FOR THE PRESS:

This release has been prepared to present a review of the significant events occurring in this command during March 1967.

It has been divided into three sections:

--- A review of March events outlined as follows:

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Events by Area
North Vietnam
III MAF
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Revolutionary Development

Significant Trends

--- A statistical summary of March ground operations

--- A detailed chronology of March events

Review of April events will be promulgated on or about 15 May 1967.

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REVIEW OF EVENTS
MARCH 1967

GENERAL

Allied forces increased the tempo of ground-air-sea operations against the enemy during the month and increased the cost to the enemy of continuing his aggression. Attrition was exacted upon his manpower, materiel, supplies, and troop and cargo movement capabilities, anti-aircraft, coastal batteries, command and control structure, and infrastructure. The major ground operations in Quang Tri, Binh Dinh, Pleiku and Tay Ninh Provinces exacted heavy losses from enemy combat forces and base camps. These operations, in conjunction with the fixed-wing and helicopter airstrikes in the Republic, the B-52 raids, the coastal and inland waterways surveillance operations, and the airstrikes, naval gunfire and river mining operations in North Vietnam, all were directed toward wearing down the enemy's ability and determination to continue his aggression against the Republic of Vietnam.

U.S. operations included the largest ground operation of the conflict: The II Force multi-division operation JUNCTION CITY in Tay Ninh Province. This operation, directed against the enemy in War Zone C, was highlighted by a series of major battles which made it the most significant operation of the month.

The increased intensity of action during March reflected the improved force ratio. U.S. strength in country increased from about 418,000 to 435,000. Breakdown of U.S. strength by service at 30 March was: Army 280,000; Marine Corps 75,000; Air Force 55,000; Navy 25,000; and Coast Guard 400(+). Other Free World military strength in country was 54,000. The three other Free World countries most heavily represented were: the Republic of Korea 46,000; Australia 4,900; and the Philippines 2,000. Estimated enemy strength in-country increased from 282,000 to 287,000 during March.

Allied forces killed 9,015 enemy in the Republic during March, making March the high month for the conflict in enemy killed.

Similarly, Chieu Hoi returnees during the week ending 1 April totaled 1,000 persons, making March the all-time high for returnees with a total of 5,557. The previous high month's total was registered in February, 1967 (2,917). Total returnees 1 January to 1 April numbered 10,746. During the same period last year, returnees numbered 5,521. Returnees since the start of the Chieu Hoi program in 1963 now total 58,970.
Allied operations consisted primarily of search and destroy operations, with increased attention to penetration of known enemy base areas and to provision of a security environment conducive to revolutionary development.

EVENTS BY AREA

NORTH VIETNAM

General

Allied forces continued air-sea operations against military targets in North Vietnam, hitting the enemy's war materiel and supplies, troop and cargo movement capabilities, anti-aircraft, and coastal batteries. The operations included airstrikes, naval gunfire, river mining operations, and long range artillery fired from positions south of the DMZ.

Air North

The air effort over North Vietnam continued to be the primary effort against North Vietnam targets. The air effort continued to be hampered by bad weather; however, U.S. pilots maintained the pressure by striking through breaks in the weather or, when necessary, bombing by radar. Targets struck were air defense installations and installations that support the movement of troops and materiel to the south.

The strike, reconnaissance and air rescue missions over North Vietnam were flown by USAF, USN and USMC pilots. They flew 2,515 missions during the month (USAF 1,217 USN 983 USMC 315). The USAF missions were flown out of the Royal Thai Air Bases at Takhli, Korat, Ubon, Udorn and Nakhon Phanom, as well as bases in the Republic. The USN missions were flown off the US Seventh Fleet attack carriers on Yankee Station in the Gulf of Tonkin. The USMC missions were flown out of Da Nang.

On 10 March, USAF pilots struck the Thai Nguyen steel fabrication plant 63 km north of Hanoi. The plant was estimated as producing 80% of North Vietnam's fabricated iron and steel requirements. During the strike, F-105s engaged MIGs, resulting in one MIG downed by cannon fire, one MIG probably downed, and one MIG damaged. One USAF F-105 was downed by ground fire and the pilot was MIA. Also on 10 March, a three-carrier coordinated air strike was launched against the Hon Gai storage area and thermal power plant. The strike destroyed or damaged several buildings in the ammunition depot and inflicted heavy damage on the power plant.
On 11 March, USAF pilots struck the Thai Nguyen steel fabrication plant again, and USN pilots struck a thermal power plant (Bac Giang), a SAM support facility, and an ammunition storage area. Pilots reported heavy damage at the steel fabrication plant, heavy damage and secondary explosions at the thermal power plant, heavy damage at the SAM support facility including secondary explosions and fires and heavy damage to missile canister storage areas and stored missiles. Pilots attacking the ammunition storage area reported secondary explosions in the target area, and reported that at least three SAMs impacted on the ground as the aircraft approached the target. During the day, three USAF F-105s and one USN A-4 were downed by ground fire with the pilots MIA.

On 12 March, USAF F-105 and F-4 pilots hit the Viet Tri thermal power plant 46 km WNW of Hanoi. The strike was the first strike against this target and caused heavy damage.

USN A-6 pilots again hit the Bac Giang thermal power plant (16 and 25 March), the Thai Nguyen steel fabrication plant (19, 20, 21 and 25 March), and the Thai Nguyen thermal power plant (24 March).

On 26 March, USAF pilots hit the Son Tay military barracks and storage area causing heavy damage. An F-105 downed a MIG-17. In another area, an F-105 was downed by ground fire. The pilot was rescued.

On 27 March, USN A-6 pilots struck a POL storage area and trans-shipment point six miles northwest of Haiphong. They obtained a secondary explosion followed by a huge fireball and reported heavy damage to the target.

On 30 March, USAF F-4C pilots destroyed a blast furnace at the Thai Nguyen steel plant.

**Naval Gunfire North**

U.S. Seventh Fleet ships off the coast of North Vietnam continued to attack military targets in North Vietnam, concentrating on targets that support the infiltration of troops and equipment to the south.

In an engagement with coastal batteries on 1 March, the heavy cruiser USS CANBERRA took two superficial hits on her superstructure. There were no casualties. The CANBERRA and two accompanying destroyers returned fire and silenced the shore battery. That same week, CANBERRA and six destroyers hit railroad facilities and yards, fuel and ammunition storage areas, coastal defense positions, SAM sites, AAA sites, radar sites and military barracks areas. Damage assessment was limited by poor visibility.
During the week 5 through 11 March, a cruiser and seven destroyers hit logistics facilities, coastal fortifications and SAM sites along the southern coast of North Vietnam. Ships were engaged by shore batteries on 5, 7 and 9 March. During the engagements, four shore batteries were destroyed or damaged and a radar site damaged. There was no damage to the ships. On 7 March the ships destroyed a river port facility and heavily damaged a transshipment point.

During the week 12 through 18 March, destroyers engaged enemy shore batteries on 12, 14 and 17 March, destroying or damaging six shore batteries. On 17 March, while the destroyers USS STODDARD and USS INGERSOLL were attempting rescue of a downed USN pilot 9 km N of the DMZ, enemy shore batteries fired on the STODDARD causing a 10 by 18 inch hole above the waterline on the starboard side. The destroyer returned fire silencing the battery, made repairs and remained on station. There were no casualties. The pilot was later rescued by helicopter.

On 20 March, STODDARD shelled a coastal transshipment area at a river mouth eight miles NE of Vinh, and took a coastal defense site under fire further north. On 26 March, destroyers STODDARD and TURNER JOY struck a coastal defense complex in the Hon Me Island area and were taken under fire. They returned fire and scored direct hits causing two secondary explosions. There was no damage or casualties to the ships. The same day, the cruiser USS PROVIDENCE struck another coastal defense site on Hon Me Island.

On 29 March, destroyers USS A. A. CUNNINGHAM and USS WADDELL struck an enemy radar site, coastal defense site, and highway choke point, 31 to 37 miles NNW of Dong Hoi. The ships were not fired upon.

On 31 March, WADDELL exchanged fire with shore batteries 70 miles N of the DMZ. The ship's rounds were on target, and the ship took no hits.

The airstrikes, naval gunfire, river mining operations, and long-range artillery fire employed against North Vietnam targets continue to reduce the number of armed troops the enemy can place on the battlefield, increase the cost to the enemy of continuing the aggression, and reduce the amount of war supplies he can infiltrate into the Republic. It therefore reduces the number of casualties that will be exacted on the allied forces in the Republic.

I CORPS/III MAF

In the I Corps area during March, the enemy continued his troop build-up and mortar attacks. He also increased his resupply, reconnaissance, and harassment efforts, especially in the DMZ area.
During February, most elements of the NVA 324B and NVA 341 Divisions remained north of the Ben Hai River while effecting resupply and reinforcement of their units. On 27 February, the enemy attempted to infiltrate a regiment into central Quang Tri Province. USMC units encountered the enemy in reinforced battalion strength on 27 and 28 February, and contacts continued into March. Enemy units identified were from the 812th Regiment, NVA 324B Division. In western Quang Tri Province, enemy activity increased in the Khe Sanh and Lang Vei area during February, and there was significant contact just NW of Khe Sanh on 16 March.

Enemy activity toward the end of February included a series of mortar attacks on Con Thien and Gio Linh. The latter is the location of the US Provisional Artillery Group which includes a US Army 175mm gun unit. The enemy fired 475 mortar rounds into the position in two attacks on 28 February. The enemy continued to conduct heavy mortar attacks on the Gio Linh - Camp Carroll (Artillery Plateau) installations during March.

The enemy continued to harass lines of communication and isolated outposts, and on two occasions he employed barrage rockets. His first use of this weapon in the conflict had been on 27 February when an enemy unit fired 51 rounds of 140mm rocket against the Da Nang Air Base. The Soviet manufactured rockets were fired from individual tubes carried into the launch area by enemy troops using small boats. Casualties and damage on the base were light; however, some of the rockets impacted in Ap Do Village next to the base and killed 32 Vietnamese civilians, injured 40, and burned 200 houses.

The several major enemy attacks during the latter part of February and into March, together with the marked increase in the number and severity of mortar attacks, reflected an apparent major stockpiling of supplies probably accomplished during TET.

