DISTRICT—The organizational level of the Government of Vietnam (GVN) structure directly subordinate to the province and comparable to American country. The district chief, usually military, is normally also the sub-sector commander.

DIVISION TACTICAL AREA (DTA)—The same meaning as Tactical Area of Responsibility except that DTA is used by ARVN divisions while U.S. units use TAOR.

DOCTRINE—That which is taught. Usually reflected in field manuals and that which is taught at service schools.

DRAGON SHIP—Same as "Puff the Magic Dragon," an AC-47 armed with miniguns.

DTA—See "Division Tactical Area" and "Tactical Area of Responsibility."

EAGLE FLIGHT—An airmobile, quick reaction force usually of company size or smaller which is capable of searching out and destroying or capturing enemy forces or camps with minimum advance notice. Normally it has the capability to deploy in one lift.

FFORCE—Field Force Vietnam. The I and II FFORE are both approximately a corps in size. I FFORE (spoken Eye Force Vee) operates in the II Corps Tactical Zone (CTZ) and II FFORE (spoken Two Force Vee) operates in the III CTZ.

FIREFLY—A UH-1 modified with banks of C123-type landing lights or a Xenon searchlight. A FIREFLY mission is a mission in which the specially equipped helicopter attempts to locate enemy movement at night so that accompanying armed helicopters (normally two) can engage the target by fire.

FIRE SUPPORT BASE—A defended perimeter within which supporting artillery and/or mortar units are emplaced to support tactical operations of maneuver units.

FIREFLY—Currently the company that produces K113 and other vehicles using the K113 chassis.

FORWARD SUPPORT AREA—An area selected near the using units in which minimum essential supplies are stocked and issued. Most forward support areas are established temporarily for a particular operation.

FORWARD SUPPORT ELEMENT—An element of a combat service support unit deployed with minimum essential support capability to the vicinity of an operation. It normally is deployed to a forward support area.

FRAGMENTATION—
1. The excessive separation or dissipation of a unit's integrity.
2. Descriptive of an explosive weapon which has a hardened case that fragments when detonated, such as a "fragmentation" grenade.
FREE WORLD MILITARY ASSISTANCE FORCE (FWMAF)—Those free world forces in the Republic of Vietnam (RVN) other than the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces (RVNAF). They include military assistance from Australia, China, New Zealand, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Spain, Thailand, and the United States. The term is frequently used by U.S. forces to include friendly forces other than U.S. forces and RVNAF.

FRONT HEADQUARTERS—A Viet Cong or North Vietnamese military organization designed to perform tactical and administrative functions and to control widely divergent units in a specific area. A front is intentionally unstable, its military force composition changes as operational requirements dictate, and no permanency is attached to its formation (although it may provide the framework for a permanent military unit). A Viet Cong Front or North Vietnamese Army Front in South Vietnam, normally consists of a few small units, a number of regiments exceeding the accepted composition of a division, or several divisions.

FUNCTIONAL AREAS OF LAND WARFARE—An identifiable major component of land warfare, required and always present in varying degree, in all land combat operations. They are intelligence, movement, firepower, control and service support.

FWMAF—See "Free World Military Assistance Force".

GO-GO SHIP—An armed CH-47 "Chinook" helicopter.

GUERRILLAS—Full-time VC forces organized into squads and Platoons which do not always stay in their home village or hamlets.

Typical missions for guerrillas are collection of taxes, propaganda, protection of village party committees, and terrorist and sabotage activities. Guerrillas also conduct combat operations against RVN and FWMAF units in RVN.

GUNSHIP—A helicopter armed with air to ground armament other than the door-mounted machine guns that are found on many helicopters.

GUNSHIP+—A flight of armed helicopters whose mission is to attempt to find and attack the enemy at dusk or dawn as he starts or is finishing his operations for the night.


HARPER AND ANVIL—An offensive technique in which an attacking force attempts to cause an enemy force to retreat toward a prepositioned blocking force.

HERRINGBONE FORMATION—A formation used by mechanized and armor units when ambushed or during halts when the unit is moving in column, normally along a road. The armored vehicles turn alternately to the sides of the road or direction of march in such a manner as to place their main armament and heaviest armor obliquely toward the flanks. The center is left clear to provide freedom of movement within the column or a haven for thin-skinned vehicles.

