, triggering 36 secondary explosions and igniting 20 fires. They also destroyed or damaged 289 fortifications, 280 bunkers, and 8 enemy sampans.

- An Army UH-1 helicopter was downed by enemy ground fire nine miles NW of Phu Loc in Chuong Tien Province, destroying the aircraft. There were no casualties.

- B-52s flew 8 missions: 15 miles north of Phuoc Binh; 17 miles NW of Pleiku; 17 miles NNE of Phuoc Binh; 21 miles NNE of Phuoc Binh; 12 miles NW of Bong Son; 25 and 26 miles NNE of Song Be; and two miles east of Katum.

26 September (Friday)

- HQ MACV -- During the night, two significant enemy indirect fire attacks were reported throughout the country, neither of which was against a U.S. unit or installation. Thirteen other fire attacks were considered insignificant, causing no damage or casualties.

- HQ MACV -- During the 24-hour period ending at 0800 today, 17 indirect fire attacks were reported throughout the country, four of which were against U.S. installations or units. Two of the 17 attacks caused casualties or damage. There were no U.S. casualties.

- OPERATION IRON MOUNTAIN (QUANG NGAI PROVINCE) -- At 1200 a reconnaissance element of the 11th Brigade, AMERICAN Division, engaged an unknown size enemy force four miles ESE of Duc Pho (100 miles SSE of Da Nang) in an exchange of small arms and automatic weapons fire, with the troopers getting support from artillery. At an unreported time, the enemy withdrew, leaving six of his dead. No U.S. casualties.

- III MAF (QUANG NAM PROVINCE) -- At 1700 a reconnaissance element of the 1st Marine Division observed 26 enemy soldiers moving northeast in an area five miles south of An Hoa (26 miles south of Da Nang) and directed artillery fire onto the location. They reported five enemy dead in the strike area after the engagement.

- III MAF (QUANG NGAI PROVINCE) -- At 1635 an element of the 11th Brigade, AMERICAN Division, six miles west of Quang Ngai (73 miles SSE of Da Nang), received less than 10 rounds of 82mm mortar fire. Very light casualties, no fatalities.
TOAN THANG OFFENSIVE (TAY NINH PROVINCE) -- At 1110 an element of the 2nd Brigade, U.S. 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), nine miles NE of Go Dau Ha (33 miles NNW of Saigon), engaged an unknown size enemy force with small arms and automatic weapons and were supported by U.S. Army artillery and helicopter gunships and USAF tactical aircraft from the 31st and 35th Tactical Fighter Wings. At 1620, the enemy withdrew, leaving 30 of his dead and 10 destroyed individual weapons. U.S. casualties were one killed and four wounded.

TOAN THANG OFFENSIVE (LONG AN PROVINCE) -- At 1545 an element of the 3rd Brigade, U.S. 9th Infantry Division 12 miles east of Tan An (18 miles south of Saigon), engaged an unknown size enemy force in an exchange of small arms fire. The troopers were supported by helicopter gunships until 1750 when the enemy withdrew, leaving 26 of his dead and three individual weapons. U.S. casualties were two wounded, no fatalities. Three former enemy soldiers serving as scouts with the U.S. unit were also wounded.

TOAN THANG OFFENSIVE (HAU NGHIA PROVINCE) -- At 1200 an element of the 3rd Brigade, U.S. 82nd Airborne Division, five miles south of Duc Hoa (16 miles west of Saigon), engaged an estimated 20 enemy soldiers, and was supported by helicopter gunships. At an unreported time the enemy withdrew, leaving 16 of his dead. U.S. casualties were two killed and four wounded.

TOAN THANG OFFENSIVE (TAY NINH PROVINCE) -- At 0455 an ambush patrol from the 1st Brigade, U.S. 25th Infantry Division, engaged an unknown number of enemy six miles NW of Go Dau Ha (40 miles NW of Saigon) in an exchange of small arms fire and was supported by helicopter gunships and artillery. The enemy withdrew at 0555, leaving 13 of his dead. One enemy soldier was detained and one individual weapon was captured. There were no U.S. casualties.

TOAN THANG OFFENSIVE (TAY NINH PROVINCE) -- At 0710 helicopter gunships from the air cavalry element of the U.S. 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) received heavy automatic weapons fire from an unknown number of enemy 23 miles NW of Go Dau Ha (45 miles NW of Saigon) in an exchange of small arms fire and was supported by helicopter gunships and artillery. The enemy withdrew at 0555, leaving 13 of his dead. One enemy soldier was detained and one individual weapon was captured. There were no U.S. casualties.

TOAN THANG OFFENSIVE (TAY NINH PROVINCE) -- At 0455 an ambush patrol from the 1st Brigade, U.S. 25th Infantry Division, engaged an unknown number of enemy six miles NW of Go Dau Ha (40 miles NW of Saigon) in an exchange of small arms fire and was supported by helicopter gunships and artillery. The enemy withdrew at 0555, leaving 13 of his dead. One enemy soldier was detained and one individual weapon was captured. There were no U.S. casualties.

HQ MACV -- It was announced that the 238th Combat Support Company, an Army Reserve unit from Texas, had departed the Republic of Vietnam 21 Sept., and that the 172nd Transportation Company, an Army Reserve unit from Nebraska, would leave tomorrow. (See the CHRONOLOGY OF TROOP REDEPLOYMENT in this summary for the complete text of the release).

SVN TAC AIR: U.S. pilots flew 410 sorties (USAF 276, USMC 95, and USN 39), triggering 23 secondary explosions and igniting 32 fires. They also destroyed or damaged 233 fortifications, 336 bunkers, and three enemy sampans.
An Army OH-6 light observation helicopter was downed by enemy ground fire 12 miles west of Hue in Thua Thien Province, wounding two men aboard and destroying the aircraft.

B-52s flew 10 missions: 7, 12 and 13 miles east of Katum; 29 miles NE of Song Be; 21 miles NNE of Song Be; 18 miles NW of An Khe; 27 miles NNE of Song Be; 10 and 11 miles NNE of Loc Minh; and 15 miles NNE of Song Be.

27 September (Saturday)

HQ MACV -- During the night, three significant indirect fire attacks were reported throughout the country, one of which was against a U.S. installation. Five other attacks were considered insignificant, causing no casualties or damage. The following significant attack was against a U.S. unit:

262203 -- KHANH HOA PROVINCE -- The base camp of a U.S. Army combat support element 17 miles south of Nha Trang (195 miles ENE of Saigon) received about 30 rounds of 82mm mortar fire. No casualties, light damage.

