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U.S. SEVENTH FLEET YEARLY SUMMARY
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YEARLY SUMMARY

NAVAL GUNFIRE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

JANUARY

Seventh Fleet warships destroyed or damaged a total of 538 military structures in January as they shelled enemy positions from the Mekong Delta to northern I Corps. The tally also included 362 fortified bunkers destroyed or damaged, 26 sustained fires, 33 sampans and cargo boats destroyed or damaged, 26 caves destroyed, and a Viet Cong base camp damaged.

In one of the most important gunfire support missions, the destroyer USS Corry killed an estimated 20 Viet Cong snipers in the Batangan Peninsula during Operation "Bold Mariner." Meanwhile, in the Mekong Delta, the rocket-firing St. Francis River destroyed 72 enemy structures and sank seven sampans in a built-up Viet Cong area. On January 12, the heavy cruiser Newport News returned to the gunline and shelled enemy positions in the I Corps Tactical Zone.

FEBRUARY

The battleship USS New Jersey, two cruisers, and several destroyers accounted for 34 enemy soldiers killed, 32 supply boats destroyed or damaged, 19 caves destroyed, and five tunnel complexes collapsed during February. Forty-five secondary explosions and 22 sustained fires were also ignited.

The most dramatic mission of the month for the New Jersey occurred when it fired for six hours to rout enemy troops who were threatening the U.S. outpost at Gio Linh, just below the Demilitarized Zone. In other action, the New Jersey destroyed or damaged 67 military structures and 52 bunkers as the ship shelled enemy positions just below Danang for five days. Thirteen enemy soldiers died in the strikes.

"MORE"
The month's heaviest single day of damage caused by one ship came February 9 when the destroyer USS Davis destroyed 60 military structures and three bunkers at an enemy position south of Da Nang. Later in the month, the heavy cruiser Newport News shelled enemy fortifications in Elephant Valley, near Da Nang.

**MARCH**

Ranging from northern I Corps to southernmost IV Corps, a total of 26 U.S. Seventh Fleet warships shelled enemy targets in the Republic of Vietnam during the month of March. The ships were credited with destroying or damaging 1,117 military structures, 1,115 bunkers, 21 supply routes, 31 sampans, 64 caves, 47 tunnels and 19 automatic weapons sites. They also ignited 115 secondary fires and 73 secondary explosions.

The battleship New Jersey had her most effective day March 27 when it destroyed or damaged 72 enemy bunkers and five military structures in the Phan Thiet area of II Corps.

Other outstanding gunfire missions occurred on March 11, when U.S. warships killed ten enemy soldiers and destroyed or damaged 187 military structures; on March 15 when they were credited with killing a total of 22 enemy soldiers in action; and on March 23, when 52 enemy structures, 14 bunkers, four sampans, two caves, 150 meters of trenchline and an enemy supply area were destroyed or damaged.

Twenty-one destroyers, the cruisers USS Oklahoma City, Newport News and Chicago and the inshore gunfire support ships USS St. Francis River, Clarion River and Carronade shelled enemy targets during the month.

**APRIL**

Seventh Fleet gunners left 1,104 enemy structures and 793 enemy bunkers
destroyed or damaged during the month of April as 26 ships fired in support of allied forces ashore. A total of 53 enemy were killed in action and 138 weapons positions, 54 sampans, 31 caves and 22 supply routes were destroyed or damaged by Seventh Fleet guns. On two occasions during the month, April 12 and 24, more than 100 military structures fell as a result of the naval shellings.

Other outstanding gunfire missions came on April 5, when 47 bunkers, 30 military structures and 19 weapons positions were destroyed or damaged and nine enemy soldiers were killed in action; on April 8, when gunfire accounted for 13 enemy killed in action and 35 bunkers and 39 military structures destroyed or damaged; and on April 9, when air spotters reported 112 enemy bunkers or structures destroyed or damaged.

Twenty-one U.S. and allied destroyers, the cruisers USS Newport News, Oklahoma City, and St. Paul, and the inshore gunfire support ships USS Carronade and White River shelled enemy targets during April.

MAY

The primary targets of Seventh Fleet warships in May were enemy bunkers and structures throughout the Republic of Vietnam. A total of 25 U.S. ships fired shells and rockets to destroy or damage 757 military structures and 702 enemy bunkers in all tactical zones of the Republic.