HOI CHANH—See "Detainee."

HOOK—CH-47 cargo helicopter.

IMAGE INTENSIFICATION DEVICES—Passive night vision devices which amplify reflected ambient light to allow visual observation
and aimed fire of weapons at night. The term includes the Starlight Scope, Crew Served Weapon Night Vision Sight and the Night Observation Device, Medium Range.

INFRASTRUCTURE—See "Viet Cong Infrastructure."

INNOCENT CIVILIAN—See "Detainee."

IRREGULARS—Organized VC forces composed of guerillas, self-defense and secret self-defense elements subordinate to village and hamlet level VC organizations. These forces perform a wide variety of missions in support of VC activities and, in fact, provide a training and mobilization base for the VC maneuver and combat support forces.

KHA—Killed in Hostile Action. Since the United States is not engaged in a declared war, the use of the official term, "Killed in Action (KIA)", is not authorized by the Department of Defense for describing U.S. casualties. The term KHA is not an authorized abbreviation, but may be used as a convenience. Similarly, the terms WHA and MIA have come into usage to describe U.S. wounded and missing. Since these terms are not specified for describing enemy casualties, the standard terms KIA and MIA have gained wide usage for describing enemy casualties to differentiate between friendly and enemy losses.

KIA—Killed in Action. See also "KHA."

LIGHT FIRE TEAM—A team of armed helicopters (normally two).

Preferably, one helicopter is armed with machine guns and one with aerial rockets.

LIGHT INFANTRY DIVISIONS—VC and NVA divisional formations tailored specifically for operations in RVN. These divisions are highly foot-mobile and are flexible in force structure, organization and strength. Normally these light infantry divisions are composed of two to four infantry regiments and varying number of technical and fire support elements. They lack wheeled transport and the type artillery normally associated with NVA conventional divisions.

LIGHTNING BUG—A term formerly used to describe specially equipped HU-1B helicopter (see FLY). It should no longer be used because it also is a project code name.

LOC SECURITY—Security of a line of communication which prevents the enemy from seriously interfering with movement along the LOC. It may be established for a specific operation or it may be established on an indefinite basis.

MAF—See "Marine Amphibious Force."

MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE—The III MAF is approximately a corps in size and operates in the I Corps Tactical Zone (CTZ).

MDAF—Mekong Delta Mobile Assault Force. This term is now obsolete and should no longer be used. See "Mekong Delta Riverine Assault Force."

MDRAF—See "Mekong Delta Riverine Assault Force."

MEDCAP—See "Medical Civic Action Program."

MEDICAL CIVIC ACTION PROGRAM—The program for providing medical support to a civic action program or mission. In general, MEDCAP is a part of all civic action programs. It may be
continuing as in the case of a unit with a continuing civic action mission or it may be temporary as in the case of a unit on an operation with a civic action component.

MEKONG DELTA RIVERINE ASSAULT FORCE (MDRAF)—A joint Army and Navy force that engages in riverine operations in the Mekong Delta.

The Navy component is a River Assault Flotilla or RIVFLOT.

The Army component is an infantry brigade.

MHA—Missing in Hostile Action. See "KHA" also.

MINIGUN—A six-barreled 7.62mm machine gun built on the "Gatling" principle.

NATIONAL FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF SOUTH VIETNAM—See "Viet Cong Infrastructure."

NEUTRALIZED VC/NVA BASE AREA—One which the enemy no longer can use for its intended purpose. Neutralization can be accomplished by extensive destruction of facilities found within the area, or by the presence in or around the area of friendly forces sufficient to deny the enemy free and unrestricted access to the area for use as a safe haven. Neutralization is not necessarily permanent, and must be re-evaluated periodically.

NIGHT VISION DEVICES—Equipment designed to increase the capability of the soldier to fight, observe, move and work at night. The term covers all the equipments and systems which utilize reflected radiations. The four general categories are battlefield illumination, near infrared devices, image intensification devices and thermal imaging devices.

NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY (NVA) UNITS—A unit formed, trained, and designated by North Vietnam as an NVA unit, and composed completely or primarily of North Vietnamese.

NVA—North Vietnamese Army.

