QUYET THANG OFFENSIVE
HAU NGHIA PROVINCE
14-31 MARCH 1968

989 ENEMY KIA
ALONG MAJOR ENEMY INFILTRATION
AND RE-SUPPLY ROUTE IN
HAU NGHIA PROVINCE
The most significant contact in the IV Corps area of the Republic occurred on 5 March in An Xuyen Province. At 0805, the Viet Cong U-Minh 2 Local Force Battalion entered the town of Ca Mau and attacked the provincial hospital. Small bands of enemy soldiers moved through the city committing acts of terrorism.

A counter-offensive, under the operational control of the ARVN 32nd Regiment, 21st Division was mounted to clear the enemy from the town.

Regional Forces troops attacked and cleared the town's hospital and new airfield of enemy forces. A battalion from the 21st Division cleared the eastern portion of the city after attacking from the old airfield area. Another battalion moved into and cleared the southwestern part.

By 1600, the enemy troops had been cleared from all parts of the town. Pursuit operations were initiated and contact was maintained with the fleeing enemy remnants until after midnight.

Army helicopter gunships were used to provide close air support. Air Force tactical air crews struck the enemy support positions and escape routes.

In addition to killing the 275 enemy soldiers, the RVNAF troopers captured 44 individual and 18 crew-served weapons. The kill ratio was better than 5 to 1 in favor of the friendly forces.
21st ARVN Division Troops
Supported by U.S. Airforce Tactical Aircraft and Army Helicopters
Killed 275 Enemy
And captured 62 weapons on 5 March

Legend: V-Rice
In Phu Yen Province on 4 March, ARVN infantrymen and U.S. paratroopers from the 173rd Airborne Brigade combined to kill 218 Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Regulars.

The action started at 0200 when the enemy hit night defensive positions of the ARVN soldiers just north of Tuy Hoa. The action continued in that area and in the vicinity of the Tuy Hoa North Airfield until about 2030 that night. In addition to the 218 enemy killed, 138 weapons were captured by the Allied forces.

Eight U.S. soldiers were killed in the action.

ARVN casualties were light. Interrogation of prisoners taken on the battlefield revealed that the enemy had employed 4 companies from the Viet Cong 85th Local Force Battalion and 2 companies from the NVA 5th Battalion, 95th Regiment.
REVIEW OF EVENTS

APRIL

GENERAL: During April, RVNAF, U.S. and other Free World Forces continued to mount aggressive offensive operations to destroy or neutralize NVA/VC units greatly weakened by defeats they suffered during the "Tet" offensive. Action was reported to be moderate throughout the Republic.

I CORPS

The enemy emphasized rebuilding his logistical capabilities with priority given to the collection of rice and improvement of lines of communication. However, both the NVA and VC units reduced tactical operations throughout the corps area.

At the Khe Sanh Combat Base, forces operating in Operation PEGASUS/LAM SON 207 encountered light resistance and found evidence that enemy battlefield discipline had declined. For example, North Vietnamese prisoners reported that the 325C NVA Division had abandoned the Khe Sanh area, and additional air and artillery strikes depleted major elements of the 304th NVA Division forcing them to withdraw. However, the NVA retained the capability of initiating small, ineffective raiding actions in an attempt to tie Allied Forces to certain area.

In the eastern DMZ, major elements of the 320th NVA Division withdrew to the north to resupply and train. Toward the end of the month the enemy positioned those forces north of Dong Ha in order to launch an attack against that Allied logistical hub; but, friendly sweep operations inflicted severe casualties on the 320th Division and blunted the enemy's plans.

Additionally, Operation DELAWARE/LAM SON 216 was initiated on 19 April as a spoiling attack mounted against the A Shau Valley/Route 547 area which was a logistics base and infiltration route developed and used by the enemy since 1966. The enemy, consisting primarily of engineer and support units, choose to evade major confrontation and allowed friendly forces to seize valuable equipment and ordnance. Among items captured were 23mm and 37mm anti-aircraft guns, a PT-76 Soviet tank and 85mm artillery.

Northwest of Hue, U.S. and ARVN forces conducting Operation CARENTAN II inflicted heavy casualties on elements of the NVA 90th and 803rd Regiments which had grouped for an attack on that city.

Farther south, in Quang Tin Province, several captured enemy indicated that the 72nd Local Force Battalion had been experiencing recruitment difficulties and had not yet recovered from losses suffered during the "Tet" offensive.
II CORPS

Enemy activity continued light in II Corps. In the western highlands, the enemy maintained pressure on Allied installations in south-western Kontum Province. During the latter part of the month, elements of the 4th Inf Division made several contacts approximately 40 kilometers west of Kontum City where the enemy deployed for offensive operations in the vicinity of the Polei Kleng CIDG Camp. In addition, there were occasional attacks by fire against Kontum City Airfield and Pleiku City installations. Enemy activity in the remainder of Pleiku Province and in Daklac Province remained at a low level.

In the coastal provinces, enemy initiated activity was at a low level. In Binh Dinh Province, on 6 April, ARVN forces engaged elements of the 7th Battalion, NVA 22nd Regiment west of Phu Ky. Friendly losses were 11 killed and 19 wounded. The enemy suffered 67 killed. During the period 20-27 April, NVA forces conducted Operation MAENG HC 11 in south-western Binh Dinh Province and contacted units identified as the 8th Battalion, 10th NVA Regiment, the 50th Local Force Battalion, and the 300th NVA Sapper Battalion. Friendly losses were 2 killed and 10 wounded while the enemy lost 206 killed, 85 detained, and 1 returnee.

To the south, in Phu Yen Province, during the period 5-7 April, NVA forces engaged elements identified as the 4th and 6th Battalions, 95th NVA Regiment. In that action, Allied losses were 16 killed and 51 wounded. 201 enemy were killed and 24 individuals were detained; there were 2 returnees.

Low level activity characterized enemy action in the southern provinces. The Can Ly Airfield near Dalat in Tuyen Duc Province received 22 rounds of 82mm mortar fire on 6 April. On 19 April, 3 kilometers west of Dalat, ARVN forces conducting a combat sweep operation engaged an unknown sized force and killed 10 enemy. No significant contacts were made in the other six provinces; however, the enemy conducted acts of harassment, sabotage, and assassinations throughout the southern provinces.

III CORPS

In III Corps, enemy initiated activity included attacks by fire and three battalion-sized ground assaults in the central corps area.

On 1 and 5 April, enemy forces fired 122mm rockets onto the Bien Hoa Air Base resulting in eight casualties and light material damage. On 2 April, seven 122mm rockets impacted in the Tan Son Nhut area, causing minor damage. With the exception of the three ground attacks, the enemy avoided major contact while attempting to refit and rebuild his units.

On 12 April, elements of the VC/NVA 9th Division attacked elements of the U.S. 25th Infantry Division in night defensive positions 16 miles northeast of Tay Ninh City. The attacking unit was identified as the 27/1st NVA/VC Regiment. 137 enemy were killed in the battle.
On the coast, in Phuoc Tuy Province, enemy elements tentatively identified as the K-34 Artillery Battalion fired twelve 122mm rockets into the Vung Tau Air Base on 23 April. An unknown number of rounds was also fired into the Military Sea Transport Service area and harbor entrance. Friendly losses were light and material damage was reported light.

A battalion-size enemy force attacked ARVN positions in the vicinity of Den Cat, Binh Duong Province on 30 April. At the same time, intelligence sources found indications that the enemy planned to reinitiate offensive action in the Saigon area probably during late April or early May. These indications were supported by the statements of Colonel Dac, a Political Officer of Sub-Region I, who rallied to GVN on 19 April. However, it is probably that friendly sweep operations in the areas of enemy buildups and continued discovery of large weapons caches in central III Corps delayed and disrupted these plans to some extent.

**IV CORPS**

In IV Corps, enemy activity during April was limited to intermittent harassing ground attacks and attacks by fire on friendly outpost, district towns, and lines of communication.

With the exception of a 22 April battle in Go Cong Province, in which 122 members of a Local Force Battalion were killed, friendly forces made only scattered contact with enemy forces. However, the large number of Allied operations conducted during the month disrupted enemy recruitment and resupply efforts. As an example, on 7 April in Kien Giang Province, two large weapons caches were discovered along a known enemy infiltration route. The caches contained 386 individual weapons, 57 crew-served weapons, and 185,000 rounds of small arms ammunition as well as ammunition for B-41 rocket launchers, 57mm recoilless rifles, and 60mm and 120mm mortars. Smaller weapons caches were also found in Kien Giang, Dinh Tucng and Vinh Long Provinces.
Early on 5 April, elements of the ARVN 3rd Battalion, 47th Infantry were notified by villagers that Ly Hoa had been occupied by a large enemy force. Responding rapidly to the information, the ARVN troops deployed to the vicinity of the village and made contact with the enemy.

Contact was maintained throughout the day as the ARVN force aggressively developed the situation and reinforced in the area of contact.