DE SOTO was continued in Quang Ngai Province. 138 enemy were killed during March. It was supported by 258 tactical air sorties during March.

PRAIRIE II, initiated in Quang Tri Province 1 February, resulted in 105 enemy killed in February and 588 enemy killed 1-18 March. Heaviest contact occurred 2-3 March. The operation terminated 18 March. It was supported by 272 direct air support sorties during February, and 344 sorties 1-18 March.
DECKHOUSE VI, a US Marine amphibious operation initiated 16 February, terminated in Quang Ngai Province 3 March with final results of 280 enemy killed. It was supported by 145 direct air support sorties and 132 naval gunfire missions.

LAFAYETTE, initiated in Quang Nam Province by the 1st Marines 26 February, was terminated 7 March with final results of 77 enemy killed.

PRAIRIE III, initiated 19 March in Quang Tri Province, by 31 March had resulted in 185 enemy killed. It was supported by 188 direct air support sorties.

BEACON HILL I. The U.S. Marine battalion landing team of the Seventh Fleet Special Landing Force landed by helicopter and surface assault 20 March in Quang Tri Province initiating BEACON HILL I. The Marine helicopter assault force was launched from USS PRINCETON (LPH) in Marine helicopters and landed near Gio Linh about two miles south of the DMZ. Other elements of the landing force landed in boat waves from USS MONTICELLO (LSD) and USS OGDEN (LPD). The Marines encountered no opposition initially; however, the enemy reacted that night with two mortar and barrage rocket attacks (total 350 rounds) against the Marines. The Marines were supported by 55 direct air support sorties and 231 naval gunfire missions 20-31 March. 334 enemy were killed.

NEW CASTLE initiated in Quang Nam Province 22 March by the 5th Marines was terminated three days later with 118 enemy killed.

II CORPS/I FORCE

In the II Corps area, enemy activity during March consisted primarily of scattered light to heavy contacts, harassment attacks and frequent mortar attacks. The NVA NT 1 and NT 10 Divisions remained a threat in the border area in Kontum and Pleiku Provinces. The NVA NT 5 Division continued to avoid contact in the southern II Corps area.

I FORCE units continued border surveillance operations in the western highlands; search and destroy operations in Binh Dinh Province; search and destroy, rice protection, and TAOR expansion operations along the coastal provinces; and support of Revolutionary Development in all areas with primary support focused on Binh Dinh and Binh Thuan Provinces.

BYRD was continued in Binh Thuan Province. 95 enemy were killed during March. The operation was supported by 153 direct air support sorties during March.

ADAMS was continued in Phu Yen Province. During March, 148 enemy
were killed. The operation was supported by 16 direct air support sorties during March.

SAM HOUSTON, a border surveillance operation which developed sharp contact with NVA forces on 15 February and produced 314 enemy killed during February, was continued in Pleiku and Kontum Provinces. During March, the operation produced 401 enemy killed and was supported by 829 direct air support sorties flown by USAF AC-47, A-1, F-4, F-100 and B-57 aircraft, and the USAF 52d Combat Aviation Battalion at Pleiku.

FARHAGUT in the southern coastal portion of II Corps produced contact after February and resulted in 103 enemy killed 1-23 March. The operation was terminated 23 March. 36 direct air support sorties were flown during March.

PERSHING was continued in the Bong Son Plain - An Lao Valley area in northern Binh Dinh Province. During March, the operation, supported by 694 direct air support sorties, produced 615 enemy killed. The operation was supported by USAF AC-47, A-1, B-57, F-4 and F-100 aircraft and the USAF 52d Combat Aviation Battalion at Pleiku. This highly productive operation, continuing a long series of operations in Binh Dinh Province, is breaking the enemy's hold on northern Binh Dinh.

OH JAK KYO was initiated 8 March by ROKFV. Conducted by units of the Capital (Tiger) ROK Infantry Division and the 9th (White Horse) ROK Infantry Division, it is the largest operation conducted by ROK forces in RVN. The objective is to secure Route 1 between Song Cau and Tuy Hoa in the coastal area of central Vietnam (1,600 square kilometers), thereby assisting the GVN pacification program. Enemy units in the area are the NVA NT 5 Division and five separate VC battalions. The separate VC battalions are units previously defeated in the ROK TAOR that withdrew to this area to procure rice and salt and collect taxes. Indications are that they are experiencing severe food shortage. The ROK forces are supported by ROK division artillery (Tiger and White Horse), 27th U.S. artillery, U.S. 7th Air Force, U.S. Seventh Fleet naval gunfire support ships, 17th U.S. helicopter battalion and the 23d and 24th ARVN surface surveillance groups. ROK civic action during the operation includes maximum protection of civilians; protection of harvest, livestock, and fishing; and provision of medical care for civilians. Post-operation civic action plans include the repair and rebuilding of public utilities, ancestral shrines and public facilities. The operation covers portions of four provinces: Binh Dinh, Phu Yen, Khanh Hoa and Ninh Thuan.

III CORPS/II FORCE

U.S. units continued to support GVN Operation RANG DONG during March. RANG DONG, initiated 1 December, is aimed at destroying enemy
forces and eliminating the VC infrastructure in Gia Dinh Province.
Emphasis in the operation has been on ARVN operations supported by U.S.
troop elements, concentrating on civic action during the day and ex-
tensive patrols and ambushes at night. Coordination between ARVN, RF/PF,
National Police, Military Security Service, and U.S. Forces, has been
excellent. Results have been significant, particularly in that there
has been a favorable response from the local population and a quickening
of economic life in the area. During March, the operation was supported
by 157 direct air support sorties and resulted in 114 enemy killed.

ENTERPRISE was continued in Long An Province. During March, 318
enemy were killed. The operation was supported by 21 direct air support
sorties during March.

JUNCTION CITY, a II FORGE operation employing a multi-division
force, was initiated 22 February in Tay Ninh Province against War Zone C
and was continued during March. As U.S. Army troops penetrated the
war zone, threatening COSVN elements and destroying camps and base areas,
the enemy reacted and touched off a series of major battles. It was
the most significant operation of the month. In contrast to the 271
enemy killed in the operation during February, 1,672 enemy were killed
during March. During the month, it was supported by 2,169 direct air
support sorties.

The enemy units encountered in JUNCTION CITY have been the VC
271st MF Regiment; three battalions of the VC 70th Guards Regiment;
the 3d Battalion NVA 101st Regiment; a battalion of the VC 272d Regi-
ment; and the VC 273d Regiment. All are controlled by COSVN from Hanoi.

There were four major battles during the month: 10-11 March, 19
March, 21 March and 31 March. On 10 March, vicinity FSB II 30 km north
of Tay Ninh City, the enemy attacked a 1st Infantry Division battalion
with a mortar attack followed by a ground assault by more than a battalion
of infantry. The battle resulted in 197 enemy killed. On 19 March, in
Binh Duong Province north of Lai Khe on Highway 13, an estimated
enemy regiment attacked a 9th Infantry Division cavalry troop and artil-
ler battery. The 7-hour battle resulted in 232 enemy killed. U.S. cas-
ualties were 3 killed and 63 wounded. On 21 March, 34 km northeast of
Tay Ninh City at LZ "Gold", a battalion of the 3d Brigade, 4th Infantry
Division engaged an estimated five enemy battalions. Two U.S. infantry
battalions and an armored cavalry squadron reinforced. The enemy attempted
to withdraw. The battle resulted in 631 enemy killed. U.S. casualties
were 31 killed, 109 wounded.

On 31 March, 38 km northeast of Tay Ninh City, a major battle
developed at LZ "George" between a U.S. infantry battalion (-) and an
artillery battalion, and an estimated enemy regiment. Another US infantry battalion attacked through the battle area and pursued the retreating enemy. The battle resulted in 581 enemy killed. U.S. casualties were 11 killed and 77 wounded. The enemy employed 75mm howitzer fire in this battle. 214 direct air support sorties were flown during the two-day period.

In Long An Province during March, a rather unique operation was conceived and conducted by the Province Chief, US advisors, the 25th ARVN Division and elements of the U.S. 9th Infantry Division. The objective and result of the operation was to liberate Long Huu Village (11,000 people) from the Viet Cong. The operation encountered essentially no armed opposition and from reports to date appears to have been quite successful.

DELTA/RUNG SAT SPECIAL ZONE

During March, the enemy in the Delta continued his past activities of small unit attacks, primarily on lines of communication and outposts, and employed sabotage, harassment and terrorism in attempts to strengthen his military position and control of the population.

On 16 March, the enemy scored six hits with 75mm recoilless rifle fire on the U.S. cargo ship SS CONQUEROR. 1 U.S. civilian and 1 U.S. MP were wounded. Artillery, air and naval gunfire supported. The ship proceeded under its own power, after the attack, to Saigon.

U.S. 9th Infantry Division units continued PALM BEACH and development of the Dong Tam Base in Dinh Tuong Province, and Operation CHAPMAN in the Rung Sat Special Zone. Results of PALM BEACH as of 31 March were 72 enemy killed. Only five direct air support sorties were employed in the operation, reflecting one of the problems of operating in a densely populated area. There was no significant contact in Operation CHAPMAN.

In GAME WARDEN operations, two USN PBRs intercepted an enemy unit crossing the Long Tau River on 1 March and killed four of the enemy. On 4 March, three USN PBRs provided fire support for an ARVN outpost under attack near the mouth of the My Tho River. On 6 March the enemy attacked two PBRs on the My Tho and hit one of the boats with a rifle grenade, wounding two USN crewmen. On 8 March, a PBR was rammed and cut in half by a merchant ship, but there were no casualties.

U.S. Army helicopter Fire-fly missions continued to restrict the enemy's use of inland waterways. U.S. Army helicopters also provided troop lift, cargo lift and gunship support to augment ARVN forces operating in the Delta.
SPECIAL CATEGORY OPERATIONS

Tactical Air Support South.

Allied forces continued a high-level of tactical air support operations in the Republic. The operations included direct air support sorties by strike pilots, forward air controller sorties, B-52 strikes, AC-47 sorties, helicopter support in all its forms, and other fixed-wing aircraft support.