ORGANIZATIONAL MAINTENANCE—That maintenance which is the responsibility of and performed by a using organization on its assigned equipment.

PAVN—An obsolete term for the North Vietnamese Army. See "North Vietnamese Army."

PF—See "Popular Forces."

POPULAR FORCES (PF)—Vietnamese forces with a primary mission of protecting hamlets and villages. They normally remain in the hamlet or village from which they are recruited. They are lightly armed and not authorized crew served weapons though some have acquired machine guns and 60mm mortars. They are fulltime professional soldiers normally under the command of the district, village, or hamlet chief.

POW—See "Detainee."

PROVINCE—The organizational level of the Government of Vietnam (GVN) subordinate to the Corps Tactical Zone (CTZ), and division tactical area (DTA). Most administration of local government is handled at province level upon instructions direct from Saigon. It is comparable to the state in American government. There are 43 provinces in South Vietnam. The province chief is usually a Vietnamese military officer.
PUFF THE MAGIC DRAGON—An AC-47 armed with miniguns.

PUNJI PIT—A concealed pit lined with punji stakes. The stakes at the bottom point upward and the stakes on the sides point down at an angle. A person stepping in the pit is most likely to attempt to pull his foot out and as he does so, his leg is impaled by the stakes along the sides.

PUNJI STAKES—Barbed stakes made of bamboo normally, but may be made of metal. The tips are normally poisoned, frequently from human excrement. The stakes are used in various ways, but the most frequent are ways which are likely to result in their being stepped on.

RAP—See "River Assault Flotilla." This abbreviation is used but the preferred abbreviation is RIVFLOT.

RAG—See "River Assault Group."

RALLIER—A Hoi Chanh. See "Detainee."

RAS—See "River Assault Squadron."

REACTION FORCE—A force whose mission is to react rapidly to an enemy attack or to attack an enemy force located by a finding force.

REGIONAL FORCES (RF)—Vietnamese forces recruited within a province who normally operate within their province. They are full-time professional soldiers equipped similarly to ARVN and are under control of the province chief. They are often attached to the district for specific missions.

RETURNEE—See "Detainee."

REVOLUTIONARY DEVELOPMENT—The integrated military and civil process to restore, consolidate and expand government control so that nation building can progress throughout the RVN. It consists of those coordinated military and civil actions to liberate the people from Viet Cong control; restore public security; initiate political, economic and social development; extend effective GVN authority; and win the willing support of the people toward these ends.

RF—See "Regional Forces."

RIVER ASSAULT FLOTILLA (RIVFLOT)—The naval component of the NDRAF. It consists of the necessary ships and craft to operate with an infantry brigade. The following types of ships and craft are parts of a RIVFLOT:

APB—A barracks ship capable of housing an infantry battalion.

APL—A large non-self-propelled barracks ship.

ARL—A repair ship for both Army and Navy equipment.

ASPB—Assault Support Patrol Boat. It is the equivalent of a destroyer and minesweeper used in riverine operations.

ATC—Armored Troop Carrier. A riverine troop carrying craft. It can lift an M113 APC.

CCB—Command and Control Boat (a floating battalion command post).

LCM REFUELER—A converted medium-sized landing craft (LCM) used to carry MOGAS for Army use.
LST—Landing Ship, Tank. A ship capable of ramp loading and unloading the equivalent of a tank company.

MONITOR—An LCM converted by the addition of machine guns and mortars. It is an assault craft.

MRV—Mobile Riverine Base. It consists of two or more APB, ARL, or LST (for storing organic equipment).

YPNB—A non-self-propelled repair barge.

RIVER ASSAULT GROUP (RAG)—The Vietnamese Navy equivalent of the U.S. River Assault Squadron.

RIVER ASSAULT SQUADRON (RAS)—A group of river assault craft and troop carriers. It is subordinate to a RIVFLOT.

RIVERINE OPERATIONS—All military activities designed to achieve and/or maintain control of a riverine area by destroying hostile forces and restricting or eliminating hostile activities. Operations are characterized by the extensive use of water transport to move military forces and equipment.

RIVFLOT—See "River Assault Flotilla."

ROAD RUNNER—Normally a small group of vehicles which travels a road for the purpose of keeping the enemy off balance and for making the presence of friendly forces felt among the local populace. The operation is similar to convoy security except that there is no convoy to secure. The operation can be effectively performed at night.