Elements of the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the 47th Infantry were deployed into the battle area in the late morning and immediately made contact.

In timely response to the situation, elements of the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the ROK's 28th Infantry air-assaulted into the Tuy Hoa Plain in the vicinity of Ly Hoa during the afternoon of the 5th. This force also immediately established contact with the enemy.

Elements of the U. S. 4th Battalion, 503rd Airborne moved into the area and occupied blocking positions to the east of the battle area.

The ARVN and ROK forces maintained heavy contact with the enemy throughout the 5th. On the 6th and 7th of April, the action became light and scattered as the enemy attempted to escape the pressure of the Allied force.

Elements of the U. S. 26th Combat Aviation Battalion furnished the Allied force airlift and helicopter gunship support throughout the 3-day action. Pilots from the USAF's 19th, 31st, 35th, and 37th Tactical Fighter Wings furnished tactical air support, while the U. S. Navy's USS St. Francis River (a landing support rocket-firing ship) supported the troops in contact with naval gunfire.

ARVN, ROK and U. S. artillery units coordinated their fires to support the Allied force.

In addition to killing 261 NVA in the 3-day engagement, the Allied force captured 26 prisoners-of-war. The following arms and munitions were also taken from the enemy: 93 individual and 24 crew-served weapons, 134 grenades, 50 rounds of mixed 60mm and 82mm mortar ammunition and 800 pounds of TNS.

Allied casualties were 6 KIA and 51 WIA.

Interrogation and captured documents identified enemy force as 95th Regiment, 5th NVA Division.
ALLIED FORCES KILL 281 NVA

ARVN:
47th Infantry, 22nd Div.

ROK:
28th Infantry, 9th Div.

U.S.:
4th BN, 503rd Airborne
268th Combat Aviation BN.
197th, 31st, 35th & 37th Tactical
Fighter Wings
USS St. Francis River (LSMR)

LONG TRƯỜNG
HANH LÂM
MY HOÀ
PHƯƠNG NIỄN
PHỤ LỘC
PHỤ CỐC
PHỤC BỊNH
QUỲ HÀU

4 MAR:
ARVN & US units
Killed 28 NVA at VC
In 17½ hour fight

5, 6, 7 APRIL 1968 - TUY HOÀ

MY HOÀ
PHỤC BỊNH
ARVN FROM TUY HOÀ
ROK FROM PHỤ HIỂP
PHỤC LỘC
U.S. FROM HIEP

TUY HOÀ AIR FORCE BASE

LEGEND:
• V RICE
• S VILLAGES/ Hamlets
• CITY AREAS

DMZ
SAIGON
SOUTH CHINA SEA
DON TAO
Operation CAMEL II, conducted by the 1st and 2nd Brigades, 101st Airborne and the 3rd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division, accounted for 2,096 enemy killed in 47 days of operations. Three of the more significant engagements in the operation took place during the period 29 April-2 May, two in conjunction with ARVN and Popular Force (PF) troops.

1. On 29 April, the ARVN Black Panther Company, 1st Infantry Division made contact with an enemy force in a hamlet 4 miles northwest of Hue. The Black Panthers drove the enemy into a village about a 

mile from the original point of contact and held them there. Four companies from the 2nd Brigade, 101st Airborne rapidly deployed to the area and surrounded the village.

By 2 May, ARVN and U. S. forces killed 369 enemy.

Particularly significant was the surrender of 95 North Vietnamese Army soldiers, possible the largest surrender of NVA troops thus far in the war. Prisoners reported the deaths of their battalion commander, battalion executive officer, and 3 company commanders. Interrogation of the prisoners also determined that the enemy force was the 8th Battalion, 90th North Vietnamese Army Regiment. The Allied force also captured 83 individual and 17 crew-served weapons and captured 8 detainees.

Allied casualties were only 10 killed and 41 wounded.

2. On 1 May, a PF platoon made contact with an estimated enemy battalion 2 miles west of Hue. Although outnumbered, the PF troops fought the enemy until two companies of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division could deploy into the area and engage the enemy force.

Supported by ARVN and U. S. Army artillery and tactical aircraft from the U. S. Air Force's 12th TFW, the paratroopers and the PF troops attacked the enemy and drove them from their fortified positions. One hundred twenty-one enemy were killed, 6 prisoners were detained and 26 individual weapons were captured.

Allied casualties were 4 killed and 13 wounded.

3. A troop from the 101st's Cavalry squadron (2/17 Cavalry) contacted an enemy platoon on 1 May. The enemy fled with the cavalrymen in pursuit. During the pursuit, the cavalrymen engaged an estimated enemy company entrenched in bunkers. U. S. Air Force tactical aircraft and Army helicopter gunships and artillery were directed into the enemy positions to hold them in place. The initial troop and a reinforcing troop then attacked under cover of supporting fires and overrun the enemy positions. Eighty-two enemy were killed and 13 individual and 9 crew-served weapons were captured. The enemy unit was identified as a company from the 416th Battalion, 5th NVA Regiment reinforced by the C-18 Reconnaissance Company, 803rd NVA Regiment. U. S. casualties were 1 killed and 8 wounded.

In these three engagements, 572 enemy were killed and 109 surrendered and/or were captured. Twenty-six crew-served and 129 individual weapons were taken.

Allied casualties were 15 killed and 67 wounded.
29 APRIL-2 MAY: 572 ENEMY KILLED NEAR HUE

U.S. AIR FORCE TACTICAL AIRCRAFT

1 MAY:
Armor elements from the 101st Airborne kill 52 enemy from the 160th En, 5th ACR, and 617th Recon Co, 63rd ACR. The cavalrymen were supported by tac air, helicopter gunships & artillery.

29 APRIL:
369 enemy from the 8th En, 90th NVA Regt killed by ARVN Black Panther Co. & 1st Bn, 101st Airborne with helicopter gunship, tactical aircraft and artillery support.

95 NVA SURRENDER

1 MAY:
121 enemy killed by Popular Force and 101st Airborne troops; U.S. Air Force tactical aircraft and ARVN / U.S. Artillery supported.

ARVN / U.S. ARMY ARTILLERY

HUE
REVIEW OF EVENTS
MAY

General: Enemy activity was reported heavy to moderate during the month. On 5 May, the enemy made an abortive attempt to conduct another nationwide "General Offensive." RVNAF, U. S. and Free World Forces rapidly repulsed and pursued the enemy in all Corps areas inflicting severe casualties on his forces.

I CORPS

In I CTZ, on the morning of 5 May, the enemy launched widespread attacks by fire and limited ground probes, primarily in the southern three provinces. The number of targets and the timing of the attacks gave the appearance of a major offensive, but the level of activity was considerably less than that encountered during the "Tet" General Offensive. Throughout the month, enemy activity remained at a high level as he attempted to maintain an active presence in as much of I CTZ as possible. By the middle of the month, the regiments of the NVA 304th Division returned to the vicinity of the Khe Sanh Combat Base from the Vietnam-Laos border area, where they had been refitting.

In the eastern I CTZ, the NVA 320th Division continued to suffer extremely heavy casualties. Large numbers of replacements were received by the division. Some infiltration groups were used to fill out battalions which had been decimated; others were broken up and assigned to different units. The quality of replacements was often low since some were given only a few days of training before being committed to battle.

To the south, in the Quang Tri City and Hue areas, enemy units concentrated primarily on rice collection, refitting, and harassing actions. A large training camp, probably belonging to the 803rd Regiment, was discovered northeast of Hue. ARVN units, operating in an enemy base area, uncovered two enemy headquarters containing communications equipment, numerous documents, and a sand table model of the Hue Citadel.

In the A Shau Valley, documents were discovered identifying the 65th Artillery Regiment and in Central I CTZ, documents and prisoners established the presence of a newly infiltrated NVA Regiment in eastern Quang Nam Province, where a series of sharp engagements occurred throughout the month.

In southern I Corps, the 1st Regiment, 2nd NVA Division, after a period of refitting in the Quang Tin Province - Laos border area, attacked the Kham Duc CIDG camp and a nearby CIDG camp in eastern Quang Tin Province on 10, 11 and 12 May.

In Quang Ngai Province, enemy activity remained at a low level as enemy units continued to be reported as understrength.
II CORPS

Enemy activity increased significantly throughout II CTZ during May. On the night of 4 May the enemy conducted 30 separate attacks, consisting generally of harassments by fire, which caused relatively few casualties. During this period, indications were that the enemy intended to follow up his stand-off attacks with a major ground offensive in western Kontum Province.

Deployed to the west of Kontum City were three regiments of the NVA 1st Division. To the north, the NVA 325C Division controlled at least two regiments, which had moved from the Laos - South Vietnam Border area into positions approximately 20 kilometers west of Dak To.