On May 21, ten Navy warships, firing in I, II, and IV Corps, destroyed of damaged 88 military structures, 61 bunkers, two tunnel complexes, a bunker complex and a base camp.

Destroyers on the gunline included the USS Mullinnix, Richard S. Edwards, Higbee, Leary, Hissem, Leonard F. Mason, Southerland, Henry W. Tucker, Robison, Black, Frank E. Evans, Rupertus, Agerholm, Waddell,
NAVAL GUNFIRE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM-JUNE-JULY


JUNE

Navy gunners aboard seven Seventh Fleet warships shelled enemy targets throughout the Republic of Vietnam during June, destroying or damaging 690 enemy bunkers and 986 military structures. They also accounted for 64 enemy killed, 148 secondary fires and 26 secondary explosions, and 23 enemy supply routes interdicted.

On June 7, gunfire from six ships damaged or destroyed 167 military structures and 188 enemy bunkers, and ignited ten secondary fires and four secondary explosions. The ships also scored heavily on June 6 as 59 military structures, 41 bunkers and two caves were destroyed or damaged, and 39 secondary fires and two secondary explosions were ignited. On June 17, air spotters reported 23 enemy killed, and 89 military structures and 27 bunkers damaged or destroyed.

Ships arriving on the gunline in June included the destroyers USS Meredith, Rogers, Rowan, Frank Knox, Perkins, James E. Kyes, Buchanan, Lynde McCormick and Taussig, and the cruiser USS Boston.

JULY

Shells from Seventh Fleet warships were responsible for 49 enemy killed, 699 bunkers and 694 military structures damaged or destroyed, and 82 secondary fires and 82 secondary explosions ignited in July. The action extended throughout the Republic of Vietnam. In addition, 91 caves and tunnels, 69 weapons positions, and 29 sampans were damaged or destroyed.

On July 19, Navy gunners accounted for 160 enemy military structures and 77 bunkers damaged or destroyed. The next day, they destroyed or
damaged 97 military structures, 40 bunkers and 30 meters of trenchline.

The cruisers USS Boston, Oklahoma City and St. Paul, and the inshore gunfire support ships USS Carronade, Clarion River and St. Francis River joined 17 destroyers for the numerous firing missions.

**AUGUST**

Eighteen Seventh Fleet warships, firing throughout the Republic of Vietnam, left 1,078 military structures and 838 bunkers damaged or destroyed during the month of August. They also ignited 140 secondary fires and 66 secondary explosions, interdicted 39 supply routes, and killed 51 enemy soldiers, according to air and ground spotters.

The action was strongest on August 11, when gunfire accounted for 57 military structures and 58 bunkers damaged or destroyed, 11 secondary fires, and two secondary explosions ignited, and 13 caves or tunnels destroyed or damaged. A day earlier, Navy warships destroyed or damaged 56 military structures, 52 bunkers and 13 caves and tunnels.

Destroyers on the gunline during the month included the USS Cochrane, John R. Craig, Leroy, Leonard F. Mason, Pritchett, O'Bannon, Benjamin Stoddert, John W. Thomason, Henry W. Tucker, Waddell and Walke. They were joined by the cruisers USS Boston, Oklahoma City, and St. Paul, and the inshore gunfire support ships USS Clarion River, St. Francis River and White River.

**SEPTEMBER**

Seventh Fleet Navy gunners left 142 enemy bunkers and 418 enemy military structures damaged or destroyed in September as they shelled enemy targets throughout the Republic of Vietnam. Shells from the ships also killed 27 enemy soldiers, ignited 53 secondary explosions and caused 45 secondary fires.

"more"
NAVAL GUNFIRE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

September 28 was most productive as gunfire accounted for 64 enemy bunkers and 40 military structures damaged or destroyed, 21 secondary explosions, 11 secondary fires, and five enemy killed. The warships also scored heavily on September 25, destroying or damaging 47 bunkers, 30 military structures, seven tunnels and two base camps.

Ships new to the gunline in September were the destroyers USS Hamner, Hanson, Hull, Everett F. Larson, Renshaw, and Taupig, and the gunfire support ship USS Carronade.