US strike pilots provided direct air support for ground forces and struck enemy troop concentrations, base camps, fortifications, storage areas, and routes of communication and supply. US strike pilots flew 15,137 sorties during the month (USAF 9,172 USMC 5,910 USN 55). On 16 March, Australian pilots of the two Royal Australian Air Force squadrons in the Republic made their first airstrike in the Vietnam conflict. In the strike, the Australians, in Caribou and Iroquois aircraft, struck with fire bombs in Phuoc Tuy Province to burn out an area of scrub and forest suspected of concealing a Viet Cong supply area. On 22 March, USAF F-4C and F-100 pilots killed 160 enemy in a strafing and bombing attack on a troop concentration 42 kilometers SSW of Quang Ngai City in Quang Ngai Province.

US forward air controllers kept up their daily surveillance over the entire Republic, detecting enemy concentrations and activities, marking targets, clearing strike requests, directing artillery and air strikes, and surveying damage assessment. These officers are experienced tactical fighter pilots with an extensive knowledge of ordnance capabilities and delivery techniques. They are principals in coordinating with the province chiefs for obtaining permission to conduct strikes.

Strategic Air Command units in the Western Pacific continued to conduct almost daily B-52 strikes in the Republic - averaging three strikes per day. The almost daily conduct of B-52 strikes dates back to the first day of their employment in this role - 18 June 1965. As of 31 December 1966, the B-52s had delivered 138,000 tons of ordnance in Vietnam. Of the 97 bombing strikes flown by B-52 crews during March, 46 were in I Corps, 19 in II Corps and 32 in III Corps. The standard targets for the B-52 strikes are enemy base areas, suspected enemy troop concentrations, and enemy strongholds. The ordnance delivered without warning by these bombers (up to 30 tons per aircraft) undoubtedly has had and is having a tremendous effect on the enemy in disrupting his operations, keeping him on the move, denying him sanctuary and destroying large quantities of his supplies.
USAF AC-47 Dragonship crews flew 699 sorties during the month. The crews provided flarelight and fired more than two million rounds of mini-gun ammunition in support of ground forces. During the night 20-21 March, USAF AC-47 crews fired 153,000 rounds of 7.62 ammunition and provided several hours of illumination in support of ground forces. The crews flew 22 missions and supported ground units in contact or under enemy fire in more than 11 situations. Three of the missions supported two positions (Gio Linh and Con Thien) in Quang Tri Province near the DMZ when the enemy shelled the two positions with some 750 rounds of mortar and barrage rocket fire.

Helicopters in the Republic are used to lift troops and equipment in combat assaults and to provide aerial reconnaissance, machine gun and rocket fire support, administrative lift of troops and cargo, medical evacuation, insertion and extraction of ground reconnaissance units, pilot rescue, and Firefly illumination and strike missions against enemy river traffic.

Firefly missions sank a total of 1,167 enemy sampans during March. The Firefly missions employ a team of searchlight-equipped helicopters and three or four armed helicopters. The helicopters can work effectively with or without use of airborne radar. The Firefly missions are directed particularly against Viet Cong river traffic.

US Army helicopter gunships during March accounted for 1,040 enemy killed and 1,048 enemy bunkers and fortifications destroyed. They are employed to provide fire support for ground troops, escort transport helicopters and deliver suppressive fires, and conduct armed visual reconnaissance.

Other Aircraft Support

Other Army Aviation support of combat operations throughout the Republic ranged from single aircraft missions to mass troop and cargo lifts. Nearly 158,000 hours were flown. Sorties flown by all Army Aircraft in Vietnam amounted to nearly 399,000. Many of the sorties were flown in support of small combat operations apart from the sorties flown in support of major operations such as JUNCTION CITY. US Army fixed-wing and helicopter aircraft hauled 45,161 tons of cargo and transported 540,167 troops in the Republic during the month.

Naval Gunfire South

Seventh Fleet warships continued to provide naval gunfire support for allied ground forces throughout the coastal areas of the Republic.
Support ranged from the main battery of the heavy cruiser (8-inch guns, 260 pound projectile, 17 miles) through the workhorse of the naval gunfire support ships (5-inch guns, 54 pound projectile, 10 miles) and high rate of fire 5-inch rockets (range 5 miles).

In March, the ships trained their guns on enemy storage areas, infiltration routes, sampans, ammunition caches, assembly areas, base camps and other fortifications in all four corps areas of the Republic. Their firing accounted for 1,287 enemy emplacements destroyed or damaged, 44 enemy killed and extensive damage to the targets engaged.

On 27 March, the destroyer USS FECHTMAN was fired on by the enemy 21 miles SE of Quang Ngai City in 1 Corps. The ship returned fire and destroyed the weapons site. There were no casualties or damage aboard ship.

Two miles off the coast of RVN in the vicinity of the DMZ, the 7th Fleet destroyer USS OZBOURN was taken under fire by enemy shore batteries, causing slight damage to the ship, but no casualties. OZBOURN, a veteran of the Korean conflict and past actions in Vietnam, was operating as an element of the amphibious task group conducting operation BEACH HILL 1. OZBOURN was patrolling at slow speeds as the early morning fog started to lift when she was bracketed by two rounds of enemy fire. Within seconds she was zigzagging at full speed, guns returning fire. During the 10 minute engagement, the ship was bracketed several times and took two hits. The enemy rounds started a fire, but the fire was extinguished quickly by damage control parties. OZBOURN had been hit in 1951 when North Korean shore batteries took her under fire.

Market Time

On 14 March, USN and USCG MARKET TIME patrol units intercepted an enemy steel-hulled trawler off the coast of Quang Ngai Province, 46 km east-northeast of Quang Ngai City. For an hour, the U.S. units pursued the trawler and exchanged gunfire with it. The trawler was beached by its crew 20 km northeast of Quang Ngai City at 0600H. Several explosions then occurred, destroying the trawler. The trawler was 100 feet long with a 20 foot beam. It was the same type ship that was sunk on 10 May and another that was captured on 20 June. Search teams recovered 1,500 CHICOS carbines, 25 heavy machineguns, 29 light machineguns, one 75mm recoilless rifle, 12 claymores, 18 bolt-action rifles, 2 cases of blasting caps and 7,000 rounds of small-arms ammunition.
LOGISTICS

Enemy

The enemy in the Republic is very dependent upon external sources of supply, particularly for munitions, weapons, communication equipment and bulk medical supplies. Accordingly, his supply lines are kept under attack.

The enemy's supply problem has been greatly magnified by allied search and destroy operations. Allied forces in 1966 captured or destroyed in the Republic almost 19,500 tons of enemy rice supplies, over 500 tons of salt, over 1,400 crew-served weapons, more than 17,000 small-arms, some 30,000 rounds of large caliber ammunition, almost 3 million rounds of small-arms ammunition, and more than 75,000 bombs, grenades and land mines. This attrition is being continued at an increasing rate.

US Forces

The increase in US forces, the increased intensity of operations, and the continuing requirement for heavy use of munitions and aircraft fuels, places massive demands on the logistical system. The demands are met.

About 98 percent of the materiel coming into the Republic is transported by ship. This includes all trucks, helicopter and aviation fuels, food, most of the ammunition, all heavy equipment, and all construction materials. The ship cargo flow is handled by the port facilities or ship offloading facilities at some 12 ports in the Republic, principally, Saigon, Newport, Cam Ranh Bay, Qui Nhon, Chu Lai and Da Nang.

U.S. Seventh Fleet landing ships have, for some time, been hauling supplies from Da Nang to Chu Lai and Qui Nhon. In the latter part of March, LST-1126 made the first supply lift to Dong Ha where U.S. Marines are operating near the DMZ.

Priority items of equipment or supply are flown into the Republic and expedited to the units requiring them. In-country distribution of equipment and supplies relies heavily on cargo aircraft. Troops and cargo are airlifted in the Republic by U.S. Army aircraft, and by the cargo-troop carrier crews under the direction of the USAF 854th Air Division at Tan Son Nhut Air Base. The missions performed by the tactical airlift system in the Republic include air landing and air dropping of combat personnel, supplies and equipment; resupply of ground forces; aeromedical evacuation; defoliation and crop denial; and maintaining of the daily air line of communication to all major aerial ports, air bases and units - about 150 airfields throughout the Republic.
The Revolutionary Development (RD) Program received increased military support during February and March. Additional ARVN battalions were placed in direct support roles, and operations were conducted in several areas to provide a shield for RD. At the end of February, 51 ARVN battalions were in position, performing missions in direct support. In addition, RF companies and PF platoons continued to provide direct support for RD by furnishing close-in security for provincial RD programs. US and other Free World Military Assistance Forces continued to support RD by securing RD areas and assisting expansion of GVN control.

All ARVN infantry battalions are scheduled to complete training by September in the tactics and techniques to be employed in supporting the RD program. The value of the mobile training team (MTT) concept is gaining general recognition within ARVN as evidenced by the formation of other MTTs for other training. The RD training has shown tangible results in improved soldier/civilian relationships after completion of the training. Instructor techniques, training aids, and class management have reached a satisfactory level of effectiveness and are improving rapidly. As the ARVN's first well-planned, organized, supported and supervised training program, the RD MTT program has been adjudged by all as an outstanding success.

It is evident that the enemy is attempting to counter the RD program by attacks on static posts and outposts, sabotage of New Life Hamlets, and terror and assassination attacks against RD teams. In January and February, 61 New Life Hamlets, 113 RD teams, 11 district towns, and 13 provincial capitals were attacked, with resulting losses among close-in security forces and RD teams. The increase in these attacks does not reflect any increase in enemy strength or overall activity but rather a new emphasis in objectives.

In I Corps, nearly half of the assigned ARVN infantry battalions were in position in direct support of RD. The RD battalions in Quang Tri Province were in frequent contact with the enemy. Other ARVN battalions conducted security and resettlement operations, and the major effort of ARVN psywar and civil affairs units was directed toward support of RD.

ARVN battalions in I Corps continued to receive training conducted by the RD MTTs, and RD training for the RF companies was commenced. At the end of February, eight ARVN battalions and one RF battalion had completed the two-week RD course.
The ARVN battalions in direct support of RD in I Corps continued to initiate civic action programs, and the programs were beginning to gain momentum. Road and culvert repair, MEDCAP, and distribution of food commodities were typical of the projects worked on by ARVN in its civic action role. The projects were well-received by the people, and the prestige of the ARVN soldier was further enhanced because of his civic action work.