HQ MACV -- During the 24-hour period ending at 0800 today, ten enemy indirect fire attacks were reported throughout the country, five of which were against U.S. units or installations. Four of the ten attacks caused damage or casualties. One U.S. soldier was wounded.

III MAF (QUANG TRI PROVINCE) -- At 0050 an element of the 4th Regiment, 3rd Marine Division in night defense two miles north of the Rockpile (105 miles NW of Da Nang) and four miles south of the Demilitarized Zone, received about 20 rounds of 82mm mortar fire followed by a ground attack by an unknown size North Vietnamese Army force. The enemy employed heavy small arms and automatic weapons, and the Marines returned fire with unit weapons. At an unreported time, the enemy withdrew without having penetrated the perimeter. Enemy losses are unknown. U.S. casualties were two killed and 17 wounded.

III MAF (THUA THIEN PROVINCE) -- At 0830 on 19 September an element of the 2nd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile), discovered a mass grave partially uncovered by rain eight miles south of Hue (45 miles NW of Da Nang). The grave contained the remains of 250 Vietnamese. The majority of the victims had crushed skulls and some had been shot. All are believed to be Vietnamese civilians reported missing or abducted by the enemy from the area during the 1968 Tet offensive, and later executed by the enemy. To date, 71 of the bodies have been identified from clothing, jewelry, and identification cards. An investigation by the Government of the Republic of Vietnam continues.

III MAF (QUANG NAM PROVINCE) -- At 1915 the City of Hoi An (population 44,127), the Province Capital of Quang Nam Province, received about ten rounds of 82mm mortar fire. Counter-mortar was fired with unknown results. Four civilians were killed and seven wounded in the attack.

I FFV (BINH DINH PROVINCE) -- At 1610 troopers from an air cavalry element of the U.S. 4th Infantry Division were air-assaulted into an area 21 miles NE of An Khe
(280 miles NE of Saigon) and engaged an estimated enemy platoon. Small arms and automatic weapons were exchanged and the infantrymen were supported by helicopter gunships. At an unreported time the enemy withdrew, leaving eight of his dead and one individual weapon. There were no U.S. casualties.

- I FFV (PLEIKU PROVINCE) -- At 1000 an element of the 3rd Brigade, U.S. 4th Infantry Division, 12 miles SSE of Pleiku City (235 miles NNE of Saigon), received small arms fire and hand grenades from an unknown size enemy force. The troopers fired back and were supported by U.S. Army artillery and helicopter gunships. Contact was lost about ten minutes later when the enemy withdrew. Enemy losses are unknown. U.S. casualties were eight wounded (three of whom were evacuated) and no fatalities.

- TOAN THANG OFFENSIVE (TAY NINH PROVINCE) -- At 1830 a mechanized infantry element of the 1st Brigade, U.S. 25th Infantry Division, nine miles NE of Go Dau Ha (34 miles NW of Saigon), observed five enemy soldiers and directed U.S. Army artillery onto their location, killing all five. No U.S. casualties.

- HQ MACV -- It was announced that the first U.S. unit to depart the Republic of Vietnam under President Nixon's recently announced redeployment of 35,000 troops was the 238th Combat Support Company, an Army Reserve unit from Texas. The unit, of about 90 men, departed from Bien Hoa Air Base on 21 September for Kelly Air Force Base, Texas. The company will be inactivated and reconstituted in the Army Reserve at its home station in Fort Sam Houston, Texas. The second U.S. unit to depart the Republic under the current redeployment was the 172nd Transportation Company of about 180 men, which left Cam Ranh Air Base today for Forbes Army Airfield, Nebraska. The Reserve unit will be inactivated at Fort Riley, Kansas, and reconstituted in the Army Reserve at its home station in Omaha, Nebraska.

HQ MACV -- Admiral John S. McCain, Jr., Commander in Chief, U.S. Forces, Pacific, announced today the completion of the Phase II redeployment planning conference held at his headquarters in Honolulu. (The complete text of the release is contained in the CHRONOLOGY OF TROOP REDEPLOYMENT in this summary).

- SVN TAC AIR: U.S. pilots flew 380 sorties (USAF 238, USMC 98, and USN 44), killing 17 enemy soldiers, triggering 32 secondary explosions and igniting 46 fires. They also destroyed or damaged 166 fortifications, 289 bunkers, and nine sampans.

- B52s flew 6 missions: 10 miles NNE of Loc Ninh; 15 and 16 miles north of Song Be; 21 miles NNE of Song Be; 16 miles NNW of Song Be; and 5 miles north of the Rockpile.

28 September (Sunday)

- HQ MACV -- During the night, four significant indirect fire attacks were reported throughout the country, one of which was against a U.S. unit. Seven other indirect fire attacks were considered insignificant, causing no casualties or damage. The following significant attack was against a U.S. unit:

III MAF:

272135 -- QUANG NAM PROVINCE -- An element of the 5th Regiment, 1st Marine Division, in night defense 21 miles SW of Da Nang, received about five rounds of 60mm mortar fire. Light casualties, no fatalities.
III MAF (QUANG TRI PROVINCE) -- At 1115 a mechanized infantry element of the 1st
Brigade, U.S. 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized), received small arms, automatic
weapons, rocket-propelled grenades and 82mm mortar fire from an unknown size North
Vietnamese Army force while operating in an area three miles SSE of Con Thien (105
miles NW of Da Nang) and three miles south of the Demilitarized Zone. The troopers
returned fire with unit weapons, including the heavy machineguns of their armored
personnel carriers, and attacked the enemy. Tactical aircraft supported the armored
force, and, as fighting continued into the afternoon, another mechanized infantry unit
from the brigade reinforced. At 1500 the enemy withdrew, leaving 15 of
his dead and five crew-served and one individual weapon. U.S. casualties were
three killed and seven wounded.

OPERATION IRON MOUNTAIN (QUANG NGOAI PROVINCE) -- At 2215 helicopter gunships of
the 16th Combat Aviation Group, supporting an element of the 11th Brigade, AMEILI-
CAL Division, sighted and engaged 12 enemy soldiers two miles NE of Duc Pho (101
miles SSE of Da Nang), killing all 12. No U.S. casualties.

