

U.S. Army and Marine Corps
Combat Operations, 1965 - 1973
by David Burns Sigler

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errors. The notes only apply to the primary operational areas of
the Americal Division as they existed in 1968. This file is not
a substitute for buying the book. Either purchase this book or get
your library to purchase it!

8 March 1965: The first U.S. combat troops arrive in South Vietnam.
Battalion Landing Team 3/9th Marines (BLT 3/9) of the 3d Marine
Division comes ashore at Red Beach in Da Nang.

22 April 1965: Location: I Corps; Quang Nam Province; Bin Thai.
Action: First firefight between the Viet Cong and the Marines. The
battle takes place nine miles southwest of Da Nang. Units: USMC
- D - 3d Recon Battalion; VNAF - 1 platoon (38 troops); NVA/VC -
1 company of Viet Cong reported. Casualties: U.S. - 1 WIA; NVA/VC
- 1 KIA.

August 1965-January 1966: The 1st Marines of the 1st Marine
Division arrives in South Vietnam. They are stationed at Chu Lai
(I Corps: Quang Tin Province).

6-7 August 1965: Operation Thunderbolt. Locations: I Corps; Quang
Ngai Province; Song Tra Bong River. Type: Search and Destroy.
Units: USMC - 4th Marines; VNAF - 51st ARVN Regiment; NVA/VC - 1st
Viet Cong Regiment. Casualties: U.S. -2 WIA. The Marines suffer
43 heat-related casualties in two days of 105-degree heat.

18-24 August 1965: Operation Starlite. Locations: I Corps; Quang
Ngai Province; Van Tuong Peninsula; Phuoc Thuan Peninsula; Nho Na
Bay; An Cuong (1); An Thoi; Nom Yen; Hill 43; LZs Red, White and
Blue. Type/Objectives; Search and Destroy 15 miles south of Chu
Lai. The mission is to exploit sightings of enemy troops in the
area and prevent an attack on the Chu Lai enclave. Units: USMC -
3/3d Marines, 2/4th Marines, 3/7th Marines; NVA/VC - 1st VC Rgt
(60th and 80th VC bns) (estimated strength of 1500-2000 men).
Events: 18 August - H-2/4th Marines lands at LZ Blue only to find
almost the entire 60th VC Battalion waiting for them. 18 August -
a rescue force, I-2/4th Marines is ambushed near An Cuong (2).
Five Marines are KIA, 17 WIA. 18 August BLT L-3/7th Marines is
ambushed by elements of the 60th VC Battalion while crossing a rice
paddy just east of An Cuong (2). Four Marines are KIA, 17 WIA.

18-20 October 1965: Operation Triple Play. Locations: I Corps; Quang Tin Province; Chu Lai. Type: Search and Destroy - 12 miles north of Chu Lai. Unit: USMC - 3/3d Marines. Casualties: U.S. - 2 WIA; NVA/VC-16 KIA, 6 POWs.

26-27 October 1965: Operation Drum Head. Location: I Corps; Quang Tin Province. Type: Search and Destroy in area southwest of Chu Lai. Unit: USMC - 3/7th Marines. Casualties: U.S. -1 KIA, 2 WIA; NVA/VC - 1 KIA, 26 POW's.

29-30 October 1965: Operation Lien Ket-10. Locations: I Corps; Quang Tin Province; Do Xa Region; Chu Lai. Type/Objective: Search and Clear of Viet Cong Base area 12 miles west of Chu Lai. Units: USMC - 2/4th Marines; VNAF - 2d ARVN Division (3/6th ARVN Regiment). Casualties: None - No enemy contact.

November 1965: The monsoon (rainy) season begins in the norther provinces and ends in the southern provinces.

3-5 November 1965: Operation Black Ferret. Locations: I Corps: Quang Ngai Province; Song Tra Bong River,; Binh Son; LZs Albatross and Condor. Type: Search and Destroy 10 miles south of Chu Lai. Units: USMC - 1/7th Marines, 2/7th Marines, 1st Recon Bn; VNAF - 2d ARVN Division (1/14th and 2/4th ARVN rgts). Event: 4 November - A Marine patrol trips a booby trap wounding six Marines and killing well known combat photographer Dickey Chappelle. Casualties: U.S. - 1 KIA, 13 WIA; NVA/VC - 2 KIA, 6 POWs.