The RD cadre teams deployed to hamlets made progress improving the defensive posture of the hamlets, repairing roads damaged during the rainy season, and assisting the villagers in building homes.

The corps, division and provincial RD councils met regularly and provided direction.

In II Corps, military support for RD was provided by assigned ARVN infantry battalions. A US air cavalry force supported RD in Binh Thuan Province, and FWMAF units provided security to the RD effort in Binh Dinh, Phu Yen and Khanh Hoa Provinces and in the northern part of Ninh Thuan. Security in Binh Dinh Province continued to improve as HVNAF continued clearing and securing operations. Military operations conducted by RF units in support of RD limited enemy infiltration into or through RD areas.

RD training for RF in II Corps commenced 27 February.

HVNAF civic action operations in II Corps showed improvement, particularly where RD MTT-trained ARVN battalions were located.

In III Corps, nearly half of the assigned ARVN infantry battalions were in position in direct support of RD. RF companies were deployed to increase security for RD teams operating in Long An and Bien Hoa Provinces. There were but few contacts with enemy main force units, indication of the enemy's desire to avoid major engagements after his maulings in JUNCTION CITY. The US battalions in LAMPHIASE operated in conjunction with ARVN battalions in Long An Province to provide security in the southern half of the province and bring additional population under GVN influence.

ARVN battalions in direct support of RD in III Corps provided medical assistance, distributed commodities, helped the people with road repair, well-digging and construction projects. In Binh Tuy Province in February, ARVN units assisted in constructing refugee houses,
distributed soap to the families, conducted numerous MEDCAPS, and showed movies explaining sanitation, first aid, and how MEDCAP would benefit the people. RF/PF units conducted many worthwhile activities. They physically assisted the villagers in transporting rice from contested areas, and assisted in construction projects. In Bình Tuy, a PF platoon assisted refugees in constructing a dam to provide water for irrigation.

In IV Corps, nearly half of the assigned ARVN infantry battalions were in position performing missions in direct support of RD. Some operated under the control of the province chiefs while others operated under regimental control subordinate to the province chiefs. Emphasis was placed upon security of RD areas, in realization that the inhabitants in and around those areas must be convinced that the military security is of a permanent nature. The RF/PF effectively contributed to RD security. ARVN successes in major operations relieved some pressure from the nearby RD areas and removed definite obstacles to RD progress. ARVN participation in civic action assumed new dimensions as more deployments in RD areas occurred and training in the importance of civic action programs progressed. Notable strides were made in structure repair and road building. Concerted efforts were made in commodity distribution, education, and medical treatment. The Corps and division RD councils functioned effectively under the guidance and leadership of their respective commanders. In the provinces, interest mounted as funds were released to the provinces and emphasis was placed on personal visits to field projects. ("End of Background Rules")

SIGNIFICANT TRENDS

Allied operations continued to accent search and destroy actions against the enemy and known base areas while providing an environment for revolutionary development. The number and intensity of enemy attacks increased significantly, but allied forces mauled the enemy in every major encounter.

The enemy's losses increased dramatically during March, particularly his personnel losses. Allied forces killed 9,015 enemy in the Republic during March - the largest number killed in any one month of the conflict. In addition, the enemy's base areas are being attacked from the air and penetrated on the ground. He is losing vast amounts of laboriously gathered munitions, weapons, food stores, and other materiel. Significant portions of his control, logistics and liaison apparatus, and his infrastructure, are being eroded. The large numbers of men that the enemy is forced to divert to his infiltration and
logistics problems in North and South Vietnam in order to maintain his
war machine in the Republic, plus the increasing number of casualties
and high rate of losses to the Chieu Hoi program, undoubtedly have a
telling effect on his capacity for continuing the aggression.

However, the enemy still showed no indications that he intends to
halt the aggression. He instead increased the number, size and intensity
of his attacks.

The enemy has intensified his use of mortars against US units and
during March he conducted more than 40 such significant attacks. He
fired 20 to 40 rounds per attack in about 14 attacks, 41 to 100 rounds
per attack in about 14 cases, and more than 100 rounds per attack in
at least 10 cases. The great majority of the rounds fired were 60mm or
82mm mortars, mostly the latter. Use of 120mm mortars was very limit-
ated. The heaviest attack was against the Gia Linh area in Quang Tri Province
21 March and consisted of over 720 rounds of mortar, artillery barrage
rockets, and conventional medium artillery. Other heavy mortar attacks
were conducted against BEACON HILL I Marines near Gia Linh on 20 March,
during the JUNCTION CITY battles on 19 and 31 March, against PhuAIrIE III
Marines on 26 March, and a Marine command post in DE SOTO on 24 March.

The enemy again employed artillery barrage rockets during March.
The enemy's first use of this weapon in the Republic was on 27 February
when he fired 51 rounds of 140mm spin-stabilized Russian barrage rockets
at Da Nang Air Base. That attack caused only light casualties and
dAMAGE on the base but killed or wounded numerous Vietnamese civilians
and destroyed or damaged 150-200 houses in the nearby village of Ap Do.
The enemy's next use of artillery barrage rockets was on 6-7 March during
heavy shelling of Camp Carroll in Quang Tri Province. In this attack
he used a 102mm version of the weapon. On 15 March, the enemy again
attacked Da Nang Air Base with barrage rockets, firing over 10 rounds
of 140mm rockets in the attack. Barrage rocket fire was reported in
the heavy shelling of the Gia Linh area on 20 and 21 March. The 102mm
barrage rocket was identified in this shelling; and, that same day, a
Marine unit in PhuAIrIE III located 136 of the 102mm rockets with some
of the launchers 15 km north of Camp Carroll.

On 21 March, the enemy employed conventional artillery in shelling
the Gia Linh area in Quang Tri Province. This is believed to be the
first enemy use of conventional tube artillery against US forces in the
conflict. Reports of the existence of enemy 70mm-75mm howitzers in IV
Corps are not uncommon. The first known use of howitzers by the enemy
in IV Corps occurred in Kien Hoa Province on 19 February when Viet Cong
shelled Ben Tre Airfield with 70mm howitzers. ARVN forces in Kien Hoa
Province 22 February captured eight 75mm howitzers of US origin in a
large Viet Cong munitions cache. On 17 October 1966, a 70mm pack howitzer and over 100 rounds of ammunition were captured by ARVN forces 25 km SE of Ben Tre. On 14 February, 72 rounds of 75mm howitzer ammunition were captured 15 km NE of Dong Tam. The artillery employed on 21 March was medium artillery, and it was employed in conjunction with mortar and barrage rocket fire in the same attack. The artillery fire came from north of Gio Linh, perhaps some from the DMZ, but firing positions were not precisely located. Typical medium artillery in the Soviet/CHICOM inventory include:

- the 122mm howitzer, 48 pound projectile 11,800 meters (12,900 yards),
- the 122mm field gun, 55 pound projectile 21,900 meters (24,000 yards),
- the 152mm howitzer, 88 pound projectile 12,400 meters (13,560 yards),
- and the 152mm gun-howitzer, 96-107 pound projectile 17,265 meters (18,880 yards).

On 31 March, the enemy employed 75mm howitzer fire against the US force at LZ "George" during a major battle in JUNCTION CITY.

It is evident that the enemy is greatly concerned over the progress of the military effort but more particularly the Revolutionary Development and Chieu Hoi programs which are incipiently dangerous to him. He is therefore attempting in various ways to achieve some kind - any kind - of significant success.
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<th>OPERATION</th>
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### MARCH 1967
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## MARCH 1967
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# # # # #
CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS - MARCH 1967

1 Mar (Wednesday)

- NVN. US pilots flew 92 msns NVN (USN 47 USAF 33 USMC 12). BDA included 63 watercraft dest or dam. USN A-6s hit Chi Ne army bks twice resulting in hvy dam with numerous fires.

- NGF-NVN. 25 km N Dong Hoi at 1819H, USS CANBEREA (CRUISER) w/destroyers BENNER and STRAUSS fired on NVN blockhouse. CANBEREA recd hvy 57mm fire resulting in one close air burst and one burst amidships resulting lt dam, one ½-inch hole in deck and minor frag dam to life rafts. The ships returned fire. Shore btry silenced.

- PRAIRIE II. 54 EK. 24 km NW Quang Tri City at 0012H, en fired 150 rds 81/82mm mort on US arty posn. At 0100H, en fired another 30 rds 81/82mm mort. No frd cas or equip dam. This posn mort twice day before.

- PERSHING. 38 EK.

- ADAMS. 24 EK.

- JUNCTION CITY. 46 EK.


2 Mar (Thursday)

- NVN. US pilots flew 85 msns NVN (USN 38 USAF 34 USMC 13). USN A-1s hit Sam Son army bks resulting in dam to barracks area.

- NGF-NVN. Three US ships (CANBEREA, BENNER and STRAUSS) hit shore btrys, AAA sites, radar sites, SAM sites, storage areas and RR siding.

- PRAIRIE II. 16 km NWW Dong Ha vic Hill 124 at 1450H, two USMC cos engaged est NVA co. Contact hvy until en broke contact 2200H. 40 NVAK. Frd cas lt. 3 mi to W, 9th Mar units engaged 15 en who took cover and ret fire. 10 EK 10 AW. Frd cas lt. Day's results: 109 EK 27 IW.
- III MAF. In Quang Tri Prov 56 km WSW Quang Tri City at 1915H, two USAF F-4Cs struck Lang Vei 2 Village. Primary cause was navigational error. 83 VN civ killed, 176 VN civ injured, 10 VN civ missing. Injured were evac to Quang Tri and Hue hospitals. US military assisted villagers.

- PRESHING. 21 BK.

- SAM HOUSTON. In Kontum Prov 70 km SW Kontum City 2215H-2223H, en atkd 2d Bde 4th Inf Div CP with 50 rds 82mm mort fire. Frd cas It.

- 4IV CORPS. In Dinh Tuong Prov 8 km NW My Tho at 1940H, US arty unit fired 11 rds 105mm hitting VN village of Trung Luong. 5 VN civ killed, 24 VN civ wounded. 24 homes dest or dam.