On 9 and 10 May, enemy elements increased the offensive tempo with a successful assault on a CIDG outpost west of Ben Het and several small unit contacts with U.S. 4th Infantry Division units. These small unit probing actions and intensified attacks by fire continued until 26 May, when an estimated two NVA battalions penetrated the perimeter of Fire Support Base 29, four kilometers southwest of Ben Het. Also on 26 May, Fire Support Base Drillo Pad, 31 kilometers west of Kontum City, received 234 rounds of mixed mortar and rocket fire resulting in light U.S. casualties.

In Pleiku Province, the enemy conducted ambushes along Highway 14 and attacks by fire on Pleiku City and Plei Djereng CIDG Camp.

To the South in Daklak Province, on 6 May a battalion-sized attack on hamlets near the Duc Lap CIDG camp, attacks by fire on the camp itself, and also on 25 May rocket attack on Ban Me Thout highlighted enemy activity.

In the coastal provinces, enemy-initiated activity increased as the enemy continued to receive new personnel to replace his heavy losses during Tet. On 6 May in Binh Dinh Province, the NVA 22nd Regiment, NVA 3rd Division, sustained 119 KIA in a contact north of Thu My. Despite this heavy loss, the enemy indicated that he intended to conduct attacks and ambushes in the vicinity of Bong Son and Qui Nhon.

Elements of the NVA 5th Division tried to avoid confrontation with friendly forces, but with only limited success. In Khanh Hoa Province, ROK forces killed 123 enemy, probably from the NVA 18B Regiment, NVA 5th Division.

Enemy activity also increased in the southern provinces. The most notable contact occurred in Tuyen Duc Province on 28 May, when two companies of a Main Force Battalion unsuccessfully assaulted the Military Academy in Dalat. In Binh Thuan Province, the enemy increased his attacks by fire on Phan Thiet.

III CORPS TACTICAL ZONE

The enemy maintained a high level of activity in III CTZ throughout the month. The activity was highlighted by the launching of an offensive on 5 May.
The offensive, directed primarily at Saigon, was preceded by a series of attacks by fire throughout southern Tay Ninh and northern and eastern Hau Nghia Provinces. These attacks, from 1 to 3 May were conducted to screen the movement of major enemy forces into assembly areas west of Saigon.

On 3 and 4 May, major engagements developed with elements of the VC 273rd Regiment of the 9th Division in eastern Hau Nghia Province and with elements of the NVA 7th Division in western Bien Hoa and eastern Binh Duong Provinces, resulting in a cumulative total of 275 enemy KIA. These contacts and others on 4 to 5 May in southern Binh Duong Province, which resulted in 149 enemy killed, occurred when Allied forces intercepted enemy forces moving into their final assembly areas. Attacks by fire on Saigon and thirteen other locations in III CTZ during the early morning hours of 5 May, signalled the beginning of the enemy offensive.

Initial ground contact in the Saigon area occurred early on 5 May when the Dong Nai Regiment and two local force battalions attempted to seize the two major bridges east of the city.

The enemy was repulsed after heavy fighting, and the bridges remained under friendly control.

On 6 May, the major action shifted to the west of Saigon, where elements of the NVA/VC 9th Division and the NVA 38th Regiment, and three separate battalions were engaged in heavy to sporadic contact until 10 May.

Some units, according to prisoners, actually ran and walked for 12 hours to get into position and then were immediately committed upon arrival, tired and not fully combat effective. Elements of the 9th VC Division failed to penetrate any deeper than Plantation Road except for about 30 men who got across the road one night and were driven back the next day. Much of the 9th Division's combat power was sapped as far out as Hau Nghia Province.

On 7 May, major action developed south of the city, where two local force battalions remained until driven away on 12 May.

After 12 May, contacts with enemy forces in Gia Dinh Province diminished in both frequency and intensity and occurred progressively further from Saigon.

By 15 May, the major enemy forces had withdrawn to base areas outside of Gia Dinh Province, where they remained through the remainder of the month.

Elements of the Dong Nai Regiment however continued attempts to penetrate the Gia Dinh City area on the northern edge of Saigon. Late in the month, the Dong Nai Regiment was supplemented by the 2nd Local Force Battalion. At the same time, elements of two local force battalions were involved in attacks on the southwest edge of Saigon. Small elements managed to penetrate into the 5th and 6th Precincts, where they were quickly isolated and killed or captured. By the end of the month, strong contacts had ceased, and
clearing operations had begun.

It is indicated that the enemy tactic was to attempt to infiltrate into the Saigon area in an effort to maintain constant pressure on the city to influence the Paris talks.

**IV CORPS**

Enemy activity during the month was characterized by an increased volume of incidents during the first half of the month, which gradually tapered off to sporadic harassing attacks.

On 1 May, the enemy launched a series of attacks by fire and ground assaults on provincial and district cities and military posts.

These attacks reached their greatest intensity during the period 5 to 11 May, apparently in keeping with the countrywide offensive.

The effort in the Delta, however, did not approach the scale of the "Tet" General Offensive, nor was it as intensive as the fighting in the other CTZ's during the same period.

Small scale attacks by fire on towns, airfields, and on Highway 4 bridges and outposts occurred in the latter half of May. In most cases, these attacks consisted of only small numbers of rounds apparently fired more for psychological than military effect.

The city of Ly Tho and the airfield at Binh Thuy were targets for such attacks; the latter was shelled on three successive nights with 75mm recoilles rifle rounds. Little damage and only light casualties were sustained.

On 24 May, in an attack seven kilometers northeast of Phung Hiep District Town, an unknown-sized enemy unit destroyed two bridges on Highway 4. The bridges were repaired on 31 May. This was the most serious attack in the enemy's continuing attempts to close Highway 4.

Friendly sweeps throughout IV CTZ resulted in several heavy contacts with main and local force battalions. The Tay Do Local Force Battalion and the 263rd Main Force Battalion suffered over 300 killed as a result of aggressive ARVN offensive action. A number of enemy weapons caches were uncovered during the offensive sweeps and also as a result of Delta Falcon operations. Considerable quantities of arms and ammunition were captured and there was evidence that this continued loss of war material had a disruptive effect on the enemy supply posture throughout the Delta.
ENEMY 5 MAY OFFENSIVE

5-7 MAY
1533
ENEMY KILLED
IN 17
SIGNIFICANT
ACTIONS

CAPITOL
MILITARY DISTRICT
5 MAY - 12 MAY
2982 ENEMY KILLED
SIGNIFICANT GROUND OPERATIONS

ALLIED ACTION near HUE

On 1 May, a TF platoon made contact with an enemy battalion 2 miles west of HUE. Although outnumbered, the TF troops fought the enemy until two companies of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division could deploy into the area and engage the enemy force.

Supported by ARVN and U.S. Army artillery and tactical aircraft from the U.S. Air Force's 12th TFW, the paratroopers and the TF troops attacked the enemy and drove them from their fortified positions. One hundred twenty-one enemy were killed, six prisoners were detained and 26 individual weapons were captured.

Allied casualties were 4 killed and 18 wounded.

Meanwhile on 1 May, a troop from the 101st's cavalry squadron (2/17 cavalry) contacted an enemy platoon. The enemy fled with the cavalrymen in pursuit. During the pursuit, the cavalrymen engaged an estimated enemy company entrenched in inamars. U.S. Air Force tactical aircraft and Army helicopter gunships and artillery were directed into the enemy positions to hold them in place. The initial troop and a reinforcing troop then attacked under cover of supporting fires and overran the enemy positions. Eighty-two enemy were killed and 13 individual and 9 crew-served weapons were captured.

The enemy unit was identified as a company from the 416th Battalion, 5th IV. Regiment reinforced by the O-19 Reconnaissance Company, 803rd IV. Regiment.

U.S. casualties were one killed and eight wounded.
I MAY: 203 ENEMY KILLED NEAR HUE

Armor elements from the 101st Airborne kill 82 enemy from the 416th Bn, 5th NVA Regt and C-18 Recon Co, 803rd NVA Regt. The cavalrmen were supported by tac air, helicopter gunships and artillery.

121 enemy killed by Popular Force and 101st Airborne troops; U.S. Air Force tactical aircraft and ARVN / U.S. artillery supported.
MAY OFFENSIVE
SAIGON AREA
5-12 MAY
22-23 May
203 EK

Elements of US Marines
3rd, 4th and 9th Regts
3rd Mar Div eng alg of
52nd and 614th NVA Regts
324th NVA Div. US AR &
US Army Arty & Marine
Tanks and Tac Air
Supported

25-26 May
241 EK

Elements of US 4th Regt 3rd
Mar Div Sup by Naval Gun-
fire, Arty, Tac Air and hel-
gunships fought multi-
company enemy force NW of
Dong Ha

26-27 May
218 EK

An estimated enemy Battal-
ion attacked a mech unit
of the 1st Brigade, 25th
Infantry Division in
night defensive positions
West of Saigon. The mech
unit fought off the enemy
and counter-attacked.
General: Action throughout the month in the Republic was generally light as enemy forces avoided contact to concentrate on training, resupply and receiving replacements following heavy losses suffered during his lay offensive.