OCTOBER

Ranging from northern I Corps to southern IV Corps, Seventh Fleet warships damaged or destroyed 653 enemy bunkers and 452 military structures in the Republic of Vietnam during October. They also ignited 75 secondary explosions, caused 29 secondary fires, interdicted 49 supply routes and killed ten enemy soldiers, according to air and ground spotters.

Naval gunfire on October 14 accounted for 19 military structures and 19 bunkers destroyed, 42 military structures and 21 bunkers damaged, one secondary explosion and six secondary fires.

The destroyers USS DeHaven, H.J. Thomas, Hoel and Ozbourn, and the Australian destroyer HMAS Vendetta were new arrival to the gunline in October.

NOVEMBER

Shells and rockets from 20 Seventh Fleet warships destroyed or damaged 514 military structures and 625 bunkers throughout the Republic of Vietnam in November. Damage from Navy missions during the month also included 60 secondary fires and 47 secondary explosions ignited, 19 supply routes interdicted and 91 caves, 15 base camps and ten sampans destroyed or damaged.

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Four Navy gunships shelled enemy positions in I, II and III Corps on November 8 and destroyed or damaged 76 military structures, 60 bunkers, 13 caves and two base camps. They also ignited 15 secondary fires and 12 secondary explosions.

Ships arriving on the gunline in November included the destroyers USS Alfred A. Cunningham, Orleck and Albert David. The Coast Guard cutters Dallas, Klamath, Hamilton and Taney also fired missions in November.

DECEMBER

Seventeen U.S. and allied warships damaged or destroyed 604 enemy bunkers and 208 military structures during the month of December as they shelled targets throughout the Republic of Vietnam. The ships' gunners also accounted for 53 secondary explosions, 93 secondary fires, 5,150 meters of supply route interdicted, and 23 enemy soldiers killed in action. Ten weapons positions, 29 caves, 11 sampans, and 13 base camps were also damaged or destroyed, according to air and ground spotters.

The heaviest damage came on December 1, when U.S. warships damaged or destroyed 50 enemy bunkers and eight military structures. In addition, they interdicted 500 meters of supply route, ignited four secondary explosions and three secondary fires, and destroyed three base camps. Toward the end of the month, on December 30, U.S. and allied warships interdicted 1,400 meters of supply route, damaged or destroyed 25 enemy bunkers, nine military structures, two base camps, and two caves.

Ships new to the gunline in December included the destroyers USS Mansfield, Theodore E. Chandler, O'Brien, Turner Joy and Blue.
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NAVAL GUNFIRE DMZ

JANUARY

Seventh Fleet destroyers responded twice during January to aerial observers who were receiving small arms fire from enemy positions within the Demilitarized Zone. Results of the firing missions into the DMZ were 17 enemy bunkers destroyed or damaged, five secondary explosions or fires, and an unknown number of meters of trenchline destroyed.

FEBRUARY

An enemy weapons position in the southern half of the DMZ blew up in a series of explosions after it was hit by 16-inch guns from the battleship USS New Jersey on February 15. Ground spotters reported seven large secondary explosions and 18 smaller blasts during the action.

MARCH

Twice during the month of March Seventh Fleet warships damaged enemy positions in the DMZ. On March 15, the destroyer USS Mullinnix shelled enemy weapons positions in the southern portion of the DMZ. The site was silenced with one secondary explosion erupting from the target area. The heavy cruiser USS Newport News fired on enemy positions March 17 also in the southern part of the DMZ. Her guns destroyed 14 enemy bunkers and caused nine secondary explosions.

APRIL

Twelve enemy bunkers were reported destroyed by eight and five-inch gunfire from the heavy cruiser USS Newport News on April 21. Three secondary explosions were reported by a forward observer when the warship's eight-inch shells slammed into an area reported to have enemy bunkers and fortified positions with signs of recent activity, four miles northeast of Con Thien, in the southern half of the DMZ.