10-12 November 1965: Operation Blue Marlin I. Locations: I Corps; Quang Tin Province; Tam Ky River; Tam Ky. Type/Objective:: Search and Clear of area between Highway 1 and the coast from Da Nang to Chu Lai. Units: USMC - BLT 2/7th Marines; VNAF - 3/VNMC. Casualties: Exact figures not reported.

16-18 November 1965: Operation Blue Marlin II. Locations: I Corps; Quang Nam Province; Truong Giang and Cua Dai rivers. Type/Objective: Search and Clear; follow-up to Blue Marlin I. Units: USMC - 3/3d Marines; VNAF - Two battalions of ARVN Rangers. Casualties : U.S. - 3 WIA; NVA/VC - 25 KIA, 15 POWs.

22-24 November 1965: Location: I Corps; Quang Ngai Province. Event: Marines come to the aid of an ARVN Ranger battalion under attack by an estimated Viet Cong regiment 20 miles south of the city of Quang Ngai. Units: USMC - 3/7th Marines; VNAF - ARVN Rangers. Casualties: U.S. - 2 KIA, 1 WIA; ARVN - 71 KIA, 75 WIA; NVA/VC - 178 KIA (confirmed).

8-20 December 1965: Operation Harvest Moon/Lien Ket-18. Locations: I Corps; Quang Nam and Quang Tin provinces; Phuoc Ha Valley; Que Son Valley; Ly Ly River; Cam La; Hiep Duc; Ky Phu Son Thanh; Thang Binh and Viet An. Type/Objective: Search and Destroy. Harvest Moon/Lien Ket-18 is a combined USMC/ARVN operation meant to prevent the NVA from overrunning the Que Son Valley and taking the ARVN garrisons at Viet An and Que Son. Units: USMC - Task Force Delta (SLF 2/1st Marines, 3/3d Marines, 2/7th Marines, H-2/9th Marines; VNAF - 2d ARVN Division (1/5th ARVN Rgt, 6th ARVN Rgt, 11th Ranger Battalion); NVA/VC - 1st Viet Cong Regiment. Events: 9 December - While attempting to reinforce the ambushed 5th ARVN Regiment, the 3/3d Marines battle 200 Viet Cong. American losses are 11 KIA and 17 WIA. The Marines count 75 VC bodies. 10 December - Marines of F-2/1st Marines and E-2/7th Marines fight a vicious battle five miles northeast of Que Son, near Cam La. Twenty Americans are killed and more than 80 wounded. 18 December - "Battle of Ky Phu." The 2/7th Marines (with H-2/9th Marines attached) are ambushed by the VC 80th Battalion near Ky Phu, five miles northwest of Tam Ky. In the ambush and ensuing firefight 11 Marines are KIA, 71 WIA. The enemy body count is 104. Casualties: Total casualties for Harvest Moon/Lien Ket-18. U.S. - 51 KIA, 256 WIA, 1 MIA; ARVN - 90 KIA, 141 WIA, 91 MIA; NVA/VC - 407 KIA, 33 POWs.

20 February-1 March 1966: Operation Double Eagle II: Locations: I Corps; Quang Tin and Quang Nam provinces; Que Son Valley; Ky Phu; Tam Ky; Thach Tru. Type/Objective: Search and Destroy. Continuation of Double Eagle I with a shift 50 miles north to exploit enemy sightings in the Que Son Valley. Units: USMC - Task Force Delta (3/1st Marines, 2/3d Marines, 2/7th Marines, 2/9th Marines); NVA/VC-1st Viet Cong Regiment. Casualties: U.S. -6 KIA, 136 WIA; NVA/VC - 125 KIA, 15 POWs.

23 February 1966: 1st Marine Division formally arrives in South Vietnam. They are stationed at Chu Lai (I Corps: Quang Tin Province).