- US strike pilots flew 462 tac air sorties RVN (USAF 284 USMC 63). AC-47s flew 27 sorties. BDA included 94 fortified posns dest or dam and 16 secondary explosions.

3 Mar (Friday)

- NVN. US pilots flew 79 msns NVN (USAF 44 USN 23 USMC 12).

- III MAF. In Quang Tri Prov at O115H, en atkd Khe Sanh airstrip. Frd cas It. CH-46 hel dam.

- PRAIRIE II. 28 km NW Quang Tri City at 0730H, AO obs est 250 en on trail moving NW and 50-60 more en 1 km W. Arty and air strikes called on both en groups. 70 BK. No frd cas. 29 km ENE Quang Tri City at 1245H, 9th Mar co engaged est 50 en. Arty employed. 25 BK. At 1345H, 9th Mar co found grave w/23 en bodies. At 1355H 3d Mar co found 11 graves w/11 bodies. Other graves were found, total en dead found: 42. 23 km NW Quang Tri City 1730H-1900H, 3d Mar co engaged en twice. 16 BK. Day's results: 207 BK.

- SAM HOUSTON. 20 BK. In Kontum Prov 70 km SW Kontum City at O130H, en atkd 2d Bde 4th Inf Div bn CP w/40 rds 82mm mort fire. All rds landed outside perimeter. Arty fire returned. No frd cas. Same CP mort O22215H Mar resulting It frd cas.

- JUNCTION CITY. 46 km NNE Tay Ninh City at 1200H, en det claymore against 173d Abn Bde co then atkd w/SA fire. 7 min later same co was atkd again. En employed SA AW and rifle gren fire from concealed posns. Arty and air strikes sptd. En broke contact 1435H. Frd cas mod. En cas unk.

- US strike pilots flew 464 tac air sorties RVN (USAF 306 USMC 158). AC-47s flew 22 sorties. BDA included 130 fortified posns dest or dam and 15 secondary explosions.
4 Mar (Saturday)

- NVN. US pilots flew 110 msns NVN (USAF 61 USN 40 USMC 9).
- PRAIRIE II. 60 EK.
- JUNCTION CITY. 40 EK.
- US strike pilots flew 478 tac air sorties RVN (USAF 282 USMC 196).
  AC-47s flew 18 sorties. HDA included 263 fortified posns dest or
dam and 15 secondary explosions.

5 Mar (Sunday)

- USMACV announced new procedures for reporting US cas numerically
  for significant actions instead of lt, mod, hvy.
- NVN. US pilots flew 69 msns NVN (USAF 38 USN 24 USMC 7).
- NGF-RVN. 15 km ESE Thanh Hoa, CAG CANBERRA, DD BENNET and DDG
  STRAUSS hit military installations. En shore btrys engaged. Ships
  ret fire silencing shore btrys. No dam to ships.
- PRAIRIE II. 35 EK.
- JUNCTION CITY. 25 EK.
- ENTERPRISE. 25 EK.
- NGF-RVN. DD DE HAVEN hit en targets 22 km NE Vung Tau. Silenced
  AW site; set-off 3 secondary explosions.
- US strike pilots flew 400 tac air sorties RVN (USAF 297 USMC 103).
  AC-47s flew 18 sorties.

6 Mar (Monday)

- NVN. US pilots flew 48 msns NVN (USAF 27 USN 14 USMC 7). USN
  A-6s hit Thanh Hoa RR yard and Loi Dong POL storage area.
- III MAF. Quang Tin Prov at 0045H, en atkd Chu Lai airfield w/30-35
  rds 82mm mort fire. Frd cas: 7 WIA. Lt acft dam.
- PRAIRIE II. 25 km NW Quang Tri City at 0950H, 4th Mar ptl engaged
  est en co(+). Multi-co Mar force reinf ptl. Contact cont. USMC
  pilots flew 15 tac air sorties in spt. Contact term next a.m. Frd
  cas: 9 KIA 19 WIA. 21 EK.
- III MAF. Quang Tri Prov 30 km W Quang Tri City at 2400H, en atkd Camp Carroll (Arty Plateau) w/SA and 150 rds 82mm mort fire. Fire ret. Frd cas: 3 KIA 9 WIA. No equip or materiel dam.

- PEB SHING. 13 km ESE Bong Son at 0840H, Air Cav plat engaged est 2 NVA plats. Air Cav reinf. 9 tac air sorties and arty sptd. En broke contact 1800H. Frd cas: 7 KIA 17 WIA. En cas: 76 EK 43 B-52 20 1W 4 CSW 32 rds 82mm mort.

- JUNCTION CITY. 35 km NW Tay Ninh City 0620H-0640H, en atkd 2 Bde 25th Inf Div co w/est 100 rds 60-82mm mort fire. AC-47s, armd hels and arty sptd. Frd cas: 20 WIA. B-52s struck in a.m. and twice in p.m.

- GANE wake up. Go Cong Prov 14 km S Go Cong City on Ny Tho river at 1910H, en atkd 2 USN PBns w/SA and rifle gren fire. 1 PBn recd direct hit w/rifle gren. Armd hel and PBns sptd. Frd cas: 2 WIA.

- MARKET TIME. Kien Giang Prov, en fired on USA FAC. FAC req fire. 2 Swift boats delivered. 1 en sampan dest and 3 direct hits in en storage area. No frd cas.


7 Mar (Tuesday)

- RVN. US pilots flew 68 msns RVN (USAF 36 USN 24 USMC 8). USN pilots hit coastal defense and comm site 40 km ESE Haiphong. Started numerous fires in the complex. Other USN pilots hit wk yard 19 km NW Thanh Hoa.

- NGF-RVN. Cruiser CABERKKA w/USN KEPFLUR and INGERKOLL hit 17 en targets in Ha Tinh area. Targets included logistics routes and traffic, supply and POL storage area, a SAM site, coastal defense posn and radar site. DDs dest river port facility SE Han Tinh and dam transshipment point, setting-off secondary explosion and starting large fire. Coastal btry on Hon En Island 65 km SSE Vinh (in Han Tinh area) fired on ships. Ships ret fire. Btry dest and radar site dam. No dam to ships.

- III MAF. Quang Tri Prov 30 km W Quang Tri City 0500H-0510H, en atkd Camp Carroll w/35 rds 82mm mort fire. Frd cas: 1 KIA 2 WIA. At 0645H, en atkd Camp Carroll w/100 rds 82mm mort fire. Frd cas: 2 KIA 4 WIA. Fire ret, causing secondary explosion.
US strike pilots flew 364 tac air sorties RVN (USAF 284 USMC 80). AC-47s flew 17 sorties. BDA included 93 fort posns, 24 sampans, 3 trench systems dest or dam, and 9 secondary explosions.

8 Mar (Wednesday)

- NVN. US pilots flew 90 msns NVN (USN 42 USAF 36 USMC 12). BDA included 72 watercraft, 7 bridges, 4 radar sites, 2 SAM sites and 2 storage areas dest or dam.

- NGF-NVN. 7th Flt DDs PICKING, EDSON and STOODARD hit en targets 60 km S Thanh Hoa. Dest SAM site; dam SAM site; dest or dam boat repair facility and numerous watercraft.

- III MAF. Quang Nam Prov 47 km SW Da Nang at 1200H, USMC recon unit obs est 300 en. Called 3 air strikes. 27 EK.

- PRAIRIE II. 22 EK.

- PALM BEACH. 0155H-0210H, en atkd Dong Tam base camp w/80 rds 82mm mort. Frd cas: 2 KIA 10 WIA.

- GAME WARDEN. 30 km SE Saigon on Long Tau River at 1318H, USN PBR was rammed and cut in half by British Merchant Ship DENBY GRANGE. After section PBR sank, forward section beached. No frd cas.


9 Mar (Thursday)

- NVN. US pilots flew 63 msns NVN (USAF 38 USN 17 USMC 8).

- NGF-NVN. 49 km NNE Vinh, en shore btry fired on DD USS INGERSOLL. Fire ret silencing btry. No dam to DD reported.

- SAM HOUSTON. En atkd US fire spt base w/60 rds 82mm mort fire. Fire ret. Frd cas: 1 WIA.

- ADAMS. 28 km NW Tuy Hoa at 0015H, est 150-200 en atkd US plat w/SA gren and satchel charges. En penetrated plat posn. Mech reaction force dispatched. Two mines det by vehicles. Contact term 0045H. Reaction force arr 0230H. Frd cas: 10 KIA 20 WIA 3 MIA. 5 EK 7 DET 2 IW.
US strike pilots flew 367 tac air sorties RVN (USAF 246 USMC 119). AC-47s flew 22 sorties. EDA included 128 bunkers dest or dam and 12 secondary explosions.

10 Mar (Friday)

- NVN. US pilots flew 78 msns NVN (USAF 49 USN 18 USMC 11). USAF F-105s hit Thai Nguyen steel fabrication plant 63 km N Hanoi for first time. Pilots reported all ordnance on target. MIGs encountered resulting 1 MIG shot down by cannon fire, 1 probable, 1 dam. USN pilots flew simultaneous strikes against Hon Gai TPP 46 km NE Haiphong Hon Gai explosive storage area 43 km ENE Haiphong. Pilot reports indicate hvy dam both targets.

- I FFV. In Ninh Thuan Prov 16 km N Phan Rang at 1619H, USN C-47 disintegrated in air and crashed. Acft enroute Saigon from Cam Ranh Bay. Cause unk. At least 25 pers aboard. All were killed.

- II FFV. Binh Duong Prov 23 km N Saigon 2220H-2300H, en atkd Phu Loi airfield w/40-50 rds 81/82mm mort fire. AC-47 and arty fire ret. Frd cas: 3 WIA. Lt dam to equip and acft.

- JUNCTION CITY. 30 km N Tay Ninh City at 2008H, en atkd 1st Inf Div bn w/40-50 rds 81/82mm mort fire followed by ground atk by en bn(+). US ret .50 cal MG and SA fire. AC-47, armnd hel and air strikes sptd. Contact cont.