I CORPS

Throughout the month enemy initiated activity was very light. In Quang Tri Province, lack of contact with elements of either the NVA 320th or 304th Divisions suggested that the divisions withdrew from their respective areas of operation, probably to assimilate replacements and to resupply.

At Khe Sanh, however, enemy-initiated activity remained moderate with elements of the 303rd Division conducting small-scale assaults on allied outposts. Attacks by fire in the eastern I CTZ remained high as the enemy attempted to destroy the logistics complexes at both Dong Ha and Cua Viet. One NVA regiment remained in the Con Thien - Dong Ha area to ambush and to counter Allied sweep operations.

In the coastal zone of Quang Tri Province and east of Phu Bai, rice denial operations inflicted significant casualties on NVA elements. Major enemy forces in Quang Tri and Thua Thien withdrew to traditional base areas only to come under increasing pressure from friendly operations. There, as in the remainder of the I CTZ area, the enemy chose to avoid major confrontations and was forced to abandon several headquarters areas as well as rice and ammunition caches.

In the southern half of I CTZ, terrorist activity increased. In Da Nang the incidents were chiefly aimed at U. S. installations and troops, yet ARVN and SVN facilities were also targets.

To the South, in Quang Ngai, a province-wide propaganda campaign was initiated while terrorist activity was directed against refugee and Revolutionary Development programs.

II CORPS

In II CTZ enemy activity was highlighted by the failure of enemy forces to initiate a coordinated offensive in the western highlands.

The level of enemy activity decreased substantially in the remainder of II CTZ. In Kontum Province, NVA 1st Division regiments were still deployed west of Polei Kleng CIDG Camp. Enemy activity was characterized by numerous attacks by fire and small unit ground contacts with friendly elements. Also in the Ben Het area, enemy employment of howitzers was confirmed by analysis of the rounds fired on Fire Support Base 29. On 4 June, a US convoy moving along Highway 14 towards Dak To was involved in two unsuccessful enemy ambushes resulting in 12 enemy KIA, probably from the NVA 32nd Regiment and 41 enemy killed probably from the NVA 24th Regiment.
By 10 June, a noticeable decline in enemy activity was observed in both the Polei Kleng and Ben Het - Dak To areas as the enemy focused his attention on the Dak Pek CIDG Camp. On 10 June, a friendly night defensive position near Dak Pek withstood a mortar attack and a subsequent ground assault which succeeded in penetrating the camp perimeter before being repulsed. From 9 to 15 June, the Dak Pek area received 430 rounds of mixed rocket, mortar, recoilless rifle, and B-40 rocket fire. During the third week of June a marked decrease in activity was noted; concurrently, there were indications of an enemy withdrawal from prepared positions around Dak Pek, Ben Het, and Polei Kleng. By early June enemy forces, weakened by friendly artillery and air power, had lost their ability to launch large-scale attacks.

Farther South, in Pleiku Province, enemy activity remained at a low level. Two weapons caches were uncovered near Plei Me CIDG Camp, and on 19 June, eight kilometers southeast of the camp, a Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) force engaged an estimated enemy platoon, resulting in nine enemy KIA. The area of contact was a known infiltration route for the NVA 95B Regiment. On 19 and 24 June, friendly forces contacted suspected elements of the NVA 95B Regiment in the Dak Payau River Valley southeast of Pleiku City and also discovered a large rice and weapons caches.

On the coast, in Phu Yen Province, a 16 June sapper attack on the naval installation at Vung Ro Bay and a 22 June mining of two civilian vehicles south of Song Cau indicated an increase in terrorist activity. The result of the attacks was 22 civilians KIA.

Along the southern coast of II CTZ, contacts and PW statements confirmed the existence of a Local Force Battalion operation in Minh Thuan Province with the mission of disrupting the Revolutionary Development Program. In Minh Thuan Province, the 432nd Local Force Battalion was identified in contacts from 13 to 21 June near Phan Thiet in which 82 enemy were killed.

Inland, in Lam Dong Province, an estimated enemy battalion was contacted on 17 June southeast of Bac Loc, and on 18 June a weapons cache belonging to the 145th Main Force Battalion was discovered in the same area.

**III CORPS**

Enemy activity diminished following the mid-June withdrawal of enemy forces from the Saigon area. The enemy subsequently avoided major confrontation while refitting and reorganizing his forces.

In late May, and continuing through early June, the enemy committed elements of the Dong Nai Regiment in the Gia Dinh area northeast of Saigon. The attacks were supported by elements of the newly formed Quyet Thang Regiment. During the same period, elements of 2 Battalions conducted attacks near the Cholon section of southwestern Saigon. Activity in the Gia Dinh area diminished rapidly following a 9 June contact approximately three kilometers east of Tan Son Nhut Air Base, where friendly forces killed 72 enemy in a day long battle. Elements of the Dong Nai Regiment were identified in this action. In the southwestern section of the city, enemy resistance collapsed
on 10 June with the surrender of 31 enemy, 30 of whom were from a Main Force Battalion. The remnants of both Battalions in and near Cholon subsequently withdrew to the southwest. In a similar mass surrender, 141 VC/ARVN soldiers, predominantly from the Quyet Thang Regiment, surrendered to ARVN troops in the Gia Dinh area on 19 June. Subsequent interrogations revealed that the regiment had suffered heavy losses.

To the east, in central Long Khanh Province, elements of the VC 274th Regiment unsuccessfully ambushed ARVN forces on Route 20 on 22 June. The enemy regiment sustained 76 KIA in that action. In other areas of III CTZ activity remained light as enemy elements avoided major contacts.

To the south, in Long An Province, friendly forces initiated contacts with two enemy battalions on 23, 24 and 25 June. These engagements resulted in 129 enemy killed. During mid to late June, enemy attention was directed at resupply, reorganization, and replacements.

IV CORPS

In the IV CTZ, enemy initiated activity during the month was characterized by harassing attacks and attacks by fire, highlighted by a flurry of activity on 15 June. The bulk of enemy activity was directed against urban areas, friendly lines of communication, and ARNAF installations and training centers.

The early part of the month was marked by heavy contacts between elements of the US 9th Division and the 514th and 261st Main Force Battalions in Dinh Tuong Province. The enemy lost 250 killed and a large quantity of weapons in these engagements. A personal letter, captured in early June and written by a company commander of the 261st Main Force Battalion, complained of low morale, high desertion rates, and the difficulty of operation with 16 year old soldiers.

Enemy initiated activity increased sharply on 16 June as the VC shelled four province capitals, four district towns, the Dong Tam Base, and two ARVN training centers.

To the west, an increase in the number of harassing attacks and attacks by fire in the Seven Mountains area of Chau Doc Province on 17, 18 and 19 June indicated a possible increase in enemy infiltration as supplies through this area.

In another established infiltration corridor, a Delta Blackhawk operation uncovered one of the largest enemy weapons caches ever found in the Delta. The cache, located in eastern Kien Tuong Province, contained over 270 weapons, nearly a half-million rounds of small arms ammunition, and several tons of explosives, mines, and grenades.
On the morning of 27 June the 3rd Battalion, 5th Armored Cavalry, while conducting an offensive sweep near the hamlet of Binh Th, 17 km (11 miles) east of Dong Ha, received heavy automatic weapons fire.

Villagers fleeing from the hamlet reported to the cavalrymen that NVA soldiers were hidden there in bunkers. An NVA soldier, captured by the troopers, estimated that at least 200 soldiers were within the village.

By 1130 naval gunfire was placed on the target area by a Task Force off the coast in the South China Sea. The USS Boston fired more than 300 rounds of 3-inch gunfire and more than 640 rounds of 5-inch gunfire into the area. The USS Cimarron fired over 1,390 rounds of 5-inch fire into the enemy positions.

In addition, 26 tactical air strikes were flown by aviators from the 12th Marine Aviation Group and the 366th Tactical Fighter Wing (USAF) onto the enemy positions.

Helicopter gunships from the 229th Assault Helicopter Battalion and the 2nd Battalion, 20th Artillery, fired more than 200 2.75-inch rockets at the enemy.

Artillery support was provided by the 1st Battalion, 6th Marines.

The battalions were provided airlift support by the 229th Assault Helicopter Battalion.

On the evening of the 27th, three companies from the 3rd Battalion, 5th Armored Cavalry (Op control to the 1st Cavalry) were reinforced by a company from the 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry, a company from the 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry, and a troop from the 2nd Squadron, 9th Cavalry, completing a classic horseshoe cordon around the enemy force. Contact was lost at 1945 although the cordon had been established.

During the next two days, elements of the 3rd Battalion, 5th Cavalry, reinforced by engineers, swept the area using APCs and bulldozers. The bulldozers were used to destroy and fill in the enemy bunkers and bunker-trench complexes.

At the end of the sweep 225 enemy bodies were counted. In addition, 35 suspects were detained, and 64 individual and 14 crew-served weapons were captured.