4-8 March 1966: Operation Utah/Lien Ket-26. Locations: I Corps; Quang Ngai Province; An Tuyet; Binh Son; Chau Nhai; Khanh My; Quang Ngai City; Son Chau; Buddha Hill (Nui Thien An); Hills 50, 85, and 97; Routes 1 and 527. Type/Objective: Reaction mission in response to an ARVN force's call for help seven miles northwest of Quang Ngai City. Units: USMC - 3/1st Marines, 2d/4th Marines, 1/7th Marines, F,G,H-2/7th Marines; VNAF - 2d ARVN Division (1st ARVN Abn Bn, 5th ARVN Abn Bn, 37th Ranger Bn) (more than 7000 allied troops involved in Utah/Lien Ket-26); NVA/VC - 21st NVA Regiment 36th NVA Regiment (enemy force estimated at more than 2000). Casualties: U.S. -98 KIA, 278 WIA; ARVN - 30 KIA, 120 WIA; NVA/VC - 632 KIA.

19-24 March 1966 - Operation Texas/Lien Ket-26. Locations: I Corps; Quang Ngai Province; Vinh Tuy Valley, An Hoa; Binh Son; Phuoc Loc; Phuong Dinh; Quang Ngai City; Thach An Hoi, Xuan Hoa, Hill 141. Type/Objective: Reaction force operation to retake the An Hoa outpost 25 miles northwest of Quang Ngai City. Units: USMC - 31st Marines, 2/4th Marines, 3/7th Marines; VNAF - 5th Airborne Battalion, elements of the VNMC; NVA/VC - 11/21st NVA rgt, 60 and 90/1st VC Rgt. Event: 22-23 March - "Battle of Phuoc Loc." Companies K, L-3/7th Marines battle two battalions of VC at Phuoc Loc.(1), 10 miles northwest of Quang Ngai City. U.S. losses are seven KIA and 56 WIA. Enemy body count is 60. Casualties: Total for Texas/Lien Ket-26. U.S. - 99 KIA, 212 WIA; NVA/VC - 280-405 (estimated).

28-30 March 1966: Operation Indiana. Locations: I Corps; Quang Ngai Province; Lam Loc; Phuoc Loc; Vin Loc. Type: Reaction force operation in the Texas/Utah area of operations. Units: USMC - 1/7th Marines, 2/7th Marines; VNAF 3/5th ARVN Regiment; NVA/VC - 1st Viet Cong Regiment. Casualties; U.S. - 11 KIA, 45 WIA; NVA/VC - 69 KIA, 1 POW.

April-May 1966 - The 5th Marines of the 1st Marine Division arrive in South Vietnam. They are stationed at Chu Lai (I Corp; Quang Tin Province).

15-16 June 1966: Locations: I Corps; Quang Nam Province; Queson Valley Hill 488 (25 miles west of Chu Lai). Action: "Battle of Nui Vu (Howard's Hill)." An 18-man Marine recon patrol is attacked by a battalion of NVA regulars. Units: USMC - 1st Recon Battalion, C-1/5th Marines (reinforcements); NVA/VC - 3d NVA Regiment (1 Bn). Casualties: U.S. - 8 KIA, 14 WIA; NVA/VC - 42 KIA (Note Howard's hill is also known as LZ East to the Americal Division).

6-14 July 1966: Operation Washington. Locations: I Corps; Quang Tin Province; Do Xa Region; Tranh River; Chu Lai; Hau Duc; Tien Phuoc. Type: Reconnaissance and Exploitation. Unit: USMC - A/1st Recon Battalion. Casualties: U.S. - none; NVA/VC -13 KIA, 4 POWs.

6-22 August 1966: Operation Colorado/Lien Ket-52. Locations: I Corps; Quang Nam and Quang Tin provinces; Que Son Valley; Ly Ly and Nha Ngu rivers; "Pineapple Forest"; Cam Khe; Dai Dong; Hiep Duc; Ky Phu; Thach Thuong, Thang Binh. Type/Objectives; Search and Destroy to drive the enemy from the Que Son Valley. Units: USMC - 1/5th Marines, 2/5th Marines; 3/5th Marines (3000 Marines); VNAF - 2d ARVN Division (2d and 4th ARVN rgts), 2/ARVN Arm Cav, 3/ARVN Arm Cav; VNMC; NVA/VC-2d NVA Division (3d and 21st NVA rgts), 1st Viet Cong Regiment. Event: 10 August - "Battle of Cam Khe." 1/5th Marines battles two battalions from the 3d NVA Regiment at Cam Khe, 20 miles west of Hiep Duc. Fourteen Marines are KIA and 65 WIA. More than 100 NVA are reported KIA. Casualties: NVA/VC-674 KIA (U.S. losses not included in source).