11 Mar (Saturday)

- NVN. US pilots flew 83 msns NVN (USAF 45 USN 23 USMC 15). USAF pilots hit Thai Nguyen steel fabrication plant. USN pilots hit Bac Giang TPP 37 km NE Hanoi. Reported hvy dam and secondary explosions. USN pilots hit Lang Can SAM spt facility 21 km NW Haiphong. Reported hvy dam, numerous secondary explosions and fires. Several SAMs seen burning on ground. 1 SAM was seen to impact in village near target. USN pilots also hit Cam Ly ammo storage area 56 km NW Haiphong. Area hvy dam w/secondary explosions and fires. Pilots reported at least 3 SAMs impacting on ground during approach to target.

- PARSHING. 20 km SSE Bong Son at 1120H, 2d Bde 1st Cav Div (Airmbl) co in blocking posn 3 km S Tra O lake reed AW from en force. Contact cont all day. Air Cav reinf to multi-co size. AC-47s, arty and tac air sptd. En broke contact 2155H. Frd cas: 17 KIA 24 WIA 2 MIA. 21 EK 1 DET.
- ENTERPRISE. Long An Prov 22 km SW Saigon, 9th Inf Div elem engaged en force. Air and arty sptd. 4 US aerial rockets impacted on frd unit. 6 US 2 ARVN 1 US civ correspondent killed. 10 US WIA. 13 EK.

- PALM BEACH. 42 EK.

- US strike pilots flew 463 tac air sorties RVN (USAf 316 USMC 147). AC-47s flew 26 sorties. BDA included 139 bunkers, 22 sampans, 2 mort posns dest or dam and 14 secondary explosions.

12 Mar (Sunday)

- NVN. US pilots flew 128 msns NVN (USAf 57 USN 59 USMC 12). USAF F-105s and F-4Gs hit Viet Tri TPP 46 km WNW Hanoi (1st US strike this target). Target hvy dam, numerous secondary explosions nd fires, hvy brown smoke to 3,000 ft. USN A-4s and F-4s hit Vinh RR yd. Dest or dam 27 boxcars. USN A-4s hit Thanh Hoa RR yd. All ordnance on target.

- NGF-NVN. USS EDSON (DD) hit Hoan Lao military installation at Quang Khe naval base, and truck parks, 13 km NNW Dong Hoi. No BVA. USS COLLETT (DD) engaged en shore btry on Hon Matt Island 32 km NE Vinh. Btry silenced. No dam to DD.

- PRAIRIE II. 21 EK.

- SAM HOUSTON. Kontum Prov 68 km SW Kontum City, 3 km E Sathay River at O900H, 4th Inf Div co engaged en co. En attempted to break contact. US arty and air strikes stopped withdrawal. At O945H, en countered w/hvy mort atk. At 1200H, en est to be 2 bns. US reinf w/heli-lift. Contact sporadic to hvy all day. Gunship, air and arty sptd. Contact term 2400H. Battle area to be swept at first light. Frd cas: 5 KIA 38 WIA 5 MIA. En cas unk. NW Plei Djereng, 7 km from NVN border, en atkd 4th Inf Div unit w/27 rds 81/82mm mort fire. Fire ret. 12 US WIA. USAF pilots flew 52 sorties in direct spt. B-52s struck in a.m.

- PERSHING. 61 EK 137 DET. NGF msn vic Tra O Lake 20 km SSE Bong Son resulted in secondary explosion fireballs.

- JUNCTION CITY. 47 EK 30 IW 2 CSW.

- US strike pilots flew 575 tac air sorties (ties record set 22 Feb) RVN (USAf 335 USMC 240). AC-47s flew more than 30 sorties. BDA included 142 en bunkers, 36 sampans, 2 trench systems dest or dam, 25 secondary explosions; 1 fire. At 1515H, USAF C-130 crashed on take-off An Khe airfield Binh Dinh Prov. Cause unk. 71 aboard, only 5 injured. Acft hvy dam.
13 Mar (Monday)

- NVN. US pilots flew 92 msns NVN (USN 45 USAF 37 USMC 10).

- SAM HOUSTON. Kontum Prov WNW Plei Djereng, 7 km from RVN border, at 0107H, en atkd US unit w/25 rds 81/82mm mort fire. Fire ret. 3 US WIA. (Same unit was mort twice 12 Mar). 69 km SW Kontum City at 1900H, en atkd US unit w/20 rds 82mm mort fire, fol by SA. Flareships and arty sptd. 67 km SW Kontum City at 1915H, en atkd US unit w/60 rds 82mm mort fire. All rds impacted outside perimeter. Pleiku Prov 39 km W Pleiku City, en atkd US CP w/total 450 rds 82mm mort fired in 3 atks. Fire ret. 1 US KIA 61 US WIA. 2 EK 2 IW.

- JUNCTION CITY. 25 EK.

- US strike pilots flew 535 tac air sorties RVN (USAF 317 USMC 214 USN 4).

14 Mar (Tuesday)

- NVN. US pilots flew 116 msns NVN (USN 62 USAF 41 USMC 13).

- NGF-NV. USS STOUTARD (DD) engaged en shore btry 39 km SSE Thanh Hoa. Secondary explosion at shore btry. USS INGERSOLL (DD) dam Hon Me Island shore btry 50 km SE Thanh Hoa. USS COLLETT and COGSWELL (DDs) hit transshipment points in the Panhandle. One secondary explosion.

- SAM HOUSTON. Kontum Prov 67 km SW Kontum City at 0435H, en atkd US unit w/60 rds 82mm mort fire. Flareships and arty sptd. 12 US WIA. (This unit was mort 1915H 13 Mar). 70 km SW Kontum City at 1035H, 2d Bde 4th Inf Div bn engaged NVA co(+). US unit reinf 1300H. Hvwy contact. Arty and air strikes sptd. Contact term 1900H. Results: Frd cas 12 KIA 69 WIA 7 MIA. 12 NVAK. Pleiku Prov, New Plei Djereng SF camp, early a.m., en atkd the camp w/20 rds 82mm mort fire. All rds outside perimeter. Fire ret resulting in 5 secondary explosions.

- US strike pilots flew 457 tac air sorties RVN (USAF 318 USMC 149).

- MARKET TIME. Off coast Quang Ngai Prov 46 km NE Quang Ngai City at 0600H, USN and USCG patrol units intercepted en steel hulled trawler. US units pursued and exchanged gunfire. Trawler was beached by crew 20 km NE Quang Ngai City at 0600H.
Several explosions. Trawler dest. Trawler 100' long, steel hulled. Same type as trawlers sunk 10 May and captured 20 Jun. USMC and ROKMC provided perimeter defense in area. Salvage crews recovered 1150 CHICOM carbines, 25 HMGs, 29 LMGs, 7,000 rds 7.62mm ammo, 1-57mm RR, 12 claymores, 18 bolt action rifles.

- NGF-RVN. USS WHITE RIVER (LMSR), Quang Ngai Prov, dest or dam 195 en emplacements, 14 bunkers and 7 sampans.

15 Mar (Wednesday)

- NVN. US pilots flew 91 msns NVN (USAF 58 USN 28 USMC 5). USN F-8 and USMC A-4 were downed in NVN. F-8 pilot MIA. A-4 pilot rescued.

- III MAF. Quang Nam Prov at 0200H, en atkd Da Nang AB w/over 10 rds 140mm Russian spin-stabilized rkt fire. 16 US WIA. Acft and runway dam negligible. Arty fire placed on suspected firing posns within 2 min. AC-47s sptd. Firing posns were approx 1 km S of posns used on 27 Feb atk. Same type rktis used in both atks. Reaction forces located 23 launchers, 11 rktis (5 rktis were in launchers) in brush E bank Yen River, 11 km SW AB. En force obs fleeing SW towards mountains. Reaction force pursued. Tac air strafed and bombed the en force.

- SAM HOUSTON. Search of 12-14 Mar battle areas resulted 53 NVAK bodies, 1 DET 12 IW 1 CSW.

- JUNCTION CITY. 20 km N Tay Ninh City at 2330H, en atkd 196th Lt Inf Bde CP w/20-30 rds 82mm mort fire. Arty and gunships sptd. 16 US WIA.


- 1ST AAF. Phuoc Tuy Prov. RAAF Caribou and Iroquois acft conducted their first air strike in the conflict. Caribou of 35 Sqdn dropped flammable fuel into hvy wooded areas of Phuoc Tuy Prov. Iroquois of 9 Sqdn ignited the fuel w/tracer rds. En ground fire reported. No frd cas or dam. Strike objective was to burn off hvy vegetation and deny VC sanctuary.

- GAME WARDEN. 43 km SE Saigon in RSSZ at 0800H, en cmd det mine between two USN PB6s. Water column 150' high. No frd cas.
- US strike pilots flew 427 tac air sorties RVN (USAF 282 USMC 145). BDA included 195 fort posns, 25 sampans dest or dam, 15 secondary explosions and 1 fire.

16 Mar (Thursday)

- NVN. US pilots flew 78 msns NVN (USAF 41 USN 28 USMC 9). USN A-6s hit Bac Giang TPP 48 km NE Hanoi.
- III MAF. Quang Tri Prov 5 km NW Khe Sanh at 1000H, est en plat atkd 9th Mar plat w/hvy SA/AW fire. Mar ret fire. Air and arty strikes called. 2d USMC plat reinf. Sproadic contact cont into p.m. Est en strength 1 co. At 1615H, en employed est 15 rds 82mm mort against the two Mar plats. At 1750H, CH-46 w/reinf unit downed by hvy ground fire vic frd perimeter. Hel med evacs conducted. 13 close air spt strikes conducted on susp en posns. Mar co reinf and secured the area. Frd cas 18 KIA 58 WIA. 11 EK.
- SAM HOUSTON. Mod contact. 20 EK.
- ENTERPRISE. 32 EK.
- RSSZ 17 km SE Saigon on Long Tau River at 1530H, en atkd US cargo ship SS CONQUEROR w/6 rds 75mm RR fire. 6 hits. 1 US civ 1 US MP wounded. WIA's evac by PBR to Nha Be. Arty, air and gunships sptd. Ship proceeded under own power.
- US strike pilots flew 514 tac air sorties RVN (USAF 313 USMC 201). BDA included 150 fort posns, 32 sampans dest or dam, and 14 secondary explosions.