In the three-day action, 3 U.S. cavalrymen were killed and 36 wounded, bringing the kill ratio to: 75 to 1.
IN NORTHEAST I CORPS TACTICAL ZONE, DURING OPERATION JEB STUART III, ELEMENTS OF THE U.S. 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION (AM) KILLED 225 ENEMY SOLDIERS FROM THE 814TH NVA BATTALION IN A THREE DAY BATTLE.


27-28-29 JUNE 1968 - JEB STUART III 1ST CAVALRY DIV (AM)
REVIEW OF EVENTS

JULY

General: During the month, enemy-initiated activity was very light.

I CORPS

Throughout I CTZ enemy forces generally avoided contact and concentrated on receiving supplies and replacements in preparation for future offensive activity.

In western Quang Tri Province, Allied Forces completed the inactivation of the Khe Sanh Combat Base.

The 320th NVA Division remained north of the DMZ refitting; however, by the end of the month there were indications that battalion-sized elements had returned to the central and eastern DMZ areas. Prisoners and documents captured in contacts from 5 to 7 July revealed that the 136th NVA Regiment was in the Gio Linh area.

In the Thua Thien area to the south, major NVA elements remained in their traditional base areas and came under heavy pressure from friendly Operations Job Stuart and Nevada Eagle. These operations led to the discovery of numerous weapons and ammunition caches as well as the main hospital in the enemy's military region.

A 25 June Party Committee resolution complained of "grave logistics problems because supply lines are being threatened". A village Party Secretary raller stated that July was set aside for training and refitting. August was reserved for the "decisive battle for revolutionary history" emphasizing the goal of enemy units throughout the CTZ.

In central I CTZ, all reports indicated that Da Nang remained the main objective. At the end of the month, rocket attacks against Allied installations near and within the city increased. A reconnaissance squad was captured within Da Nang. A large cache of explosives and arms was also found in the city. In southern-most Quang Ngai Province, ground activity remained light although there were numerous attacks by fire on ARVN installations.

II CORPS

Activity remained light in II CTZ during July, as the enemy realigned his forces in the western highlands and prepared for future offensive operations. During the month it became apparent that the enemy had shifted his major emphasis from Kontum Province south to Ban Me Thuot City. Elements of the 1st NVA Division relocated to Darlac Province.
In III Corps, enemy-initiated activity during July was very light as large enemy units effected major relocations away from the Saigon area. It became clear that the "Third Phase" of the "Second General Offensive" was cancelled, and commanders were ordered to begin plans and preparations for future offensive operations.

The 7th NVA Division relocated northward to northern Binh Long Province. This force posed a threat to Loc Ninh in Binh Long Province.

The 9th VC Division relocated from western Hau Nghia to western Tay Ninh Province where there were indications that the division, along with Local Force units, would attack Tay Ninh City.

Reconnaissance and preparations were in the final stages, and captured documents stated that all preparations were to be completed before 5 August. Analysis of all available information indicated the most probable date of initiation of widespread offensive action would be in mid-August.
IV. DALMAT

In IV Corps enemy-initiated activity was very light during July with the only significant contacts being the result of friendly actions. The B-52 attacks from 20 to 22 July in Dinh Tuong and Kien Hong Provinces struck elements of five VC battalions. Significant losses were reportedly suffered by these battalions.

A very large cache consisting of approximately 27 tons of arms, ammunition, explosives, mines, and machinery was uncovered in Kien Hoi Province near the Cambodian border. This is one of the largest caches uncovered in South Vietnam.

The enemy continued to have financial and recruiting problems in the Delta. A letter dated 21 May and captured in Dinh Tuong Province indicated that the VC were unable to find sufficient civilian laborers to accomplish their mission. In two cases, in Vinh Long and Kien Hoi Provinces, civilians were kidnapped for failure to work for the VC or to intimidate others into supporting the VC cause.

In Sa Dec Province, two Ho Chi Chanhs indicated that a general mobilization program, put into effect on 26 June, was greeted with bitterness by the people in VC controlled areas. Under this program males from 14 to 40 years of age are to be used as soldiers and battlefield laborers while males between 40 and 50 are to serve in rear echelon support activities.

Another Ho Chi Chanh, the Executive Officer of the Tay Do 2 Battalion, provided information on a conference held in Phong Dinh Province between 18 and 23 May. The results of the Second Phase of the VC Winter-Spring Offensive were reviewed and plans were made for future offensive actions in the province. Widespread attacks were scheduled for 20 July, but were to be postponed if better results could be obtained later. The primary targets of the attacks were to be GVN provincial, administrative, and police offices, airports, heliports and US compounds. Captured areas were to be held as long as possible.
In the morning of 15 July, elements of the U. S. 1st Brigade, 9th Infantry Division engaged an unknown size enemy force 16 miles southwest of Saigon in Long An Province.

Contact continued throughout the day and into the night with U. S. Army helicopter gunships, artillery and tactical aircraft from the 3rd and 35th Tactical Fighter wings providing support to the infantrymen.

Contact with the enemy was lost at 0445 the next morning when the remaining enemy withdrew.

Final results of the engagement were 76 enemy killed, 6 individual and 6 crew-served weapons captured. Seven U. S. soldiers were killed and 21 wounded during the action.
15-16 July

76 Enemy killed
SIGNSIFICANT GROUND OPERATIONS

ACTION NEAR KHE SANH

One hundred fifty-seven North Vietnamese soldiers died in a two-day battle that began on the morning of 1 July, 3 miles south-east of the Khe Sanh Combat Base. The encounter took place when a company from the U. S. 4th Regiment, 3rd Marine Division engaged an unknown size enemy force at approximately 0530.

Aviators from the 1st Marine Air Wing, helicopter gunships and supporting artillery were called into the action and were credited with killing 60 of the 157 enemy dead.

Throughout the day, the Marines made repeated sweeps of the area and made several additional light contacts with the enemy until contact was lost at 0800 the next day. The Marines captured 47 individual and 24 crew-served weapons left on the battlefield.

U. S. casualties in the action were 2 killed and 11 wounded.

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On 5 July, a company from the U. S. 3rd Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, engaged an unknown size North Vietnamese Army Force 2 miles southeast of Gio Linh. The enemy employed small arms and mortar fire and 50 rounds of artillery fire against the Marines.

Friendly forces were supported by tanks, artillery and tactical air strikes in the action which continued until contact was lost at an unknown time on the night of 5 July when the enemy withdrew.

A preliminary sweep of the area was conducted and resulted in an initial report of 78 NVA killed in the action. The Marines continued their sweeps and found an additional 56 bodies bringing the total of NVA soldiers killed to 134.

Other cumulative results of the action were 6 suspects detained and 13 individual and 2 crew-served weapons captured.

Five Marines were killed and 64 wounded (52 evacuated).
157 NVA KILLED

1-2 JULY

5 JULY
134 NVA KILLED
REVIEW OF EVENTS

AUGUST

GENERAL: In the first half of August, the enemy increased preparations for offensive activity. Beginning on the 18th, he initiated a series of attacks by fire and a number of ground attacks in III Corps which spread throughout much of Vietnam during the remainder of the month. There was considerable documentation and POW evidence that these attacks were the enemy's so-called "third offensive." As the lull ended, 10,621 enemy were killed in the last 2 weeks of August.

I CORPS

On 23 August, widespread attacks by fire and ground assaults throughout the CTZ ended the lull in I CTZ. Significant contacts with enemy forces continued for the remainder of the month.

In the northern Quang Tri Province, the 320th NVA Division and the 138th NVA Regiments moved into offensive positions south of the DMZ and Route 9. Although friendly forces made several significant contacts with enemy forces in the DMZ area, the enemy failed to launch a major attack against Allied installations in northern Quang Tri Province. Captured documents and POW interrogations reveal that enemy units in northern I Corps are suffering severe food shortages. This may in part account for the light enemy activity in Thua Thien and Eastern Quang Tri Provinces.

On 26 August, US elements possibly penetrated the main base area of an NVA Regiment, 25 kilometers south of Hue. After a series of hard fought engagements, a large amount of weapons, ammunition, and communications equipment and two field hospitals were captured.

On 23 August, enemy forces in the coastal region launched rocket, mortar, sapper, and ground attacks on Allied installations throughout the Da Nang-Hoi An area. These and numerous other contacts in the same area during the last week in August resulted in over 1,200 enemy killed.

In Quang Tin Province, on 24 and 25 August, friendly elements inflicted heavy losses on elements of the 2nd NVA Division during engagements west of Tam Ky. These heavy losses probably inhibited enemy offensive activity against Tam Ky and Chu Lai.