III MAF (QUANG NAM PROVINCE) -- At 1550 an element of the 7th Regiment, U.S. 1st
Marine Division, 12 miles ESE of An Hoa (25 miles south of Da Nang), received less
than five rounds of 60mm mortar fire. U.S. casualties were light, no fatalities.

III MAF (QUANG TRI PROVINCE) -- At 1440 an element of the 1st Brigade, U.S. 5th
Infantry Division (Mechanized), six miles NW of Cam Lo (105 miles NW of Da Nang),
and about two miles south of the Demilitarized Zone, received about 30 rounds of
60mm and 82mm mortar fire. Light casualties, no fatalities.

I FFV (BINH DINH PROVINCE) -- At 1130 an element of the 2nd Brigade, U.S. 4th In-
fantry Division, operating 12 miles NW of Bong Son (305 miles NNE of Saigon), re-
ceived small arms fire from an unknown size enemy force. The troopers returned
fire with their unit weapons until the enemy withdrew at 1135 with unknown losses.
U.S. casualties were one killed and four wounded.

TOAN THANG OFFENSIVE (HAU NGHIA PROVINCE) -- At 0030 an element of the 2nd Brigade
U.S. 25th Infantry Division in night defense nine miles NW of Cu Chi (27 miles NW
of Saigon) detected an estimated 20 enemy soldiers moving near their night defense
positions. Artillery fire was directed onto the location and the bodies of 10 en-
emy soldiers were sighted in the strike area.

TOAN THANG OFFENSIVE (TAY NINH PROVINCE) -- At 1640 an element of the 1st Brigade,
U.S. 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), 16 miles NW of Tay Ninh City (48 miles NNW
of Saigon), engaged an estimated enemy platoon. The troopers were supported by
artillery, helicopter gunships, and USAF F-100's from the 35th Tactical Fighter
Wing. Contact continued until 1945 when the enemy withdrew, leaving six bodies be-
hind. U.S. casualties were one killed and seven wounded.

TOAN THANG OFFENSIVE (HAU NGHIA PROVINCE) -- At 1445 an element of the 2nd Brigade,
U.S. 25th Infantry Division, six miles north of Cu Chi (23 miles NNW of Saigon),
found ten dead enemy soldiers, killed by air strikes one or two days ago.
- HQ MACV -- It was announced by USARV (LONG BINH) that the 357th Transportation Company, an Army Reserve unit from Pa., will depart the Republic of Vietnam tomorrow. The unit was previously scheduled to depart and is not included in President Nixon's recently announced redeployment of 35,000 troops. The company of about 240 men, commanded by Captain John A. Hose, Greencastle, Pa., will leave from Bien Hoa Air Base and arrive at McGuire AFB, N.J. The unit will be inactivated at Fort Dix New Jersey and reconstituted in the Army Reserve at its home station in Greencastle, Pa.

- SVN TAC AIR: U.S. pilots flew 390 sorties (USAF 244, USMC 94, and USN 52), killing four enemy soldiers, triggering 26 secondary explosions and igniting 25 fires. They also destroyed or damaged 198 fortifications, 272 bunkers, and eight sampans.

- An Army OH-6 light observation helicopter was downed by enemy ground fire nine miles north of Bong Son in Binh Dinh Province, wounding three men aboard and destroying the aircraft.

- B-52s flew 9 missions: 13 miles west of Lai Khe; 16 miles NW of Pleiku; 17 miles NW of Ca Mau; 16 and 19 miles SW of Da Nang; 12 miles NW of An Hoa; 22, 24, and 27 miles NNE of Phuoc Binh.

29 September (Monday)

- HQ MACV -- During the night, four significant enemy indirect fire attacks were reported throughout the country, three of which were against U.S. units or installations. Six other indirect fire attacks were considered insignificant, causing no casualties or damage. The following significant attacks were against U.S. forces:

  III MAF:

  282200 -- QUANG TRI PROVINCE -- The U.S. 3rd Marine Division Quang Tri Combat Base, near Quang Tri City, 85 miles NW of Da Nang, received less than 10 rounds of 107mm rocket fire. No casualties, light damage.

  281835 -- QUANG TRI PROVINCE -- A mechanized infantry element of the 1st Brigade, U.S. 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized), in night defense four miles NW of Cam Lo and four miles south of the Demilitarized Zone, received less than five rounds of 82mm mortar fire. Very light casualties, no fatalities.

  I FFV:

  282115 -- BINH DINH PROVINCE -- An element of the 173rd Airborne Brigade, in night defense four miles north of Phu My (290 miles NE of Saigon), received about five rounds of 82mm mortar fire. Very light casualties, light damage, and no fatalities.

- HQ MACV -- During the 24-hour period ending at 0800 today, 19 enemy indirect fire attacks were reported throughout the country, eight of which were against U.S. installations or units. Six of the 19 attacks caused casualties or damage. U.S. casualties were nine wounded with no fatalities.
III ACF (QUANG TRI PROVINCE) -- At 1300 an element of the 1st Brigade, U.S. 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized), four miles SW of Con Thien (103 miles NW of Da Nang) found the bodies of nine enemy soldiers who had been killed by air strikes at an unreported time. In addition, one individual weapon was captured.

III MAF (QUANG TRI PROVINCE) -- At 1200 an element of the 4th Regiment, U.S. 3rd Marine Division, received about 10 rounds of 60mm mortar fire while operating in an area two miles north of the Rockpile (105 miles NW of Da Nang) and four miles south of the Demilitarized Zone. U.S. casualties were light.

OPERATION FREDERICK HILL (QUANG TIN PROVINCE) -- At 1340 an element of the 196th Brigade, AMERICAL Division, received about 10 rounds of enemy 60mm mortar fire while operating nine miles SW of Tam Ky (38 miles SSE of Da Nang). Light casualties, no fatalities.

I FFV (PLEIKU PROVINCE) -- At 0915 an element of the 3rd Brigade, U.S. 4th Infantry Division, engaged an unknown size enemy force 25 miles NW of Pleiku City (260 miles NE of Saigon) and 18 miles east of the Cambodian border. The enemy employed heavy small arms and automatic weapons fire from well-fortified positions. The infantrymen returned fire with unit weapons and attacked the enemy while getting support from artillery, helicopter gunships, USAF F-4's from the 37th Tactical Fighter Wing and A-1's from the 633rd Special Operations Wing. As fighting continued into the morning, another element of the brigade reinforced the element in contact. In the early afternoon, Republic of Vietnam Civilian Irregular Defense Group troops also reinforced the action. Contact was lost at 1510 when the enemy withdrew, leaving 25 of his dead in the battle area. U.S. casualties were two killed and eight wounded. There were no CIDG casualties reported.