17 Mar (Friday)

- NVN. US pilots flew 77 msns NVN (USAF 35 USN 32 USMC 10).
- NGF-NVN. At 1850H, USS STOOLARD (DD) and INGERSOLL attempted to rescue downed USN pilot. USS STOOLARD hit by en shore btry fire 9 km N DMZ. Counter-fire silenced btry. Dam to STOOLARD was 10"x18" hole above waterline on starboard side. No frd cas. Hole repaired. USN pilot was later rescued by hel.
- PRAIRIE II. 39 EK.
- ADAMS. Phu Yen Prov 13 km W Tuy Hoa, multi-bn force from 4th Inf Div and 1st Bde 101st Abn Div aslt Hill 86. 28 EK. No frd cas.
US strike pilots flew 525 tac air sorties HVN (USAF 289 USMC 236).

NGF-HVN. USS WHITE RIVER (LSMR) dest or dam 94 en fortifications in Quang Ngai Prov.

18 Mar (Saturday)

- NVN. US pilots flew 63 msns NVN (USAF 31 USN 20 USMC 12).
  USN A-6s hit Thai Nguyen steel fabrication plant.
- III MAF. 39 EK.
- PERSHING. Several air aslts conducted. Lt contact. 31 EK 261 DET.
- JUNCTION CITY. Bình Long Prov 16 km S An Loc at 1145H, 1st Bde 9th Inf Div unit engaged en plat. Arty and air strikes sptd. Contact term 1300H. Frd cas: 6 KIA 6 WIA. 27 EK.
- US strike pilots flew 495 tac air sorties RVN (USAF 294 USMC 201).
- NGF-RVN. USS MANLEY (LDE) off Thu Thien Prov at 0503H, rd fired in 5"/54 gun mount while in ram cycle, 5 USN injured. USS WHITE RIVER (LSMR) dest or dam 135 fort posns in Quang Ngai Prov.

19 Mar (Sunday)

- NVN. US pilots flew 52 msns NVN (USAF 27 USN 25). USAF F-105s hit Thai Nguyen and Viet Tri TPPs, 62 km N and 46 km NW Hanoi, respectively, in low level atks. USN A-6s hit Thai Nguyen steel fabrication plant 63 km N Hanoi and a warehouse complex 48 km N Vinh.
- PHAIRIE III. 3 km SE of S boundary DMZ en atkd defense perimeter 9th Mar unit w/85-90 rds 81/82mm mort fire, from posn abt 1.3 km NE USMC posn. Arty and mort fire ret. Frd cas: 4 KIA 34 WIA.
- JUNCTION CITY. Bình Duong Prov 50 km N Saigon (N of Lai Khe) at 2311H, a 9th Inf Div Cav troop and a btry from 9th Arty on road clearing opn Hwy 13, were atkd by est en regt w/mort SA AW fire. Hvy air and arty sptd. Two Cav troops reinf. Contact cont. In other action, at 0635H, A0 obsd en concentration near RVN border in Bình Long Prov, hvy arty and air strikes conducted. 37 EK 5 fort posns dest. In other action, Tây Ninh Prov 30 km NE Tây Bình City at 1038H, 3d Bde 4th Inf Div unit conducting air aslt into LZ rec'd SA AW fire. Also, en cmd det 5 arty rds in LZ. 3 UH-1s dest 13 UH-1s hit by arty frags or ground fire. Frd cas: 14 KIA 24 WIA. Day's results: 61 EK.
- US strike pilots flew 439 tac air sorties NVN (USAF 291 USMC 148). Dest or dam 330 fort posns, 30 sampans. 7 secondary explosions. USMC F-4 downed by ground fire 28 km NNW Quang Tri City. both pilots MIA. USAF C-123 det mine while taxiing at VQ Lat airfield in Binh Tuy Prov. Nose wheel and under fuselage cam. No frd cas. Airfield swept. No other mines.

20 Mar (Monday)

- NVN. US pilots flew 51 msns NVN (USAF 30 USN 21). USN A-6s hit Thai Nguyen steel fabrication plant 56 km N Hanoi. Large secondary explosions.

- NGF-NVN. 7th Flt ship dam river mouth coastal transshipment point 13 km NE Vinh (numerous fires), and coastal offense site 28 km NNW Vinh.

- BEACON HILL I. Quang Tri Prov 6 km DMZ, 7th Flt SLF units (BLT 1/4 and HCM) made amphib aslt. S&D opn. Mar units heli-aslt to area near Gio Linh village, 10 km inland and 2 km S DMZ. USN and USCG MARKET TIME pts cleared adjacent boat lanes. 1915H-2015H, near Gio Linh village, en hit SLF units w/300 rds 82mm mort and 102mm rkt fire from W and NW, S of DMZ and in DMZ S of DL. Frd cas: 3 KIA 10 WIA. Fire ret w/how, howtar, mort and NGF msns. 2200H, same units recd 50 rds 82mm mort and 102mm rkt fire. No cas. Fire ret resulting 2 large secondary explosions at en firing posn in DMZ.

- III MAF. Quang Tri Prov at 1845H, en atkd Gio Linh USMC arty base w/mort, rkt and arty fire. Action cont.

- PRAIRIE III. 1000H-1600H, 27 km NNW Quang Tri City, 3d Mar unit located 136 rds 102mm rkt s/3 1chrs. Rkts are CHICOM version US 4.5" rkt. 28" long, 48-50 lbs w/warhead of 5 lbs. Max range 5,000 meters. First used against US units night 6-7 Mar at Camp Carroll.

- PERSHING. 17 km N Bong Son at 1823H, multi-co 1st bde 1st Cav Div force attempting reinf multi-co cav force in contact engaged est en co(+). AC-47s, gunships arty and air strikes sptd. Contact term 2200H. 78 EK. Frd cas: 14 KIA 40 WIA 8 MIA. On bong Son plains, 1st/2d bde 1st Cav Div units in continuous contact w/est en bn. Other Cav cos posnd around area. One Cav co hvy contact all day. 27 EK.

- ADAMS. 28 EK.
JUNCTION CITY. Binh Duong Prov 50 km N Saigon (contact initiated 192311H Mar), en broke contact 0635H. 228 EK 2 DET 14 AW. Frd cas: 3 KIA 63 WIA.

ENTERPRISE. 61 EK.

US strike pilots flew 486 tac air sorties HVN (USAF 308 USMC 157 USN 21). BDA included 167 enemy fort posns, 18 sampans dest or dam; 14 secondary explosions.

21 Mar (Tuesday)

NVN. US pilots flew 62 msns NVN (USAF 31 USN 21 USMC 10). USN A-6s hit Thai Nguyen steel fabrication plant 3d consecutive night.

III MAF. Quang Tri Prov, contact reported 201945H Mar, term 030511. En atkd Gio Linh w/more than 720 mort, rkt and arty rds. Frd cas: 59 WIA. Lt dam to installation, 31d equip.

SAM HOUSTON. Kontum Prov 66 km WSW Kontum City, 153011-1739H, 1st Bde 4th Inf Div bn elm engaged NVA co. Frd cas: 9 KIA 29 WIA 3 MIA. In same area at 1930H, en atkd CP area and fire spt base w/37 rds 82mm mort fire. AC-47 sptd 1930H-0105H. Frd cas: 3 KIA 4 WIA. Pleiku Prov 58 km NW Pleiku City at 0815H, two 1st bde 4th Inf Div cos engaged en co(+). Frd cas: 14 KIA 13 WIA.

JUNCTION CITY. 27 km NE Tay Ninh City, 0640H-1200H, en atkd 3d bde 4th Inf Div arty elm w/62mm and 82mm mort fire. At same time, a 3d bde bn engaged 5 en bns (3,000 men). US reinf the 3d bde bn. Mid-morning en began withdrawal to NE and SE. Arty and air atkd retreating en. From 1015H-1200H contact sporadic. 631 EK 196 wpns. Frd cas: 31 KIA 109 WIA. USAF O-1 directing air strikes was downed by en ground fire and exploded on impact. Two crew KIA. USAF sptd opn w/ill7 direct spt sorties. Late afternoon in another area, a direct spt air strike by 2 USAF F-100s w/FAC control resulted in 2 US KIA 10 US WIA.

RANG DONG. Long An Prov 23 km NE Tan An, US gunships sptg ARVN and 199th Lt Inf Bde troops obs est en co and atkd w/MG and rktts. En ret fire. 24 EK. No frd cas. Day's results: 28 EK.

NGF-RVN. USS OTHOU (DD) dest or dam 106 en fort posns.

US strike pilots flew 539 tac air sorties HVN (USAF 235 USMC 170 USN 10). AC-47S flew 18 sorties. BDA included 134 en fort posns, 75 bunkers, 14 sampans dest or dam; 22 secondary explosions.
22 Mar (Wednesday)

- NVN. US pilots flew 55 msns NVN (USAF 27 USN 17 USMC 11).
- SAM HOUSTON. Pleiku Prov 58 km SW Pleiku City at 0610H, en atkd 1st Bde 4th Inf Div bn elms w/25-30 rds 82mm mort and SA AW. Contact term 1620H. 136 EK 46 WIA. Frd cas: 25 KIA 39 WIA. USAF pilots flew 58 direct spt sorties.
- PHÚ NHUỘC. 15 km N bong Son at 1710H, UH-1B downed by ground fire. 4 US MIA. Hel dest. Day’s results: 37 EK 150 LT.
- JUNCTION CITY. 40 km NE Tay Ninh City at 2135H, a 155mm arty rd impacted near frd elms. 2 US KIA 13 US WIA. 32 km Wb Tay Ninh City at 2145H and 2155H, en atk 11th Armd Cav Regt and 2d Bde 1st Inf Div units w/65 rds 82mm mort fire. Frd cas: 34 WIA. AC-47s and gunships sptd. Day’s results: 198 EK.
- US strike pilots flew 421 tac air sorties NVN (USAF 321 USMC 98 USN 2). AC-47s flew 19 sorties. USAF F-4Cs and F-10Cs atkd large en troop concentration 40 km SW Quang Ngai City. 160 EK. BDA incld 142 en fort posns, 13 sampans dest or dam, 11 secondary explosions.
- Official US acft loss figures: (Fxd-wg): NVN 495 NVN 162.
- (Hel): NVN 5 NVN 300.