In Quang Ngai Province, enemy units, including elements of the 3rd NVA Division, remained in the mountains west of Quang Ngai City. During the final week of August, the Ha Thanh CIDG Camp received heavy rocket, mortar, and small arms attacks. These attacks were probably designed to cover movement of enemy troops and equipment into the Quang Ngai lowlands in anticipation of offensive activity.
II Corps

II Corps activity was highlighted by the build-up of enemy forces in Quang Province, initially in the vicinity of Dan Le Tho. On 23 August an estimated two enemy regiments attacked the Duc Lap CIDG Camp and subsector headquarters in Quang Duc Province, possibly attempting to draw friendly forces away from Dan Le Tho’s defenses. The attack at Duc Lap was coordinated along with at least 26 other attacks-by-fire and ground probes on 22 and 23 August. Prisoners and documents captured at Duc Lap identified elements of the 1st NVA Division. During the attack on Duc Lap, and in subsequent engagements in the vicinity, the enemy sustained 776 killed in the action.

The following is a more detailed account of the significant action at Duc Lap: In Kontum Province, the enemy harassed U.S. positions around Dak To and Dak Seang. On 14 August the enemy attacked two U.S. fire support bases near Ken Viet CIDG Camp and a U.S. company in the same area. On 18 August Dak Seang CIDG Camp was attacked by a battalion-sized force.

Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces dealt the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army forces fighting in the Republic a heavy blow during August in the Battle of Duc Lap in II Corps Tactical Zone.

The attack on the Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) camp and sub-sector headquarters at Duc Lap on the morning of 23 August confirmed the return to the battlefield of major North Vietnamese Army forces in II Corps for the first time since early June. In this action, the enemy’s willingness to engage in decisive combat was accommodated and he was soundly defeated by Vietnamese forces with staggering losses in personnel and equipment. The tenacity of the Camp Strike Force (CSF), RVN and Regional Force (RF) defenders, in the face of determined assaults by a numerically superior enemy was truly commendable as was the conduct under fire of the RVN and CIDG Mobile Strike Force (MSF) reinforcements deployed to the area.

Early on the morning of 23 August at 0155, the Duc Lap CIDG Camp and the sub-sector headquarters in northwest Quang Duc Province were attacked by at least an NVA regiment. The enemy employed 122mm rockets, 82mm mortar, small arms and automatic weapons fire. The RVNAF defenders were supported by U.S. Army helicopter gunships, artillery and U.S. Air Force AC-130 gunships and tactical aircraft throughout the night and into the morning.

At approximately 1240, a MSF company reinforced the camp and later at 1450 a second company was air-assaulted into the area to reinforce the CIDG camp. Heavy contact continued throughout the afternoon with the friendly forces receiving enemy artillery fire. An estimated two NVA battalions were dug in around the CIDG camp. Initial results were 13 killed (1 U.S. and 12 CIDG) and 39 wounded (4 U.S. and 35 CIDG). Twenty-two enemy were killed within the compound. In addition, 3 individual and 2 crew-served weapons were captured.
At 0545 on 24 August, the enemy penetrated the CIDG camp at the northern edge and by 0730 the enemy had occupied approximately half of the defensive bunkers. At 0950, the enemy was driven from the camp proper but still occupied bunkers inside the middle defensive wire. At 1500, 3 LSF companies were air assaulted into the area 2 miles northwest of Duc Lap. One of the 3 companies was sent to the camp while the other 2 companies remained at the landing zone. During the same period 2 other LSF companies were air assaulted into blocking positions to the west of the camp. At 1700, the 2nd Battalion, 45th Regiment, 23rd ARVN Infantry Division, was air-assaulted into positions north and northeast of the camp. U.S. Army and Air Force gunships and tactical aircraft supported the camp and the reinforcing companies throughout the day and night of 24 August.

At 0545 on 25 August, the enemy launched fierce ground attacks against the CIDG camp from the north-northwest and north-northeast. At 1100, an outpost 300 meters northeast of the camp was overrun. At 1520, the 2 MSF companies in reserve at the landing zone to the northwest, attacked the enemy flanks and recaptured the outpost. On the afternoon of the 25th, 6 infantry Platoons from the U.S. 173rd Airborne Brigade and the U.S. 4th Infantry Division, as well as an artillery battery from the 173rd Airborne Brigade, were inserted into the general area to provide artillery support for the camp and surrounding area. U.S. elements did not participate in any ground actions. Also during the late afternoon, one of the MSF companies that was inserted on 23 August sustained heavy casualties and was extracted. At 2100, the sub-sector headquarters received 6 rounds of 122mm rocket fire and again early on the morning of the 26th received heavy small arms fire but no ground attack. U.S. Air Force AC-47 gunships supported the action as the CIDG camp received sporadic sniper fire throughout the night.

At 0640 on 26 August, an unknown number of NVA were seen moving towards a village northeast of the compound. The enemy soldiers were engaged by gunships with unknown results. The camp and sub-sector headquarters reported sporadic contact throughout the day. At 1545, ARVN forces made contact with an estimated NVA battalion 3 miles northeast of Duc Lap and killed 15 enemy. It was on the 26th that the RVNAF units relieved the pressure from the camp and started combat sweeps around the camp. Later in the evening at approximately 2140, the camp received an unknown number of rounds of 75mm recoilless rifle and 82mm mortar fire. U.S. Air Force gunships fired on suspected enemy firing positions with unknown results.

Early on the morning of 27 August, the sub-sector headquarters received a ground attack from an estimated enemy squad. The direction of attack was from the northwest. Contact was lost at 0300 when the enemy withdrew. At 0600, the headquarters again received approximately 50 rounds of 82mm mortar fire in a 1-hour period. ARVN casualties were light.
On the 27th, ARVN forces continued to sweep the battlefield in the vicinity of the camp. The sub-sector headquarters again received a mortar attack with light casualties. At 1630, two companies from the ARVN 2nd Battalion, 45th Infantry Regiment, conducting a combat sweep 4 miles northeast of Duc Lap made contact with an estimated enemy battalion. The enemy employed B-40 rocket-grenades, small arms and automatic weapons fire. U.S. Army artillery and Air Force tactical aircraft supported the ARVN forces until contact was lost at 1830 when the enemy withdrew. A sweep of the area disclosed a large bunker complex with overhead cover and an extensive wire communication network. Forty-two enemy (NVA) were killed and 4 individual weapons captured while ARVN casualties were light. Also on the 27th, the 1st Battalion, 45th ARVN Infantry Regiment, and the 45th Regimental Headquarters were inserted into the area to conduct sweeping and clean-up operations.

On the morning of the 28th at 0800, elements of the 1st Battalion conducting a combat sweep 5 miles northeast of Duc Lap made contact with an estimated NVA heavy weapons platoon. Contact continued sporadically until 1230 when contact was lost. Twenty-four enemy were killed in this battle while ARVN casualties were again light. In addition, 5 PWs were taken and 12 individual and 4 crew-served weapons were captured. In the afternoon at 1650, the 281st RF company conducting a combat sweep 1 mile northwest of Duc Lap made contact with an estimated enemy battalion. The enemy employed mortar, small arms and B-40 rocket-grenade fire while the RF unit was supported by U.S. artillery and tactical airstrikes. Contact was lost at an unknown time with unknown enemy results. RF casualties were light.

Elements of the ARVN 45th Infantry Regiment moved out further on combat sweeps on 29 August and found an enemy ammunition cache 3 miles northeast of the camp in the morning and an enemy base camp in the same general area in the afternoon.

On 30 August at 0730, Provincial Reconnaissance unit troops hit an enemy force resting on a trail 7 miles east of Duc Lap. At 1300, elements of the 1st Battalion, 45th Infantry Regiment, found an unoccupied NVA battalion-size assembly area 1 mile northeast of the sub-sector headquarters. The area contained 55 enemy bodies above the ground and a mass grave containing another 100 NVA bodies. In addition, 13 individual weapons and a sizable quantity of small arms ammunition and mortar and rocket rounds were captured. More sporadic contact continued around Duc Lap in the evening as the RVNAF units were again supported by U.S. Air Force AC-47 gunships.

There were no significant actions on 31 August and 1 September, but on 2 September at 1015 an element from the 1st Battalion, 45th Infantry Regiment, conducting a sweep after a B-52 strike 5 miles northeast of Duc Lap, engaged an estimated NVA platoon in dug-in positions. The enemy employed heavy automatic weapons fire and the ARVN elements pulled back to allow tactical air
strikes to hit the enemy positions. Contact was reestablished in the afternoon and continued into the evening when the enemy withdrew. During this battle 50 NVA regulars were killed (34 killed by airstrikes) while ARVN casualties were light.

About noon on 3 September, elements of the 1st Battalion again made contact with an unknown size NVA force 4 miles northeast of Duc Lap. The ARVN were supported by artillery and tactical airstrikes as action continued throughout the early afternoon. Contact was lost at 1500 when the enemy withdrew. In this action, 11 NVA were killed.

The cumulative results for the action at Duc Lap as of 3 September have been divided into three parts:

In the CIDG camp, 43 friendly soldiers were killed (6 USSF, 1 VSF, and 36 CIDG) and 96 were wounded (13 USSF, 6 VSF, and 77 CIDG). Enemy losses were 279 killed and 95 individual and 45 crew-served weapons captured.