TOAN THANG OFFENSIVE (PHUOC LONG PROVINCE) -- At 1350 a U.S. Army Ranger team of the U.S. 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) observed 30 enemy soldiers seven miles north of Song Be (85 miles north of Saigon) and directed helicopter gunships onto the location, killing ten. No U.S. casualties.

TOAN THANG OFFENSIVE (TAY NINH PROVINCE) -- At 1155 an element of the 1st Brigade, U.S. 25th Infantry Division, 11 miles SSE of Tay Ninh City (52 miles NW of Saigon), engaged an estimated 25 enemy soldiers in the open. The troopers directed helicopter gunships onto the enemy, killing six of them. No U.S. casualties.

TOAN THANG OFFENSIVE (TAY NINH PROVINCE) -- At 2100 a mechanized infantry element of the 1st Brigade, U.S. 25th Infantry Division, detected an estimated 20 enemy soldiers outside their position 11 miles NW of Tay Ninh City (64 miles NNW of Saigon). The troopers directed artillery onto the enemy position and observed the bodies of seven enemy soldiers after the mission. No U.S. casualties.

TOAN THANG OFFENSIVE (TAY NINH PROVINCE) -- At 1730 troopers of the air cavalry element of the U.S. 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) were air-assaulted into an area 12 miles SW of Katum (78 miles NW of Saigon). The troopers engaged five enemy soldiers in a brief firefight, killing three of them. In a sweep of the area, they also found the bodies of five other enemy soldiers who had been killed by air strikes at an unreported time. In addition, two individual weapons were captured. There were no U.S. casualties.
TOAN THANG OFFENSIVE (BINH DUONG PROVINCE) -- At 1500 an enemy rallier led a mechanized infantry element of the 3rd Brigade, U.S. 1st Infantry Division, to a significant enemy arms cache located seven miles NE of Lai Khe (33 miles north of Saigon). The cache, weighing about 1,200 pounds, contained the following: 24 CFA COM light machinegungs, 2 complete 82mm mortars, twenty-six 57mm recoilless rifle rounds, fifteen 60mm mortar rounds, seven 82mm mortar rounds, six rocket-propelled grenades, 100 rounds of light machinegun ammunition; and 8 pounds of TNT. All items were in good condition.

TOAN THANG OFFENSIVE (TAY NINH PROVINCE) -- At 1610 an element of the 1st Brigade, U.S. 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), 16 miles NE of Tay Ninh City (50 miles NNW of Saigon), found the bodies of ten enemy soldiers killed by airstrikes about four hours earlier. They also captured three individual weapons.

TOAN THANG OFFENSIVE (PHUOC LONG PROVINCE) -- At 1135 an element of the 3rd Brigade, U.S. 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), received small arms, automatic weapons, and rocket-propelled grenade fire from an unknown size enemy force 12 miles SW of Phuoc Binh (67 miles NNE of Saigon). The troopers returned fire with unit weapons and contact was lost when the enemy withdrew a short time later. Enemy losses are unknown. U.S. casualties were one killed and four wounded.

HQ MACV -- The 357th Transportation Company, an Army Reserve unit from Pennsylvania, departed from Bien Hoa Air Base today for McGuire Air Force Base, N.J. The company of about 240 men will be inactivated at Fort Dix, N.J., and reconstituted in the Army Reserve at its home station in Greencastle, Pa. The unit was previously scheduled to depart and is not included in President Nixon's recently announced redeployment of 35,000 troops.

HQ MACV -- It was announced by USARV (LONG BINH) that the 842nd Quartermaster Company, an Army Reserve unit from Kansas, will depart the Republic of Vietnam tomorrow as part of President Nixon's announced redeployment of 35,000 troops.

SVN TAC AIR: U.S. pilots flew 348 sorties (USAF 232, USMC 94, and USN 22), killing four enemy soldiers, triggering 50 secondary explosions and igniting 56 fires. They also destroyed or damaged 132 fortifications, 236 bunkers, and four sampans.

B-52s flew 9 missions: 11 miles NW of An Loc; 10 miles NNE of Loc Ninh; 21 and 25 miles NNE of Phuoc Binh; 27 miles NNE of Phuoc Binh; 6 miles north of the Rockpile; 6 miles NNW of the Rockpile; 7 miles NNE of the Rockpile; and 11 miles NNE of Phuoc Binh.

30 September (Tuesday)

HQ MACV -- During the night, two significant enemy indirect fire attacks were reported throughout the country, one of which was against a U.S. unit. Eight other indirect fire attacks were considered insignificant, causing no casualties or damage. The following significant attack was against a U.S. unit:

III MAF:

300235 -- QUANG TRI PROVINCE -- A mechanized element of the 1st Brigade, U.S. 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized), in night defense eight miles NW of Cam Lo (105 miles NW of Da Nang), received about ten rounds of 60mm mortar fire. Very light casualties, no fatalities.
During the 24-hour period ending at 0800 today, 15 indirect fire attacks were reported throughout the country, eight of which were against U.S. units or installations. Four of the 15 attacks caused casualties or damage. U.S. casualties were one killed and 20 wounded.

OPERATION FREDERICK HILL (QUANG TIN PROVINCE) -- At an unreported time, helicopter gunships from the 212th Combat Aviation Battalion observed and engaged an unknown number of enemy 17 miles north of Tam Ky (38 miles SSE of Da Nang). The helicopter crewmen reported 26 enemy killed, and two sampans and two structures destroyed. No U.S. casualties.

III MAF (QUANG TRI PROVINCE) -- At 1100 a reconnaissance team of the U.S. 3rd Marine Division observed five enemy soldiers moving northwest from a location nine miles west of Quang Tri (93 miles NW of Da Nang). The team directed artillery and air strikes by A-4's from the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing onto the enemy position, killing all five. No Marine casualties.