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On May 24, the heavy cruiser St. Paul turned her guns on five enemy soldiers with weapons who were observed in an area about three miles (5 km) north-northeast of Con Thien, about 1,600 meters inside the DMZ. Following the mission, the bodies of the four soldiers were observed in the impact area. One enemy bunker was also destroyed.
NAVAL AIR STRIKES REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

JANUARY

Aviators from the Seventh Fleet aircraft carriers USS Hancock, Coral Sea and Constellation flew nearly 300 combat sorties in the Republic during the month of January. The USS Ranger and Kitty Hawk came on the line towards the end of the month. Tons of bombs were dropped on enemy targets but damage assessment throughout the month was not available, mostly because of high altitude and radar bombing.

FEBRUARY

Seventh Fleet aircraft carriers USS Hancock, Kitty Hawk, Ranger and Coral Sea launched a total of 455 strike sorties against the enemy - mostly in the northern I Corps provinces during the month of February. Most of the strikes flown during the month were in support of Third Marine Division and other allied troops operating in the I Corps area. Targets hit included enemy troop concentrations, fortifications, automatic weapons sites, infiltration routes and supply caches. Again, high altitude bombing prevented most bomb damage assessments. The Hancock left "Yankee Station" in the middle of the month.

MARCH

Navy jets from the carriers USS Coral Sea, Ranger, Ticonderoga, Kitty Hawk, and Enterprise flew sorties against enemy targets throughout the Republic. The world's largest aircraft carrier arrived back on "Yankee Station" on March 31, and started launching sorties at 8:15 a.m. Saigon time. During the month, 306 enemy military structures were either destroyed or damaged. Carrier jets also hit 125 enemy bunkers. Other damage included -more-
NAVAL AIR STRIKES REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM-2-2-2

43 supply routes interdicted, 35 caves and 16 waterbourne logistic
craft destroyed. The planes also ignited 40 secondary fires and 20
secondary explosions. On March 26, pilots from the USS Coral Sea and Kitty
Hawk flew a combined total of 54 sorties, interdicting eight enemy supply
routes and destroying 23 enemy structures and five bunkers.

APRIL

Aviators from the carriers USS Ticonderoga, Ranger, Kitty Hawk, and
Enterprise interdicted 137 supply routes, damaged or destroyed 79 military
structures, 70 enemy bunkers, and eight seapans. The jets, mostly A-4
Skyhawks, A-6 Intruders, A-7 Corsairs, F-4 Phantoms and F-8 Crusaders,
also ignited 24 secondary fires and 18 secondary explosions with their 500-
pound and 1,000-pound bombs. Twenty millimeter cannon fire was also used. On
April 3, a flight of Skyhawks from the Ticonderoga destroyed an enemy ammo
dump 20 miles south of Quang Ngai City. Most of the sorties flown in April
were in the I Corps Tactical Zone of the Republic.

MAY

Navy jets off the Seventh Fleet aircraft carriers USS Bon Homme
Richard, Kitty Hawk, Ticonderoga, Oriskany, and Enterprise damaged or
destroyed 76 enemy structures, 81 bunkers, interdicted 145 supply routes,
and ignited 19 secondary explosions and 22 secondary fires during the month
of May. The armament used during the air strikes, which took place in the
I and II Corps Tactical Zones, were 500 and 1,000-pound bombs with occasional
20 millimeter cannon fire.

JUNE

Seventh Fleet aircraft carriers USS Enterprise, Ticonderoga, Oriskany,
Kitty Hawk and Bon Homme Richard launched 1,183 sorties, mostly in I Corps,
against enemy targets in June. The jets damaged or destroyed 565 enemy

Note:
NAVAL AIR STRIKES REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM-JULY-AUGUST

military structures, 286 bunkers, and 13 sampans. Their 500 and 1,000-pound bombs also interdicted 32 supply routes, ignited 146 secondary fires, and caused nine secondary explosions. Additional damage included four caves and three weapons positions. Five enemy soldiers were killed. On June 18, carrier jets flew 100 attack sorties destroying or damaging 53 enemy bunkers, 32 military structures, five sampans, interdicted a supply route, and ignited four secondary fires.