At the sub-sector headquarters, friendly losses were 41 killed (1 U.S. and 40 ARVN) and 141 wounded (9 U.S. and 132 ARVN). Enemy losses were 304 killed, 1 PW captured and 56 individual and 11 crew-served weapons captured.

The ARVN 45th Infantry Regiment, 23rd Infantry Division, sustained 32 killed and 63 wounded while killing 193 enemy soldiers. The ARVN infantrymen also captured 6 PWS, 25 individual and 5 crew-served weapons plus a Soviet radio.

The total casualties for this period were 776 NVA soldiers killed. Seven PWS, 176 individual weapons and 63 crew-served weapons were captured. Over 200 of the 776 enemy killed were killed by B-52 and tactical airstrikes. Friendly losses totaled 116 killed and 300 wounded.

U.S. Air Force F-100, F-4, A-1, AC-47, A-37 and F-5 aircraft flew more than 400 sorties during the period in support of the RVNAF units. The F-100s flew over 225 sorties alone. B-52 Stratofortresses flew 9 missions on 24-25 August. Three U.S. Army helicopters and 1 Air Force F-100 were downed by enemy ground fire.

PWS and captured documents provided information identifying elements of the 1st North Vietnamese Army Division as having participated in the fighting at Duc Lap.

In Pleiku Province the enemy substantially increased his interdiction of Routes 14 and 19. Prisoners and documents identified the 24th NVA Regiment as the unit involved in a four-day contact beginning on 18 August north of Pleiku City. The 24th NVA Regiment was probably also responsible for the several ambushes along Highway 14. In Gia Dinh Province, the enemy conducted numerous harassing attacks in the Long Son and Phu Cat areas. To the south, Lam Dong Province, elements of two main Force battalions were identified in the 21 August attack on No Linh.
DEVELOPMENT OF THE BATTLE

AUGUST 23rd

AUGUST 24th

AUGUST 25-26th
DUC LAP
23 August - 3 September

CIDG and ARVN Troops
Win Major Victory
Over 1st NVA Division

776 Enemy Killed
The enemy intensified his activities in III CTZ on 16 August with widespread attacks in the outer provinces. Elements of the 9th VC Division attacked in the Tay Ninh City area and elements of the 7th NVA Division attacked Loc Ninh in northern Ninh Long Province. Sporadic contacts continued with enemy forces in Tay Ninh and Ninh Long Provinces through the month. In late August other engagements occurred with elements of the 101st NVA Regiment in western Ninh Thuong and northern Ninh Binh respectively.

There were indications that the enemy's effort in the Tay Ninh area was intended to draw allied forces away from the Capital Military District and Saigon. During August however Saigon experienced only minor terrorist activity and two rocket attacks on the 22nd and 27th in contrast to the more heavy fighting and indirect fire attacks in Tay Ninh Province. Even with the lack of activity Saigon continued to be one of the enemy's major objectives.

Elsewhere unreplaced personnel losses in units south of Saigon since Phase One of the General Offensive forced the enemy to combine understrength battalions into fewer but larger units.

IV CORPS

The period 4 to 20 August was characterized by limited enemy-initiated incidents; none resulting in major contact. There were widespread reports of preparations for an offensive throughout the CTZ area.

On 21, 22 and 23 August attacks-by-fire and harassments of province capitals, district towns, airfields and military posts occurred throughout IV CTZ. On 21 August, 74 enemy-initiated incidents occurred. Several ground assaults followed the attacks-by-fire but all were repulsed. Allied casualties were light and only moderate damage was done to installations and equipment; no major allied position was seriously threatened. By 24 August enemy efforts had tapered off. The enemy also directed a major effort toward the interdiction of main lines of communication, particularly Highway 4. In all but two incidents, where bridges were destroyed, the damage was quickly repaired.

A number of reports indicated that friendly sweeps caused substantial VC losses of men and supplies and they have reduced the enemy's ability to concentrate his forces and adequately prepare planned attacks.
LULL ENDS
10,621
ENEMY KILLED

MAJOR BATTLES

18-31 AUGUST
SIGNIFICANT GROUND OPERATIONS

ACTION NEAR TAM KY

Elements of the AMERICAL Division, supported by helicopter gunships, artillery, U.S. Marines and Air Force tactical aircraft, killed 511 enemy in an area 4-5 miles west of Tam Ky, 24-26 August.

At 1100 hours, 24 August, an element of the Armored Cavalry Squadron of the Division, supported by Army helicopters, engaged enemy positions throughout the day until contact was lost at 1925. A sweep of the area revealed 223 enemy bodies. In addition, 3 suspects were detained and 15 individual and 6 crew-served weapons were captured. U.S. casualties were 11 wounded (10 evacuated).

A total of 213 more enemy soldiers were killed 25 August by Armored Cav troopers of the division, U.S. Army helicopter gunships, artillery, U.S. Marines and Air Force tactical aircraft. Seven U.S. soldiers were killed and 30 wounded in the fight. In addition, 19 individual and 10 crew-served weapons were captured.

At 1325 hours, 26 August, elements of the AMERICAL Division's Armored Cavalry Squadron and infantrymen from the division's 196th Light Infantry Brigade again engaged an unknown size enemy force while continuing an offensive sweep in the same area. Helicopter gunships, artillery and tactical aircraft supported the troopers during the action which terminated at 1930 when contact was lost as the enemy withdrew. Seventy-five North Vietnamese Army soldiers were killed while U.S. casualties were 6 wounded (3 evacuated).

Results of the contact raised the total of enemy killed in that area by AMERICAL Division forces since 24 August to 511. Total U.S. casualties were 7 killed and 47 wounded. In addition, 34 individual and 16 crew-served weapons were captured.

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ACTION NEAR THE DMZ

At 1315 hours, 31 August, a company from the U.S. Army's 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division (Mac), engaged an unknown size enemy force occupying bunkers ½ mile north of Con Thien.

The infantrymen, supported by artillery and F-100 Supersabres from the 37th Tactical Fighter Wing (TFW), assaulted the positions at 1400. Action continued throughout the afternoon until 1800 when the enemy withdrew.

Sixty-five North Vietnamese Army soldiers were killed in the battle while U.S. losses were 2 killed and 24 wounded. In addition, 19 individual weapons were captured.

This was the brigade's first major battle since arriving in Vietnam last month.
511 NVA soldiers killed by Americal Division

24-26 August

31 August

5th Mech Brigade troopers kill 65 NVA in the Unit's first major battle
REVIEW OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

General: During the month of September, action was light to moderate with the majority of significant contacts with enemy forces resulting from friendly initiated sweep operations. The enemy generally avoided combat to concentrate on refitting following heavy casualties during his abortive offensive in the latter half of August. Significant enemy materiel losses were inflicted on the enemy as Allied forces were highly successful in discovering large weapons, munitions and food caches.

I CORPS

In the central DMZ there were numerous light contacts with the 320th NVA Division, and many large ammunition and weapons caches were discovered. However by the end of the month, prisoner statements and decreasing opposition to friendly sweep operations indicated that elements of the 320th NVA Division had relinquished their offensive posture and were evading. Friendly forces made several significant contacts with the 138th NVA Regiment which prevented the unit from launching any major attacks on Allied positions in northern Quang Tri Province.

Other major enemy units in the two northern provinces remained in their base areas, and activity continued to be extremely light. Documents and prisoners indicated that these enemy units were suffering from severe food shortages.

Operations east of Hue on Vinh Loc Island and in Phu Vang District were highly successful in disrupting the enemy's rest areas and reducing the effectiveness of his local forces.

In central I CTZ, enemy pressure on Da Nang decreased. West of Hoi An, heavy contacts with an NVA regiment greatly reduced its strength. One prisoner stated that the companies in his battalion had only 35 men each. In Quang Nam Province, prisoners and documents indicated that elements of the 2nd NVA Division, had deployed into the province from the Kham Duc area Quang Tin Province. At the end of the month these elements were threatening the Thuong Duc CIDG Camp.

In Quang Tin Province, other elements of the 2nd NVA Division, suffered heavy losses in contacts west of Tam Ky just as the Division, had experienced in August. On 22 September, another regiment of the 2nd NVA Division, unsuccessfully attacked Hau Duc District Headquarters and suffered over 200 killed.

To the south, in Quang Ngai Province, elements of the 3rd NVA Division continued to pose threats to Quang Ngai City and Ha Thanh CIDG Camp, but no significant activity occurred.
II CORPS

In the western highlands, enemy activity was characterized by reorganization, extensive movement of major elements, and continued threats to Dak Seang and Duc Lap. In Kontum Province, one NVA regiment was directed to continue offensive action against Dak Seang. The regiment, according to a rallier, was short of food and had low morale. The rallier also said malaria afflicted 25 per cent of his battalion.