23 Mar (Thursday)

- III KAF. Da Nang Ab at 0350H, USAF C-141 and USMC A-6 collided on E runway. 5 USAF killed, 2 USMC injured, 1 USAF injured. Both acft dest.
- III KAF. Quang Tri Prov 13 km N Dong Ha, 0015H-0202H, en atk Gio Linh arty base w/75-80 rds 81mm mort fire. Frd cas: 13 USMC WIA.
- NEW CASTLE. Quang Nam Prov 35 km SW Da Nang, 1600H-1730H, 5th Mar sqd engaged en br. Mar reinf by co and 2 LVTH-6. 61 EK. No frd cas. At 1545H, same area, en atk another 5th Mar unit w/40 rds 60mm mort fire. Arty fire ret resulting several secondary explosions. Frd cas: 3 KIA 1 WIA.
- SAM HOUSTON. 94 en bodies found. Day’s results: 102 EK 20 IW 4 CSW.
- JUNCTION CITY. 23 EK.

- II FFV. Bien Hoa Prov at Bien Hoa airfield at 1845H. USAF AG-47 lost power on take-off and crashed in open field. Of 9 pers aboard, 3 seriously injured and 6 under obs. Acft dest. Acft recd en ground fire on take-off causing power loss.


24 Mar (Friday)

- NVN. US pilots flew 94 mns NVN (USAF 52 USMG 12 USN 30).

- PRAIRIE III. 12 km NW Dong Ha at 1740H, entrenched en atkd 3d Mar co w/40 rds 60mm mort fire. Mar aslt en posns. En broke contact. 28 EK 3 AW/IW. Frd cas: 6 KIA 15 WIA. 11 km NW Dong Ha at 1055H, 9th Mar co asltd est 120 en in fort posns. During 2 hr battle, Mar recd est 140 rds 82mm mort fire. 14 EK 1 IW. Frd cas: 6 KIA 14 WIA. 14 km NW Dong Ha at 0930, en atkd 3d Mar bn CP w/33 rds 82mm mort fire. Fire ret. Frd cas: 5 KIA 17 WIA. Day's results: 49 EK.

- BEACON HILL I. 63 EK.

- DE SOTO. 38 km SSE Quang Ngai City at 0050H en atkd 7th Mar CP w/200-300 rds 60mm, 82mm mort and 57mm RR fire. Fire ret. Frd cas: 3 KIA 7 WIA. Lt dam.

- NEW CASTLE. Quang Nam Prov SW Da Nang, 1520H-1850H, two 5th Mar co engaged 150-200 en. 1 co recd hvy SA AW and mort fire. 2 AMTRACKS reinf. Arty and air strikes spdt. En broke contact. 42 EK 1 IW 1 mort 1 MG 1-57mm RR. Frd cas: 1 KIA 35 WIA.

- SAM HOUSTON. Kontum Prov 70 km SW Kontum City, 0140H-0150H, en atkd 1st Bde 4th Inf Div co w/65 rds mort fire. All rds landed outside perimeter. No frd cas. Day's results: 32 EK 10 IW.

- JUNCTION CITY. 50 km NE Tay Ninh City at 1950H, en atkd fire spt base w/100-150 rds 82mm mort fire and 2 ground aslts. En atks repulsed. Contact term 2055H. Frd cas: 11 WIA. En cas unk. B-52s struck in a.m. Day's results: 34 EK.

- US strike pilots flew 350 tac air sorties RVN (USAF 356 USMC 174). AC-47s flew 18 sorties. BDA included 398 fort posns, 22 sampans dest or dam; 14 secondary explosions, 1 fire.
25 Mar (Saturday)


- III MAF. Quang Tri Prov 24 km NNW Quang Tri City, 0210H-0300H, en atkd Gio Linh w/32 rds 82mm mort fire. Fire ret. Frd cas: 3 WIA.

- PRAIRIE III. 23 km NW Quang Tri City at 1400H, 9th Mar co on village sweep w/tank spt, located grave w/31 en bodies (including 2 females) dressed in NVA uniforms. Day's results: 64 EK 39 IW.

- BEACON HILL I. 26 EK.


- JUNCTION CITY. 32 km NE Tay Ninh City at 0247H, en atkd 173d Abn Bde and 11th Arm Cav Regt elms w/50-60 rds 82mm mort fire. Frd cas: 3 KIA 7 WIA. 23 km NE Tay Ninh City at 0845H, en atkd 2d Bde 25th Inf Div cav troop w/AW and RR fire. US reinf and sptd by air and arty strikes. Contact cont. Day's results: 47 EK.

- US strikes pilots flew 482 tac air sorties RVN (USAF 306 USMC 174 USN 2).

- NGF-RVN. Off coast of Quang Tri Prov just S DMZ, USS OZBOURN (DD) taken under ftre by en shore posn. Fire ret and evasive action taken. 10-min engagement. OZBOURN hit twice. No frd cas. Lt dam to ship.

26 Mar (Sunday)

- NVN. US pilots flew 98 msns NVN (USN 51 USAF 36 USMC 11). USAF F-4s and F-105s hit Son Tay Army supply area 37 km W Hanoi. 8 MIG-17s atkd USAF acft. 1 MIG-17 downed by F-105.

- NGF-RVN. 50 km S Thanh Hoa, USS STODDARD and TURNER JOY were engaged by Hon Me Island coastal btrys. Fire ret. 2 secondary explosions ashore. Coastal btry silenced.
- **BEACON HILL I.** 29 km NW Quang Tri City at 1600H, en force atkd 4th Mar co. 33 EK. Frd cas: 6 KIA 28 WIA.

- **PRAIRIE III.** 26 km NW Quang Tri City at 2200H, en atkd 3d Mar co w/218 rds 82mm and 120mm mort fire. Fire ret. Frd cas: 1 KIA 12 WIA.

- **IV CORPS.** Vinh Long Prov 25 km SSE Vinh Long City at 1030H, 7 UH-1s were hit by ground fire while spg MiVN action. US cas: 2 KIA 12 WIA 2 MIA, 3 UH-1s dest 4 UH-1s dam.

- **US strike pilots flew 506 tac air sorties RVN (USAF 311 USMC 195). AC-47s flew 29 sorties.**

**27 Mar (Monday)**

- **NVN.** US pilots flew 107 msns NVN (USAF 51 USN 41 USMC 15). USAF F-105s hit storage area 48 km ESE Dien Bien Phu. Target hvy dam. USN A-6s hit POL storage area and transshipment point 10 km NW Haiphong. Targets hvy dam.

- **BEACON HILL I.** 61 EK (41 were found in graves).

- **DE SOTO.** 43 km SE Quang Ngai City at 1730H, USMC hel obs 30 en hiding in shallow water w/bamboo breathing tubes. Hel atkd. 26 EK 4 DET. No frd cas.

- **US strike pilots flew 483 tac air sorties RVN (USAF 287 USMC 196). AC-47s flew 25 sorties.**

- **NGF-RVN.** USS FLETCHER (DD) recd en mort and AW fire 34 km SE Quang Ngai City. Fire ret. Posn dest. No frd cas or dam.

**28 Mar (Tuesday)**

- **NVN.** US pilots flew 124 msns NVN (USAF 62 USN 46 USMC 16). USAF F-105s hit warehouse areas 114 km and 154 km NW Vinh. USN A-6s hit RR yd 46 km NW Vinh. Partial BDA: dest or dam 90 watercraft, 20 boxcars, 17 warehouses, 2 storage areas, 1 RR yd, 15 fort posns, 4 rd segments, 1 bridge approach. 10 secondary explosions, 3 fires.

- **III MAF.** Quang Nam Prov 6 km W Da Nang at 0810H, US unit conducting mine warfare class accidently det M-16 mine. 13 USMC killed, 1 USMC injured.

- **OH JAK KYO.** 50 EK 18 IW.
US strike pilots flew 497 tac air sorties RVN (USAF 313 USMC 184). AC-47s flew 32 sorties. AC-47 downed by ground fire Quang Nam Prov. Acft dest. 7 US KIA.

29 Mar (Wednesday)
- NVN. US pilots flew 108 msns NVN (USAF 50 USN 47 USMC 11).
- OH JAK KYO. 21 EK.
- US strike pilots flew 518 tac air sorties RVN (USAF 324 USMC 194).

30 Mar (Thursday)
- NVN. US pilots flew 107 msns NVN (USAF 46 USN 49 USMC 12). Dest or dam 1 steel fabrication plant.
- PRAIRIE III. 26 km NW Quang Tri City at 1800H, en co atkd 9th Mar co. Arty, mort and gunships sptd. US cas: 16 KIA 36 WIA. En losses: 67 EK 26 IW 5 CSW. USMC pilots flew 18 direct spt sorties.
- DE SOTO. 40 km SSE Quang Ngai City at 1905H, USMC F-8 fired rkts, hit short of target into frd posns. 4 USMC KIA 18 USMC WIA.
- OH JAK KYO. 26 EK.
- BYRD. 60 km NE Phan Thiet, 1230H-1545H, 3d Bde 1st Cav Div (Airmbl) plat and ARVN elms conducted hel aslts, engaged en force. Another Cav plat reinf. Gunships sptd. 40 EK 10 IW. No frd cas.
- US strike pilots flew 516 tac air sorties RVN (USAF 334 USMC 182).

31 Mar (Friday)
- NVN. US pilots flew 101 msns NVN (USAF 44 USN 42 USMC 15).
- PRAIRIE III. 54 EK.
- JUNCTION CITY. Major battle developed 40 km NE Tay Ninh City 1st Bde 1st Inf Div elm fol prep fires and made hel aslt into LZ "G" in a.m. Secured LZ. 1st Bde 1st Inf Div recon plat moved into N portion of LZ and made contact w/est en bn at 1258H. Recon plat was reinf and extracted and spt fire called. Hvy en mort atk on LZ "G" and FSB "C". En fol mort atk on LZ "G" w/ ground atk. Hvy air and arty placed on the en forces.
- US strike pilots flew 492 tac air sorties RVN (USAF 330 USMC 157 USN 5). Partial BDA: dest or dam 248 fort posns, 8 sampans. 20 secondary explosions.

- Australian destroyer HMAS HOBART arrived and joined US naval forces off coast of Vietnam.