III MAF (DMZ) -- At 0950 an aerial observer reconnoitering the southern half of the Demilitarized Zone received moderate fire from an enemy 12.7mm machinegun located 11 miles NNW of Cam Lo (108 miles NW of Da Nang) and about 200 meters north of the Ben Hai River in the northern half of the DMZ. The aircraft was not hit and the observer directed U.S. Army artillery fire onto the enemy gun position, silencing the enemy. In addition, 10 bunkers were destroyed and two damaged.

TOAN THANG OFFENSIVE ( BINH DUONG PROVINCE) -- At 0225 an element of the 1st Brigade, U.S. 1st Infantry Division at Fire Support Base Canada, four miles east of Dau Tieng (41 miles NW of Saigon), observed an estimated nine enemy soldiers and engaged them with unit weapons. The enemy returned the fire with rocket-propelled grenades and heavy small arms, supported by about 15 rounds of an unknown caliber of mortar fire. The troopers were supported by U.S. Army artillery and helicopter gunships and a USAF AC-47 gunship. Contact was lost at 0315 when the remaining enemy withdrew with unknown losses. U.S. casualties were four wounded with no fatalities. In addition, one former enemy soldier serving as a scout with the U.S. unit was wounded.

TOAN THANG OFFENSIVE ( BINH DUONG PROVINCE) -- At 0950 a mechanized infantry element of the 3rd Brigade, U.S. 1st Infantry Division, were led to a cache by a raider. The cache was located five miles SW of Phuoc Vinh (34 miles north of Saigon) and contained forty 75mm recoilless rifle rounds, 12 rocket-propelled grenades, one complete 60mm mortar and a small amount of small arms ammunition.

DMAC (BA XUYEN PROVINCE) -- At 1530 helicopter gunships from the 164th Combat Aviation Group engaged an estimated enemy platoon 16 miles NNW of Bac Lieu (120 miles SW of Saigon). The crewmen reported nine enemy dead, and 23 structures and four sampans destroyed. No U.S. casualties.

HQ MACV -- The 842nd Quartermaster Company, an Army Reserve unit from Kansas, departed the Republic of Vietnam today as part of President Nixon's announced redeployment of 35,000 troops. The company of about 120 men departed from Da Nang for Forbes Army Airfield, Kansas. The unit will be inactivated at Fort Riley, Kansas, and then reconstituted in the Army Reserve at its home station in Kansas City, Missouri.
HQ MACV -- It was announced by III MAF (Da Nang) that U.S. Marines in I Corps commence implementation of President Nixon's phase II troop redeployment for Marine units today. (The complete text of the release is contained in the CHRONOLOGY OF TROOP REDEPLOYMENT in this summary).

SVN TAC AIR: U.S. pilots flew 364 sorties (USAF 230, USMC 99, and USN 45), killing 14 soldiers, triggering 31 secondary explosions, and igniting 48 fires. They also destroyed or damaged 227 fortifications, 343 bunkers and 10 sampans.

B-52s flew 8 missions: 4 miles NNW of the Rockpile; 5 miles NW of Tri Ton; 24 and 26 miles NW of Ca Mau; 13 miles ENE of Phuoc Binh; 15 miles north of Phuoc Binh; and 9 miles NNE and 13 miles NE of Loc Ninh.

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77
1 September

It was announced by USARV (LONG BINH) that the 3rd Battalion, 197th Artillery, a New Hampshire National Guard unit, will complete its tour of duty and depart the Republic of Vietnam tomorrow. The unit was called to active duty on May 13, 1968, and arrived in Vietnam in September, 1968. On October 13, 1968, the 3/197th became the first fully operational National Guard artillery battalion in Vietnam. The battalion was assigned to the 23rd Artillery Group and operated in general support of the II Field Force Vietnam in the III Corps Tactical Zone. It supported every major ground-gaining element in the III Corps Tactical Zone, both U.S. and ARVN. The 440-man unit, commanded by Lt. Col. Henry R. McGroome Jr., Dover, New Hampshire, will leave from Bien Hoa Air Base and arrive at Pease Air Force Base, New Hampshire. The battalion will be deactivated at Fort Devens, Mass., and reconstituted in the Army National Guard at its home station in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. (The above is from a MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESS, released with the morning news release 2 September, 1969).

6 September

It was announced by USARV (LONG BINH) that the 131st Engineer Company, a Vermont National Guard unit, will complete its tour of duty and depart the Republic of Vietnam tomorrow. The 186-man company, commanded by Captain John E. Andrews, Burlington, Vermont, will leave from Cam Ranh Bay Air Base and arrive at Logan International Airport, Boston. The unit, nicknamed the "Green Mountain Movers," will be inactivated at Fort Devens, Mass., and reconstituted in the Army National Guard at its home station in Burlington, Vermont. (The above is from a MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESS, released with the morning NEWS RELEASE of 7 September, 1969).

11 September

It was announced by USARV (LONG BINH) that the 482d Medical Detachment, a U.S. Army Reserve unit from Illinois, will complete its tour of duty and depart the Republic of Vietnam tomorrow (Friday, September 12). The ten-man medical equipment maintenance detachment, commanded by Chief Warrant Officer II Donald L. Wood, Aurora, Ill., will leave from Cam Ranh Bay Air Force Base and arrive at Whitman Air Field, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. The unit will be inactivated at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, and reconstituted in the Army Reserve at its home station in Aurora, Illinois. (The above was released as a MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESS in the morning NEWS RELEASE 11 Sep., 1969).

14 September

It was announced by USARV (LONG BINH) that Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 259th Quartermaster Battalion, an Army Reserve unit from Utah, will complete its tour of duty and depart the Republic of Vietnam tomorrow. The 91-man company, commanded by Lt. Col. Charles E. Heter, Provo, Utah, will leave from Cam Ranh Bay Air Base for McChord Air Force Base, Wash. The unit will be inactivated at Ft. Lewis, Wash., and reconstituted in the Army Reserve at its home station in Pleasant Grove, Utah. (The above was released as a MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESS in the evening NEWS RELEASE of 14 September 1969).
The U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, announced today that the major combat units which will be redeployed to implement President Nixon's decision to reduce the authorized strength in Vietnam to 484,000 by December 15, 1969, will include the remainder of the 3rd Marine Division and supporting elements of the 1st Marine Air Wing plus the 3rd Brigade of the 82nd Airborne Division. The command said that other units involved would include combat support and support units of all services. Marine units will be redeployed to posts in the Pacific Command and the United States. Specific stationing of units will be announced at a later date. To maintain combat readiness, personnel with varying portions of their tours completed will be redeployed with these units. Marine units returning to the United States will be manned by Marines who have spent 12 to 13 months in Vietnam except for a limited number of key personnel who will have spent as little as seven months in country. Marine units moving from Vietnam to Okinawa or Japan will primarily be manned by those men currently assigned at the time the movement takes place, except that men in those units who have spent 12 to 13 months in Vietnam will be transferred to the United States and replaced by other men from units remaining in Vietnam. The 3rd Brigade of the 82nd Airborne Division will be reduced to a detachment of about 50 personnel in Vietnam who will return the colors to the Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Personnel policies will vary slightly for each service. However, since most Army units involved will be inactivated, the general policy for Army personnel will provide that personnel selected for redeployment will have completed the major portion of the Vietnam tour. Army personnel not redeployed will be reassigned in Vietnam. Specific service personnel policies will be announced at a later date. (The above is from the COMMUNIQUE of the NEWS RELEASE for the evening of 18 September, 1969).