26 August 1966: The 196th Light Infantry Brigade and three of its battalions (2/1st Infantry, 3/21st Infantry (Gimlets) and the 4/31st Infantry (Polar Bears) arrive in South Vietnam. The brigade and its battalions are stationed at Tay Ninh (III Corps; Tay Ninh Province).

8-16 September 1966: Operation Fresno. Location: I Corps; Quang Ngai Province. Type/Objective: Search and Destroy. The goal of Fresno is to prevent the enemy from disrupting the elections,. Units: USMC - 1/7th Marines; VNAF - 2d ARVN Division; NVA/VC - 38th and 44th Main Force battalions (VC). Casualties: Not included in source.

16-27 September 1966; Operation Golden Fleece 7-1. Locations: I Corps; Quang Ngai Province; Mo Duc District; Vo Ha (1). Objective: Protection of the local rice harvest. Units: USMC - 1/7th Marines; VNAF - 2d ARVN Division; NVA/VC - 38th and 44th Viet Cong battalions. Result: 7000 tons of rice harvested and kept from the enemy. Casualties. U.S. - 1 KIA, 19 WIA; NVA-VC 240 KIA.

26 January - 7 April 1967: Operation Desoto. Locations: I Corps; Quang Ngai Province; Quan River; Nui Dang Mountain; Duc Pho; Mo Duc; Sa Binh; Tan Tu; Truong Sanh; Vinh Binh. Type/Objective: Search and Clear 25 miles southeast of Quang Ngai City. The Marines are to relieve an ARVN outpost to free the South Vietnamese troops to be used elsewhere. Units: USMC - 3/5th Marines, F-2/7th Marines, 3/7th Marines; VNAF - 2d ARVN Division (4/4th ARVN Rgt); NVA/VC - 95th Viet Cong Battalion. Events: 24 March - Nui Dang Base Camp is shelled, killing three Marines and wounding 14, 5 April- A series of mine explosions southeast of the Nui Dang hill mass kills 11 Marines, wounds 15 others and destroys a Huey. Casualties: Totals for DeSoto. U.S. - 76 KIA, 573 WIA; NVA/VC - 383 KIA, 9 POWs.

11 February 1967 - 21 January 1968: Operation Pershing. Locations: I Corps; Quang Ngai Province; II Corps; Binh Dinh Province; II Corps; Binh Dinh Province; An Lao, Kim Son, Nuoc Dinh, Phu My; Song Re and Soui Ca valleys; Cay Giep Mountains; Duc Pho; Song Son; Ta Ma; Tam Quan; LZs English, Montezuma, Tom and Two Bits. Type: Clearing and Pacification. Units: USA - 1st Cavalry Division: 1st Bde (1/8th Cav, 2/8th Cav, 1/12th Cav, 1/50th Inf (M)), 2d Bde (1/5th Cav, 2/5th Cav, 2/12th Cav), 3d Bde (1/7th Cav, 5/7th Cav), 25th Infantry Division (3 January 1967-12 February 1967); 3d Bde (1/14th Inf, 1/35th Inf, 2/35th Inf); VNAF - 22d (2d Division 22 Regiment?) ARVN Division (40th ARVN Regiment); ROK - Capital Division; NVA/VC - 3d NVA Division, 18th NVA Regiment, 22d NVA Regiment, 95th Viet Cong Battalion. Events: 28 June - "Battle of An Quang-Dam Tra O Lake," 1/9th Cavalry and 2/5th Cavalry clash with the 9/18th NVA Regiment near An Quang, 12 miles southeast of Bong Son. Eighty-nine NVA bodies counted. 2 July - A U.S. force is attacked by two NVA companies near LZ Geronimo, north of Bong Son. American losses are 15 KIA and 39 WIA. 9 August - "Battle of LZ Pat." The 1/9th Cavalry and A-2/8th Cavalry engage more than 80 enemy soldiers 32 miles southwest of Quang Ngai City (I Corps; Quang Ngai Province). The 1st Cav losses are 11 KIA. 22 August-3 September - A-2/5th Cavalry traps an estimated 100 enemy troops in the Nui Mieu Cave complex. A continuous pounding and siege of the area kill 33 and permit the capture of 41 others. Only one cavalryman is wounded in the action. 31 October - NVA troops launch a rocket and small arms-fire attack on C-150th Infantry (M) southwest of the Cay Giep Mountains (II Corps; Binh Dinh Province). Losses: U.S. - 3 KIA, 10 WIA; NVA/VC - 15 KIA. 6-20 December - "Battle of Tam Quan." In one of the largest battles of Pershing, the 1/9th Cavalry, 1/8th Cavalry, 1/12th Cavalry, 1/50th Infantry (M) and the 40th ARVN Regiment assault the heavily defended village of Tam Quan, about 10 miles northeast of Bong Son (II Corps; Binh Dinh Province). The village is defended by the 7th and 8th battalions of the NVA 22d Regiment, Losses for the battle: U.S. - 58 KIA, 250 WIA; NVA/VC - 647 KIA, 6 POW's. Casualties: Totals for Pershing. U.S. - 852 KIA, 4119 WIA, 22 MIA; NVA/VC-5401 KIA, 2059 POWs.