JULY

Aviators from the Seventh Fleet carriers USS Bon Homme Richard, Kitty Hawk, Oriskany and Ticonderoga flew 1,025 attack sorties against enemy targets, mostly in I Corps, during July. The aircraft were credited with 445 enemy military structures, 252 bunkers, and 17 caves either destroyed or damaged. Spotters also reported the strikes left 41 secondary fires, 27 secondary explosions, ten enemy killed and 19 weapons positions damaged or destroyed. On July 1, carrier jets flew 76 sorties, hitting 21 military structures, eight bunkers, and left four secondary fires. The heaviest damage in one day came July 14 when jets hit 69 military structures, three bunkers, two caves, two weapons positions, and one sampan.

AUGUST

Navy pilots from the Seventh Fleet carriers USS Bon Homme Richard, Kitty Hawk, Oriskany and Ticonderoga flew 973 strike sorties, mostly in I Corps, against enemy targets. During the month, 417 military structures, 261 enemy bunkers, 24 tunnels, and 16 weapons positions were damaged or destroyed. Air spotters reported Navy jets also ignited 64 secondary fires, 51 secondary explosions and interdicted 26 supply routes. On August 14, carrier jets flew 64 sorties destroying 19 enemy bunkers and nine military structures.
SEVENTH FLEET aircraft carriers USS Bon Homme Richard, Constellation, Hancock and Oriskany launched 667 sorties against enemy targets, mostly in I Corps. During September, 193 military structures, 141 bunker, 19 tunnels, and eight weapons positions were damaged or destroyed. Air spotters also reported 32 enemy killed, 15 secondary fires and eight secondary explosions ignited, and 17 supply routes interdicted.

OCTOBER

Navy jets from the Seventh Fleet aircraft carriers USS Bon Homme Richard, Coral Sea, Constellation, Hancock, and Oriskany flew 724 attack sorties in I and II Corps Tactical Zones of the Republic of Vietnam during October. Aircraft were credited with 150 enemy military structures, 42 bunkers, three weapons positions, and a sampan damaged or destroyed. Spotters also reported 11 secondary fires and nine secondary explosions ignited and one enemy killed.

NOVEMBER

The Seventh Fleet aircraft carriers launched their A-4 Skyhawks, A-7 Corsairs, and F-4 Phantoms against enemy targets in I and II Corps Tactical Zones of the Republic of Vietnam during November. Jets off the carriers Constellation, Coral Sea, and Ranger were credited with 60 enemy military structures, 15 bunkers, and six sampans destroyed or damaged. Air spotters also reported two secondary explosions and four secondary fires ignited, one cave destroyed and one supply route cut.

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DECEMBER

The Seventh Fleet aircraft carriers USS Hancock, Ranger, Constellation, Coral Sea, and Carrier Air Wing 21 launched 91 sorties against the enemy in the Republic of Vietnam during the month of December. The targets, all in I Corps, were hit by F-4 Phantoms, A-4 Skyhawks, and A-7 Corsairs carrying 500-pound bombs.
Amphibious ships from the Navy's Seventh Fleet provided support for operation "Bold Mariner," one of the war's largest assaults. On January 13, two Fleet Battalion Landing Teams of 5,000 Marines poured onto the beaches of Cape Batangan in Southern I Corps, 75 miles (120 Km) south of Danang. The operation resulted in the capture of over 300 hard-core Viet Cong soldiers and sympathizers. Another amphibious operation ended in mid-January with a total of 3,420 detainees, 33 Viet Cong killed, and 65 Viet Cong civil defendants positively identified and turned over to the Vietnamese government. Another small operation took place about 20 miles (32 Km) below Danang and was supported by destroyers and high-speed patrol craft.

MAY

Operation "Daring Rebel" was launched May 5 against enemy positions on Barrier Island, located about 20 miles south-southwest of Danang. The Seventh Fleet's Amphibious Ready Group Alpha which consisted of the amphibious transport dock USS Duluth, the landing ship dock USS Tortuga, the transport ship USS Winston and the amphibious assault ship USS Okinawa, launched the 15-day operation under the command of Navy Captain George W. Stroud. The co-ordinated operation involved elements of the U.S. Army's Americal Division, the Army of the Republic of Vietnam and the Republic of Korea Marine Corps. U.S. Marine Battalion Landing Team 1/46 was landed by the ready group. Allied forces detained close to 7,000 Vietnamese, killed 400 Viet Cong, and captured more than 600 Viet Cong leaders.
Commander Seventh Fleet
Detachment Charlie
APO San Francisco 96307

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