The following is a statement delivered by Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird, 17 September 1969, Washington, D.C.: "Ladies and gentlemen, the President announced yesterday that the authorized troop ceiling for U.S. forces in the Republic of Vietnam will be reduced further in the week immediately ahead. We have scheduled for next Thursday a conference at the Pacific Command Headquarters in Honolulu to plan the further details of Phase Two redeployment. This is a conference similar to the conference which I had convened immediately following the announcement of Phase One redeployment. Admiral Lemos and Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs, Dan Henkern, attended the first conference, and they will attend the conference this next week on Thursday in the Pacific Command Headquarters. The President's action means that the authorized troop ceiling which was 549,500 at the beginning of 1969, and which was reduced by 25,000 to 524,500 effective August 31 as a result of the Midway conference of June 8, will be cut to 484,000 as of December 15, 1969. This particular chart points out the space authorization and the reduction in the authorized troop ceiling of 65,000. I anticipate that the fluctuation in actual strength will continue to fall between 1 and 2% below the authorized ceiling. That the actual strength reduction will be in excess of 60,000 men for the combined Phase One and Phase Two redeployment as of December 15 of this year. The President's decision in ordering further reduction in the authorized troop ceiling will effect all four of the services in Vietnam; the Army, the Navy, the Air Force, and the Marine Corps. (We have a chart here, gentlemen, that points out, on my right, the reductions). The Army manpower in Vietnam will be reduced by 14,263 spaces, the Navy by 5,239 spaces, the Marine Corps by 18,457 spaces, and the Air Force by 2,541 spaces. The reduction in authorized spaces of 40,500 is divided among the services in that way. This further reduction of U.S. personnel is part of a continuing Vietnamization program. This program which
has been worked out in very close coordination with the leaders of the Republic of Vietnam is designed to give that nation increased capability in self-defense in the fight against aggression and in its fight to insure the right of self-determination. We will continue to give top priority to the Vietnamization program. Phase Two redeployment will result in the inactivation of approximately 20,000 additional spaces in the Armed forces. We have identified the remainder of the 3rd Marine Division for redeployment and other details of unit redeployment will be announced by General Abrams in Saigon within the very near future. I think that further announcements will be made by him within the next 24 hours. I will be glad to respond to any questions that you might have." (The above is from a MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESS, released with the morning NEWS RELEASE of 18 September, 1969).

22 September

It was announced that over 5,000 Navy personnel will depart Vietnam by mid-December this year as part of President Nixon's announced redeployment of U.S. military forces. The majority of the Navy personnel to be redeployed are assigned to Seabee units from Naval Mobile Construction Battalions FOUR, FIVE and FIFTY-THREE located at Da Nang; ELEVEN at Quang Tri; and SIXTY-TWO at Dong Ha. Additional personnel from the 30th Naval Construction Regiment and the 3rd Naval Construction Brigade, located at Da Nang, will also be redeployed. These redeployments will comprise about 80% of the total. The balance of Navy personnel will come from the Third Marine Amphibious Force in the Da Nang area, the U.S. Military Assistance Command at Saigon, Naval Support Activity, Da Nang, and detachments of the Commander, Seventh Fleet in the Republic of Vietnam. The authorized strength will then be in alignment with the President's announcement of a reduction of strength of more than 5,000 in the Navy's total personnel authorization for Vietnam. All Navy units affected by the redeployment announcement with the exception of those from the Seventh Fleet detachment in Saigon and the MACV staff are presently located in I Corps. (The above is from the COMMUNIQUE of the evening NEWS RELEASE of 22 September, 1969).

26 September

It was announced that the first U.S. unit to depart the Republic of Vietnam under President Nixon's recently announced redeployment of 35,000 troops was the 238th Combat Support Company, an Army Reserve unit from Texas. The company, of about 90 men, departed from Bien Hoa Air Base for Kelly Air Force Base, Texas, on Sunday afternoon, 21 September. The unit will be inactivated at Fort Sam Houston and reconstituted in the Army Reserve of its home station in San Antonio, Texas. The second unit to redeploy will be the 172nd Transportation Company, an Army Reserve unit from Nebraska, which will depart the Republic of Vietnam from Cam Ranh Air Base tomorrow, 27 September, for Forbes Army Airfield, Kansas. The company, of about 180 men, commanded by First Lieutenant Thomas J. Bruner, Crescent, Iowa, will be inactivated at Fort Riley, Kansas, and reconstituted in the Army Reserve at its home station in Omaha, Nebraska. (The above is a MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESS, released the morning of 26 September, 1969).

27 September

CAMP SMITH, HAWAII, September 26 -- Admiral John S. McCain, Jr., Commander in Chief, U.S. Forces, Pacific, today announced the completion of the Phase II redeployment planning conference held at his headquarters in Honolulu. The conference completed planning for accomplishing the reduction in authorized strength in Vietnam to 484,000 U.S. military personnel by Dec. 15, 1969. The authorized strength was 549,500 prior to June, 1969, and was reduced to 524,500 following the Midway conference. In developing plans to accomplish the Phase II reduction in authorized strength, the
conferees, under Admiral McCain's direction, stressed economy of operations and manpower. As a result only those units which are being redeployed to new stations will be moved as units. Other units will be inactivated in Vietnam or will be redeployed with a small ceremonial escort party for the unit colors. The Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force are preparing detailed personnel policies for the Phase II redeployment. These will be announced later. All reserve component units and individuals serving in Vietnam will be redeployed for the demobilization prior to Dec. 15, 1969. Some of these reserve component units will be replaced by active Army organizations and will not be counted against the total authorized strength reduction. The remaining reserve component units will not be replaced and will count against the authorized strength reduction. All reserve component units on active duty will be demobilized by Dec. 15, 1969. The policy conference completed today in Hawaii will be followed up by a transportation planning conference which will make detailed arrangements for the personnel movements. Representatives of the Secretary of Defense, the U.S. Commander in Vietnam and all of the military services attended the policy planning conference. (The above is from a MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESS, released with the morning NEWS RELEASE of 27 September, 1969).