16 February-3 March 1967: Operations Deckhouse VI. Locations: I Corps; Quang Ngai Province; Nui Dau; Duc Pho; LZ Bat. Type/Objective: Search and Destroy to prevent enemy movement in area of operations. Deckhouse VI is also a companion operation to Desoto. Units: USMC - SLF-BLT 1/14th Marines, 1/5th Marines; NVA/VC 38th Viet Cong Battalion. Casualties: U.S. - 5 KIA, 55 WIA; NVA/VC - 204 KIA.

7-22 April 1967: Operation Lejeune. Locations: I Corps; Quang Ngai Province; II Corps; Binh Dinh Province; An Khe; Duc Pho; Razorback Beach; LZ Montezuma. Type/Objective: Lejeune is a logistical operation to move the 2d Brigade of the 1st Cavalry Division into Quang Ngai Province. The purpose is to free up the Marines in Quang Ngai and allow them to be redeployed into northern I Corps. Units: USA - 1st Cavalry Division: 2d Bde (1/5th Cav, 2/5th Cav, 2/12th Cav). Comment: Lejeune puts the first U.S. Army troops into I Corps. Casualties: NVA/VC - 176 KIA, 127 POW's (U.S. losses not included in sources).

12 April 1967: Task Force Oregon is formed in South Vietnam in response to MACV's need for reinforcements in I Corps. The task force is stationed at Chu Lai (Quang Tin) Province) and is made up of the following units: 25th Infantry Division: 3d Bde (1/14th Inf, 1/35th Inf, 2/35th Inf), 101st Airborne Division: 1st Bde (1/327th Abn, 2/327th Abn, 2/502d Abn), 196th Light Infantry Brigade (2/1st Inf, 3/21st Inf, 4/31st Inf), 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment (2d Sqn).

19 April - 20 September: Operation Baker. Locations: I Corps, Quang Ngai Province, An Ba; Ba To; Dien Truong; Duc Pho; Gia Vuc; Ha Thanh; Minh Long; Mo Duc; Pho Nghia. Type/Objective: Search and Destroy. The purpose of Baker is to deny the enemy the use of the lowlands near Duc Pho, this cutting his food supply and recruiting ability. Units: USA - Task Force Oregon: 25th Infantry Division: 3d Bde (1/14 Inf., 1/35th Inf, 2/35th Inf, C-3/4th Cav, C-1/10th Cav); NVA/VC - 3d NVA Division, 22d NVA Rgt, 60/1st VC Rgt, 97/2d VC Rgt. Events: 19-20 May - "Battle of Vinh Hiem," American units from A,C-2/35th Infantry, B-1/9th Cavalry and C-3/4th Cavalry clash with the NVA north of Duc Pho. Five U.S. soldiers are KIA and 24 WIA. The enemy body count is 89 KIA and 3 captured. 27-30 May - "Battle of Tan Phong." B-1/9th Cavalry, C-3/4th Cavalry and B-2/35th Infantry are embroiled in a two-day firefight north of Duc Pho with an NVA company-sized force. Losses: U.S. - 4 KIA, 27 WIA; NVA - 116 KIA, 8 POWs. 15 July - C-1/35th Infantry battles a well entrenched enemy force of unknown size 15 miles southwest of Duc Pho. The eight-hour fight ends as U.S. troops frontally assault the enemy bunkers. Two Americans are KIA and 16 WIA in the firefight. The NVA body count is 25. Casualties: Totals for Baker, U.S - 32 KIA, 70 WIA; NVA/VC - 371 KIA, 3+ POWs.