ROME PLOW—The K/G Clearing Blade manufactured by the Rome Plow Company. It is a dozer-like blade designed for cutting undergrowth and trees at the ground level. It is normally mounted on a Caterpillar tractor. The bottom edge of the blade is angled sharply to the front and must be kept very sharp to be effective. The edge of the blade has a sharp projection on the left of the blade, the "stinger," which is used to split and weaken large trees and stumps so that they can be felled by the cutting edge.

ROUTE SECURITY—The same as LOC security except that it includes security established on a route that is not an LOC and frequently is established on a less permanent basis.

RULES OF ENGAGEMENT—Rules specified by COMUSMACV and subordinate commanders concerning employment of fire and maneuver within the territorial limits the Republic of Vietnam (RVN). Such rules are primarily for the protection of noncombatants and their possessions and are frequently reflected in unit standard operating procedures. From the MACV and national point of view these rules are more aptly described as measures on control of fire and maneuver.

RVN—Republic of Vietnam.

RVNAF—Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces.

SEAL AND SEARCH—Same as "Cordon and Search."

SEARCH AND DESTROY—The mission of a military force which is to search a specified area for enemy forces, materiel and installations and to capture or destroy any such force, materiel or installation that may be found.
SEARCH AND KILL—Same as "search and destroy" which is the preferred term.

SECRET SELF-DEFENSE FORCE—A clandestine VC organization which performs the same general function in GVN-controlled villages and hamlets as do the self-defense force in VC-controlled areas. Its operations involve intelligence collection as well as sabotage and propaganda activities.

SECTOR—The military organizational area equivalent to the province. The sector chief is an RVN military officer charged with the security of the sector. U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (USMACV) advisors are assigned to sectors.

SELF-DEFENSE FORCE—A VC paramilitary structure responsible for the defense of hamlet and village areas controlled by the VC. These forces do not leave their home area, and they perform their duties on a part-time basis. Duties consist of conducting propaganda operations, constructing fortifications, and defending home areas.

SERVICE SUPPORT—Those activities of an army which are primarily concerned with providing combat service support and administration to assist the combat and combat support elements of the army in carrying out its missions. It includes administration and personnel services; discipline, law and order; supply and distribution of all classes of supplies; maintenance and repair of material and equipment including evacuation of material; medical services including evacuation of personnel from the rear of units in contact; transportation services including movement of units (excluding tactical maneuver), personnel, and supplies; movement control, and terminal operations; facilities construction and maintenance including supply routes and utilities; CBR decontamination service, area damage control, rear area security, and all aspects of civil affairs.

STABILITY OPERATIONS—Internal security or anti-guerrilla warfare against indigenous insurgents with peace-keeping and national stability as the objective.

SUB-SECTOR—The Vietnamese military area directly subordinate to the sector and comparable to the Government of Vietnam (GVN) district. The sub-sector is the lowest level to which U.S. advisors are assigned.

TACTICAL AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (TAOR)—That area within which a unit has the following continuing responsibilities to be coordinated as required with local Government of Vietnam (GVN) authorities both military and civil:

a. Defense of key installations.

b. Conduct of operations including such reaction operations as are necessary to secure the area against organized military forces.

c. Support of GVN construction and pacification activities as required.

TACTICS—
1. The employment of units in combat.
2. The ordered arrangement and maneuver of units in
   relation to each other and/or to the enemy in order to utilize
   their full potential.

TAOR—See "Tactical Area of Responsibility."

TASK FORCE (BATT ALION)—A temporary grouping of unlike companies
   under a battalion commander, formed for a specific operation
   or mission.

TEAM (COMPANY)—A tactical grouping of unlike platoons under a
   company commander, formed for a specific operation or mission.

TECHNIQUES—The detailed methods used by troops or commanders in
   performing assigned tasks with equipment and/or personnel.
   The phrase "tactics and techniques" is often used to refer
   to the general and detailed methods used by commanders and
   forces in carrying out their assignments (AR 320-5). The term
   "current techniques" is occasionally used to imply methods of
   performance that are of more recent origin. Its use should
   be avoided unless this inference is needed.