29 September

It was announced by USARV (LONG BINH) that the 842nd Quartermaster Company, an Army Reserve unit from Kansas, will depart the Republic of Vietnam tomorrow as part of President Nixon's announced redeployment of 35,000 troops. The company of about 120 men, commanded by Captain Thomas M. Mordaunt, Kansas City, Mo., will leave from Da Nang Air Base and arrive at Forbes Army Airfield Kansas. The unit will be inactivated at Fort Riley, Kansas, and reconstituted in the Army Reserve at its home station in Kansas City, Mo. (The above is from a MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESS, released with the morning NEWS RELEASE 29 September, 1969).

30 September

It was announced by III MAF (Da Nang) that U.S. Marines in I Corps commence implementation of President Nixon's phase II troop redeployment for Marine units today. By October 6, 1969, in excess of 5,900 Marines will have been redeployed from the Republic of Vietnam. Slightly over 1,000 personnel with varying tours of duty in Vietnam are being airlifted to Okinawa for individual assignments with the 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade. The remaining 4,900 Marines will return to the United States, commencing 1 Oct. With the exception of small ship-borne cadre of approximately 500 key personnel all Marines returning to the United States will have completed 12 to 13 months in Vietnam. Approximately 1,000 personnel will depart by air while an estimated 3,900 will leave by ship. In connection with this movement, the following units will be reduced to cadre for the movement only and will have their equipment loaded aboard ships of the U.S. Seventh Fleet, along with appropriate records and colors. The units will later be reconstituted in the United States: 3rd Marine Regiment; 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment; Company B, 11th Engineer Battalion; Company C, 3rd Medical Battalion; Company A, 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion; Company B, 3rd Motor Transport Battalion; Company B, 9th Motor Transport Battalion; Company B, 3rd Shore Party Battalion; 3rd Bridge Company; Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 265. Embarkation of the above units' cadre will be made at Da Nang and in Northern I Corps. The first elements of the 3rd Marine Regiment arrived in the Republic of Vietnam when the 1st Battalion landed at Da Nang as part of the 9th Marine Expeditionary Brigade on March 8, 1965. Since its arrival in Vietnam, the 3rd Marine Regiment participated in numerous
combat operations. The most significant were: PRAIRIE, CIMMARON, HICKORY, KINGFISHER, LANCASTER, NAPOLEON-SALINE, MAINE CRAG and KENTUCKY. In February, 1968, Operations Napoleon-Saline was initiated along the Cua Viet River to deny the enemy access to rocket positions oriented against Dong Ha and Quang Tri combat bases. The heaviest fighting of the operation took place at the village of Dai Do. At the end of the first seven days of fighting, the 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, and the 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, had killed over 1,000 North Vietnamese soldiers. One of the most significant rice caches of the war was found March 10, 1969, by Leathernecks of the Marine Regiment during OPERATION MAINE CRAG. Marines found over 700 tons of rice and more than 10,000 rocket-propelled grenades and mortar rounds during this operation. Since the beginning of May, 1969, the 3rd Marine Regiment, operating north of Vandergrift combat base and Cam Lo, accounted for 565 North Vietnamese soldiers killed in this area. The last commanding officer of the 3rd Marine Regiment was Colonel Wilbur F. Simlik, who assumed duties on June 28, 1969. The senior enlisted man in the regiment was Sergeant Major Raymond P. Dudek. Commander for the redeploying RLT-3 cadre and other personnel embarking by ship will be Colonel F.R. Kraince, who served as 3rd Marine Division Inspector. In the four and one-half years that battalions of the 3rd Marine Regiment have been in Vietnam, 10 Presidential Unit Citations have been earned: four by the 1st Battalion, four by the 2nd Battalion, and two by the 3rd Battalion. (The above is from a MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESS, released with the NEWS RELEASE of the morning of 30 September, 1969).
September

4 - Radio Hanoi announces the death of NVN President Ho Chi Minh on 3 September.

- The VC Liberation Radio announces that military forces will observe a three
day cease-fire in observance of Ho Chi Minh's funeral. The cease-fire will commence at 080100H.

5 - Mechanized infantry elements from the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment engage
an estimated enemy company one miles NW of An Loc in Binh Long Province,
killing 63 enemy. Friendly casualties are two killed, 15 wounded.

6 - Elements of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment engage an unknown size enemy
force three miles west of Loc Minh in Binh Long Province, killing 70 of the
enemy and detaining five. Friendly casualties are three killed, and 31 wounded.

- A 1st Infantry Division convoy, escorted by an element of the 3rd Brigade,
25th Infantry Division and an element of the 2nd Brigade, 1st Infantry Di-
vision, is attacked by an unknown size enemy force 12 miles south of An Loc
in Binh Long Province. Enemy losses are 55 killed, four detained, and 13
weapons (five crew-served) captured. Friendly losses are one killed and
six wounded.

10 - COMUSMACV departs RVN for meetings with President Nixon in Washington.

11 - The Chi Lang ARVN Training Center, located six miles north of Tri Ton in
Chau Doc Province, receives an attack-by-fire and a ground attack by an un-
known size enemy force. Friendly forces support with artillery and AC-47
and helicopter gunships. Enemy losses are 83 killed, four detained, and
four weapons captured. Friendly losses are four killed and 19 wounded.

- An element of the 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, and an element of
the 1st ARVN Airborne Brigade, engage an unknown size enemy force two miles
WSW of Phu Khuong in Tay Ninh Province. Forty-nine enemy are killed, and
one detained. Friendly losses are two killed, seven wounded.