In Pleiku Province, a prisoner identified his unit as the 24th NVA Regiment, and revealed that it was involved in a 24 August contact near the Plei Mrong CIDG Camp.

In Quang Duc Province, enemy activity around Duc Lap. Prisoners reported that the 95C NVA Regiment, 1st NVA Division, conducted the initial attack on the CIDG Camp and that elements of the 66th NVA Regiment assisted in the attack.

In the coastal provinces, the 18th NVA Regiment was engaged by ARVN and U.S. Forces on 22 September resulting in at least 120 enemy killed.

Sporadic attacks-by-fire on Tuy Hoa, Nha Trang, Phan Rang, and Phan Thiet have been credited to local force units. There was an increase in terrorist activity during the month in the coastal and southern provinces while other reports indicated enemy units were involved in rice collections.

III CORPS

The enemy continued primarily widespread attacks in the outer provinces with emphasis in the Binh Long and Tay Ninh Province areas. Enemy activity indicated continued efforts to cause the attrition of Allied forces and to reduce Allied interdiction of his infiltration routes toward the capital. Reports, prisoners, ralliers, and documents indicated that attacks in the outer provinces were diversionary and that Saigon remained the enemy's primary objective.

The 7th NVA Division remained in northern Binh Long Province while the 9th VC Division continued to operate in western Tay Ninh Province.

Local Force Battalions were located in the Long An - Gia Dinh Province border area while other units reportedly experienced serious morale and food supply problems.

During the period, 11-12 September, there were only two significant ground contacts near Tay Ninh City. The first, between 1100 and approximately 1800 on the 11th involved reportedly heavy fighting between RF/PF forces of about 2 company strength and an estimated enemy company in Thai Hoa hamlet, 1 mile southwest of Tay Ninh City. The second occurred at about 1030 on the 12th when a U.S. convoy enroute to Tay Ninh City received small arms and mortar fire from an unknown size enemy force which ter-
minated at an unreported time. One U.S. and 14 enemy were killed; 5 U.S. were wounded. Three vehicles were damaged but the convoy proceeded to Tay Ninh.

During the early morning on both days, there were several harassing attacks by fire against U.S. and GVN positions and installations near the city with an unknown number of rounds landing in the city. The rounds were, for the most part, 82mm mortar ammunition but there were a few 107mm rockets and some rocket-grenades reported. Casualties and damage were described as very light or negligible.

The closest fighting to the City was at Thai Hoa hamlet. Other light contact was reported to the southeast in two hamlets where Vietnamese Airborne troops were sweeping based on a report of an estimated enemy battalion in the area. By 1230 on 12 September, these units reported killing 2 enemy in a brief exchange of fire with a small group of enemy.

An ARVN Marine Battalion deployed into the Thai Hoa area on the night of the 11th, made only light and sporadic contact, 22 enemy were killed at Thai Hoa while friendly casualties were 1 killed and 2 wounded.

On the evening of the 11th, ARVN reported an estimated two enemy battalions deployed in 4 hamlets to the south, southwest and southeast of the city. There were no contacts during the period to substantiate that large an enemy force in the area and a later report from an ARVN intelligence officer placed the enemy strength in the area at a maximum of 3 companies. If so, the enemy avoided confrontation of any significance except in the area of Thai Hoa.

There were no U.S. ground contacts reported in the Tay Ninh City area at all even though one U.S. battalion from the 25th Division was employed as a blocking force to the southwest of Thai Hoa. Other than the convoy action, the only enemy reported killed by U.S. forces during the two days occurred at Fire Support Base Buell 3 miles north of Tay Ninh City, where 9 enemy were killed in a light probe on the morning of the 11th.

There was no fighting in the area defined as Tay Ninh City by the GVN, but a GVN spokesman stated that the hamlets might be termed suburbs of the city.

IV CORPS

In IV CTZ enemy-initiated activity during September consisted primarily of attacks-by-fire, harassment, and acts of terrorism. Ground attacks during the period were at a minimum as the enemy continued to avoid large unit contacts.

Subsequent to an ARVN sweep in Vinh Long Province on 1 September, a prisoner stated that the ARVN operation disrupted the battalion's plan
to attack Vinh Long City on 1 September. Additionally, there were numerous reports of large-scale attacks to be conducted by the enemy before the end of September. The fact that these attacks did no materialize is probably due to the success of Allied intelligence in discovering enemy intentions as well as Allied operations mounted against his forces.

An ARVN operation 2 and 3 September in Kien Phong Province resulted in 143 VC killed.

The most significant enemy-initiated activity during the month occurred on the 15th of September when a number of attacks-by-fire and harassments were conducted throughout IV CTZ. Several of the attacks were followed by ground assaults, all of which were repulsed.

A VC officer, captured in August, stated that as a result of Allied operations in July and August, which inflicted heavy casualties on the VC, enemy forces have been pushed further and further away from the population centers. The enemy's extensive resupply efforts during this high water period in IV CTZ probably account, in part, for his desire to avoid major contacts. In one two-week period approximately 400 sampans were destroyed. During the period a number of enemy caches were uncovered, resulting in the capture of considerable quantities of munitions and military equipment.
During the period 1 through 30 September, U.S. and Vietnamese ground forces captured a number of enemy munitions, weapons and food caches throughout the Republic and in the southern Demilitarized Zone. The majority of the caches were located in the I and III Corps Tactical Zones where the highest level of enemy activity was also reported during the same period.

Cumulative reports reflected a total weight of more than 300 tons contained in these caches including the following significant items: Approximately 1,800,000 rounds of small arms ammunition; more than 18,000 rounds of 60mm, 81mm and 82mm mortar ammunition; 5,854 RPG-2 and RPG-7 rocket-grenade rounds; approximately 11,400 pounds of TNT; more than 11,000 hand grenades and rifle grenades; 3,700 anti-personnel and anti-tank mines; 1,125 individual weapons (primarily SKS and AK-47 rifles); 6 complete 60mm mortars; 3 complete 82mm mortars and 8 extra 82mm mortar tubes; 9 flame throwers; 2 23mm AAA guns weighing in excess of one ton each; 2 12.7mm AAA machineguns; over 50 other crew-served weapons; more than 500 rockets; approximately 135 tons of rice, and more than three tons of salt.

In terms of combat logistics requirements for NVA units, the above losses can be evaluated and equated as follows: The rice would feed two 600-man NVA battalions for 5 months, the individual weapons and mortars would arm an NVA battalion with individual weapons left over.

The loss of this materiel and food undoubtedly had a significant impact on the enemy's ability to initiate and/or sustain combat in certain areas of the country.
SIGNIFICANT GROUND OPERATIONS

TRANG BANG, 5 SEPTEMBER

At approximately 1215, an element of the U.S. 3rd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) air-assaulted into a hot landing zone 3 miles east of Trang Bang and engaged an unknown size enemy force. Elements of the Armored Cavalry Squadron of the U.S. 25th Infantry Division and other paratroopers from the Brigade maneuvered into blocking positions. Contact continued with U.S. Army artillery and helicopter gunships and U.S. Air Force tactical aircraft supporting the friendly forces. By 1600, additional elements of the Brigade reinforced and took up blocking positions in an attempt to cordon the enemy force then estimated at battalion size.

Contact continued into the evening of the 5th and the morning of the 6th when the ARVN 2nd Battalion, 49th Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, was inserted into the area. Sporadic action continued and contact was finally lost at 1330 on the 6th when the enemy successfully evaded the cordon.

The total number of enemy killed in the 2-day battle was 103. US casualties for the action were 31 killed and 41 wounded. ARVN casualties were light.

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DAU TIENG, 11 SEPTEMBER

At approximately 0430, a mechanized infantry element of the U.S. 2nd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, occupying night defensive positions in an area 3 miles west-southwest of Dau Tieng, received heavy mortar and small arms fire from an unknown size enemy force followed by a ground attack. Other elements of the Brigade reinforced and contact was lost at 0710 when the enemy withdrew.

Ninety-nine enemy were killed and 1 suspect was detained. In addition the following weapons and equipment were captured: 18 AK-47 rifles, 5 RPD light machineguns, 2 RPG rocket grenade launchers, 2-9mm pistols, 1 radio with head set, 5 gas masks and 3,850 rounds of small arms ammunition.

US casualties were 3 killed and 20 wounded during the engagement.

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LOC NINH, 12 SEPTEMBER

Elements of the U.S. 1st and 3rd Brigades, 1st Infantry Division, engaged an estimated enemy regiment in sporadic to heavy contact in an area 1 to 4 miles east-northeast of Loc Ninh. The action began at approximately 0730 and continued until 2100 when contact was lost as the enemy withdrew. U.S. Army artillery and helicopter gunships and Air Force tactical aircraft and AC-47 gunships supported the infantrymen during the engagement.

Enemy losses were 121 killed, and 3 individual and 9 crew-served weapons captured. US casualties were 14 killed and 60 wounded.