TUNNEL KIT—A kit or packet of equipment designed to be used by
   soldiers searching a tunnel. It consists of cap or head-
   mounted lamps, small throat or head-mounted microphones and
   telephones with wire, revolvers with silencers, and earplugs.

VC—See "Viet Cong."

VIET CONG (VC)—The active arm of the communist conspiracy to over-
   throw the Government of Vietnam (GVN) and set up a communist
   government in its place. The term is commonly used to apply
   to all enemy forces in RVN; but, technically, it should not
   be applied to the North Vietnamese Army (NVA).

VIET CONG INFRASTRUCTURE—The Viet Cong infrastructure is defined
   as the political and administrative organization through
   which the Viet Cong control or seek to control the South
   Vietnamese people. It embodies the party (Peoples Revolutionary-
   ary Party) control structure, which includes a command and
   administrative apparatus (Central Office South Vietnam) at
   the national level, and the leadership and administration of
   a parallel front organization (National Front for the Libera-
   tion of South Vietnam), both of which extend from the national
   through the hamlet level.

VIET CONG (VC) LOCAL FORCE (LF)—Those VC military units which are
   directly subordinate to a provincial or district party
   committee and normally operate within a specified VC province
   or district.

VIET CONG (VC) MAIN FORCE (MF)—Those VC military units which are
   directly subordinate to Central Office South Vietnam (COSVN),
   a Viet Cong Military Region, or sub-region.

WHA—Wounded in Hostile Action. See "KHA" also.

WIA—Wounded in Action. See "KHA" also.
ADDENDUM - COMBAT EXAMPLE, 3/5 ARMORED CAVALRY SQUADRON

PERIMETER DEFENSE

1. SITUATION

Troop A, 3d Squadron, 5th Cavalry, commanded by Captain Alcala, was assigned a mission of securing an artillery fire support base vicinity Bau Bang, west of Highway 13, and 7 kilometers north of Lai Khe (X735462). Defensive positions were occupied at 191150 March 1967. The weather was clear and hot. The position was in an abandoned rubber plantation.

2. EXECUTION

Troop A was employed with two Platoons on a perimeter around the fire base and one platoon in an ambush location approximately one mile north, and on the west side of Highway 13. At 192300 March a herd of cows with bells ran across Highway 13 just north of the perimeter. Immediately after the cows cleared the road a caliber .50 machine gun opened fire on the perimeter from the vicinity of the cattle crossing. The machine gun was engaged by tank fire and destroyed. No further action occurred until 200730 March at which time the fire base came under mortar fire from the east and west sides of the perimeter. Simultaneously an enemy ground attack was launched against the southern sector of the perimeter, using recoilless rifles, automatic weapons, and small arms. Ordnance and supporting fires were placed on the enemy, illumination was used to expose the enemy, and the platoon at the ambush location was ordered back to the perimeter. Armed helicopters quickly responded to the situation and provided close-in aerial fire support. The ambush platoon, en-route to the perimeter, encountered an enemy ambush approximately 400 meters northeast of the perimeter, and overran it. On arriving in the battle area at 200100 March, the platoon assumed defense of the southwest quadrant of the perimeter. At 200115 March the 3d Platoon of Troop C was placed OPCON to Troop A and moved up Highway 13 from the south. This platoon was brought into the rear of the attacking enemy force and placed heavy direct fires on the enemy force. It was then moved into the perimeter to strengthen the defense. The 1st Platoon of Troop B was placed OPCON to Troop A and moved into the battle area along Highway 13 from the north. On arriving at the east side of the battle area, the platoon attacked around the southern half of the perimeter, entered the perimeter on the west side, and assumed positions to strengthen the defense. At 200300 March tactical air strikes were employed on concentrated enemy forces south-east of the perimeter. At 200345 March the enemy terminated their attack and commenced a police of the battlefield. At 200300 March all action ceased and enemy contact was lost.

3. RESULTS

Friendly: 4 KIA, 1 MIA, 38 WIA, 1 M-106 destroyed, 1 M-113 destroyed, 1 F-105 crashed.

Enemy: 227 KIA (BC), 5 WIA (FW), numerous crew served and individual weapons were captured. Subsequent observations and discoveries of enemy bodies increased the enemy KIA to more than 400, attributed to this action.