13 - A Combined Action Platoon and a Popular Forces unit in night defense 13
miles NW of Quang Ngai receive an attack by fire followed by a ground attack
from an estimated two companies. An unknown number of enemy also attack
nearby An Thong village and three surrounding hamlets, destroying 260 hou-
ses. Enemy losses are 116 killed, one detained, and seven weapons captured.
U.S. losses are two killed, and three wounded. RVNAP casualties are light.

15 - A I FFV ranger element observes an enemy company armed with rocket-propelled
grenade launchers and AK-47 rifles 21 miles NNE of Phan Thiet in Binh Thuan
Province. An element of the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) from Task
Force South is air-assaulted into the area and the enemy is engaged by gun-
ships and ground forces. Enemy losses are 58 killed. No U.S. casualties.
16 - President Nixon announces that 35,000 more U.S. troops will be redeployed from the Republic of Vietnam. Redeployment is to begin immediately. Authorized troop ceiling will be 454,000.

20 - An Air Force F-4 of the 366th Tactical Fighter Wing collides in-air with an Air Vietnam DC-4 approximately two miles NW of Da Nang Air Base. The F-4 pilot lands safely at Da Nang after the navigator ejects safely. The DC-4 crashes one mile NW of the base, killing 75 persons aboard the plane, and two more on the ground.

22 - The USMC announces that Marine tours in RVN will be reduced from 13 to 12 months.

25 - ROKV marks four years of combat operations in RVN.

30 - U.S. Military strength in RVN is 510,530.

+++
### REVIEW OF GROUND OPERATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OPERATION</th>
<th>PROVINCE INITIATED</th>
<th>TAF</th>
<th>NGF</th>
<th>KIA</th>
<th>WIA</th>
<th>KIA</th>
<th>DET</th>
<th>IW</th>
<th>CSW</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>II FFV:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOAN THANG (PHASE III)</strong></td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>1,605</td>
<td>10,865</td>
<td>28,535</td>
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<td>7,180</td>
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<td><strong>1st FFV (US/PW)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1st, 9th &amp; 25th Inf Divs</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>199th Lt Inf Bde/11th Armd Cav Regt</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3rd Bde, 82 Abn Div &amp; 1st ATF/RTAVR</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1st Cav Div (Airmobile)</td>
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<td><strong>III MAP:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FREDERICK HILL</strong></td>
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<td>2,773</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>296</td>
<td>1,843</td>
<td>3,477</td>
<td>1,579</td>
<td>451</td>
<td>82</td>
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<td><strong>AMERICAL Div (Bn+)</strong></td>
<td>18 Mar 69</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>IRON MOUNTAIN</strong></td>
<td>Quang Ngai</td>
<td>4,180</td>
<td>434</td>
<td>248</td>
<td>1,363</td>
<td>1,889</td>
<td>1,600</td>
<td>375</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>AMERICAL Div (Bn+)</strong></td>
<td>18 Mar 69</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>GENERA PARK</strong></td>
<td>Quang Ngai</td>
<td>4,664</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>670</td>
<td>864</td>
<td>1,090</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>AMERICAL Div (Bn+)</strong></td>
<td>18 Mar 69</td>
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<td><strong>PIPESTONE CANYON</strong></td>
<td>Quang Nam</td>
<td>3,006</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>527</td>
<td>461</td>
<td>666</td>
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<td><strong>1st Mar Div (Bn+)</strong></td>
<td>26 May 69</td>
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### SEPTEMBER CASUALTY & STRENGTH STATISTICS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>WEEK ENDING</th>
<th>KIA</th>
<th>KIA Since 1 Jan 61</th>
<th>WIA Since 1 Jan 61</th>
<th>WIA (Hosp)</th>
<th>WIA (nonHosp)</th>
<th>WIA Since 4 Jan 69</th>
<th>WIA Since 4 Jan 69</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6 Sep</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>38,450</td>
<td>7,924</td>
<td>645</td>
<td>804</td>
<td>126,632</td>
<td>57,440</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 Sep</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>38,593</td>
<td>8,067</td>
<td>648</td>
<td>695</td>
<td>250,945</td>
<td>58,783</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 Sep</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>38,728</td>
<td>8,202</td>
<td>474</td>
<td>640</td>
<td>252,059</td>
<td>59,897</td>
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<tr>
<td>27 Sep</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>38,823</td>
<td>8,297</td>
<td>577</td>
<td>738</td>
<td>253,374</td>
<td>61,212</td>
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Yearly US KIA low to date: 27 Sep 69 (95)
Yearly US KIA high to date: 1 Mar 69 (453)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK ENDING</th>
<th>M/C/I</th>
<th>EN KIA</th>
<th>EN KIA Since 1 Jan 61</th>
<th>EN KIA Since 4 Jan 69</th>
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<tr>
<td>6 September</td>
<td>1,449</td>
<td>2,370</td>
<td>549,079</td>
<td>95,619</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 September</td>
<td>1,341</td>
<td>2,403</td>
<td>551,519</td>
<td>98,022</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 September</td>
<td>1,332</td>
<td>2,696</td>
<td>554,188</td>
<td>100,718</td>
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<tr>
<td>27 September</td>
<td>1,331</td>
<td>2,406</td>
<td>556,629</td>
<td>103,124</td>
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M/C/I as of 4 Jan 69: 1,251

### STRENGTHS-IN-COUNTRY

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<th>WEEK ENDING</th>
<th>ARMY</th>
<th>MARINES</th>
<th>AIR FORCE</th>
<th>NAVY</th>
<th>CCNST</th>
<th>SUB-TOTAL</th>
<th>FWMAF</th>
<th>US OFF-SHORE</th>
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<td>4 September</td>
<td>342,400</td>
<td>72,300</td>
<td>59,900</td>
<td>34,500</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>509,600</td>
<td>70,000</td>
<td>30,000-600</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 September</td>
<td>341,200</td>
<td>71,900</td>
<td>60,200</td>
<td>34,200</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>508,000</td>
<td>69,900</td>
<td>28,000-600</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 September</td>
<td>343,100</td>
<td>72,100</td>
<td>60,000</td>
<td>34,500</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>510,200</td>
<td>69,900</td>
<td>28,000-600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 September</td>
<td>344,800</td>
<td>72,000</td>
<td>59,900</td>
<td>34,300</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>511,500</td>
<td>69,900</td>
<td>28,000-600</td>
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Peak US strength Apr 69: 543,400; Down from peak strength 27 Sep 69: 31,900; Authorized strength 31 Aug 69: 524,500