21 April-17 May 1967: Operation Union, Locations: I Corps; Quang Nam and Quang Tin provinces; Que Son Valley; Nui Nong Ham; Nui Loc Son; Song Chang and Suoi Cho Dun rivers; Binh Son; Phu Thai; Phuoc Thuong; Thang Binh. Type/Objective; Search and Destroy. Union's mission is to eliminate the last VC stronghold between Chu Lai and Da Nang; the Que Son Valley. (Note: The Que Son is also known as the Nui Loc Son Basin and the Phuoc Ha Valley.) Units: USMC -1st Marines, 2/1st Marines, 3d/1st Marines, 1/5th Marines, 3/5th Marines; VNAF - 1st ARVN Ranger Group; NVA/VC - 2d NVA Division (3d NVA Regiment). Events: 27 April - A marine from the 3/5th Marines accidentally trips a string of land mines that kills one American and wounds 43 others. 10 May - "Battle of Hill 110". In a vicious day-long battle, the marines of 1/5th and 1/3d Marines assault and finally capture the crests of Hill 110 and Nui Nong Ham, 2.5 miles from Que Son. Casualties for the day: U.S. - 33 KIA, 135 WIA; NVA/VC - 116 KIA. Tragically, five of the dead and 24 of the wounded marines are the result of an accidental bombing by American F-4s. Casualties: Totals for Union. U.S. - 110 KIA, 473 WIA, 2 MIA; NVA/VC - 865 KIA.

28 April - 12 May 1967: Operation Beaver Cage. Locations: I Corps; Quang Nam Province; Que Son Valley, Type/Objective: Search and Destroy 25 miles south of Da Nang. Units: USMC-SLF Alpha - BLT 1/3d Marines. Casualties: Totals for Beaver Cage. U.S. - 55 KIA, 151 WIA; NVA/VC-181 KIA, 66 POWs.

May: The monsoon (rainy) season begins in the southern provinces and ends in the north.

11 May - 2 August 1967: Operations Malheur I-II. Locations: I Corps; Quang Ngai Province; Song Ne and Song Tra Cau valleys; Duc Pho; Minh Long; Mo Duc; FSB Champs, Type/Objective: Search and Destroy designed to keep Route 1 open to the Binh Dinh Provincial border and to assist in the area's revolutionary development programs. Units: USA - Task Force Oregon - 25th Infantry Division: 3d Bde (1/14th Inf, 1/35th Inf, 2/35th Inf), 101st Airborne Division: 1st Bde (1/327th Inf, 2/327th Inf and 2/502d Abn), 196th Light Infantry Brigade (2/1st Inf, 3/21st Inf and 4/31st Inf); NVA/VC -2d NVA Division. Event: 18 June - Second platoon of A-3/21st Infantry (196th LIB) ambushes an NVA unit 16 miles south of Chu Lai. Two Americans are WIA, two NVA KIA and two captured. Casualties: U.S. casualties are from the 101st Airborne only; other figures not included in source documents. NVA/VC totals are for entire operation. U.S. - 45 KIA, 433 WIA; NVA/VC - 869 KIA, 80 POWs.

25 May-5 June 1967: Operation Union II. Locations: I Corps; Quang Tin Province; Que Son Valley (Nui Loc Son Basin); Ly Ly River; Tam Ky; Vinh Huy; LZs Blue Jay, Eagle and Robin. Type/Objective: Search and Clear operation to follow up on Union I. Union II is in reaction to intelligence reports the 3d and 21st NVA regiments are moving back into the Que Son Valley. Units: USMC 1/5th Marines, 3/5th Marines; VNAF - 6th ARVN Regiment, 1st ARVN Rangers Group; NVA/VC-3d and 21st NVA regiments reported in area of operations. Events: 26 May - "Battle of LZ Eagle." Companies L and M - 3/5th Marines air assault into Eagle against elements of the 3d NVA Regiment 2.5 miles east of Nui Loc Son outpost (near Vinh Huy). Losses: U.S. - 38 KIA, 82 WIA; NVA/VC-171 KIA (estimated). 30 May-2 June- The 1/5th and 3/5th Marines assault a heavily fortified enemy position in the hills along the southern rim of the Que Son Valley, near the Vinh Huy village complex (5.2 miles southeast of Que Son). Losses in the battle: U.S. - 73 KIA, 139 WIA; NVA/VC - 540 KIA. Casualties: Totals for Union II. U.S. - 110 KIA, 241 WIA; NVA/VC - 711 KIA, 23 POWs.

3-4 July 1967: Location: I Corps: Quang Nam Province: Nong Son. Action: NVA soldiers launch an attack on South Vietnam's only producing coal mine at Nong Son. Unit: USMC - F-2/5th Marines. Casualties: U.S. - 13 KIA, 43 WIA; NVA/VC 44 KIA.

6-12 July: Operation Lake. Location: I Corps; Quang Ngai Province; Song Ne Valley. Type/Objective: Search and Destroy. Lake is to provide security for engineer operations on Route 1 between Dien Truong and Sa Huynh. Units: USA - Task Force Oregon - 101st Airborne Division: 1st Bde (1/327th Abn, A-2/17th Cav, 1 plt-C-2/34th Armor). Casualties: U.S. 2 KIA, 40 WIA.

1-19 August 1967: Locations: I Corps; Quang Ngai Province: Nuoc Dinh and Song Re valleys. Type/Objective: Reconnaissance in Force into southern Quang Ngai Province. Units: USA - 1st Cavalry Division: 1st Bde (2/8th Cav), 2d Bde (2/12th Cav), 3d Bde (5/7th Cav), Casualties: U.S. - 7 KIA, 44 WIA; NVA/VC - 42 KIA, 2 POWs.

2-13 August 1967: Operation Hood River. Location: I Corps,; Quang Ngai Province; Base Areas 118 and 121. Type/Objective: Search and Destroy 25 miles west of Quang Ngai City. Units: USA - Task Force Oregon, 101st Airborne Division: 1st Bde (1/327th Inf, 2/327th Inf, 2/502d Abn), 196th Light Infantry Brigade (2/1st Inf, 3/21st Inf, 4/31st Inf); VNAF - 2d ARVN Division; ROK - 2d ROK Marine Brigade; NVA/VC - 2d NVA Division. Casualties: U.S. - 3 KIA, 38 WIA; NVA/VC - 78 KIA, 13 POWs.

11-28 August 1967: Operation Cochise. Locations: I Corps: Quang Tin Province; Que Son Valley; Hiep Duc; Tam Ky; Thang Binh, Type/Objective: Search and Destroy, Cochise is a continuation of operations in the old Union II area of the Que Son Valley. Units: USMC-SLF Alpha-BLT 1/3d Marines. Task Force X-Ray (1/5th Marines, 3/5th Marines); VNAF - 2d ARVN Division (6th ARVN Regiment). ARVN Rangers; NVA/VC - 2d NVA Division, 3d NVA Regiment, 1st Viet Cong Regiment. Casualties: Totals for Beacon Gate and Cochise. U.S. 10 KIA, 93 WIA; NVA/VC - 156 KIA, 13 POWs.

31 August- 1 September 1967: Operation Strike Force, Locations: I Corps, Quang Ngai Province; Lang Di; Quyet Thang. Type/Objective: Airmobile raid to liberate U.S. and VNAF POWs. Unit: USA - Task Force Oregon - 101st Airborne Division: 1st Bde (2/502d Abn). Casualties: Not included in source document.

4-15 September: Operation Swift. Locations: I Corps: Quang Nam and Quang Tin provinces; Que Son Valley; Hills 48 and 63 (LZ Baldy?); Chau Lam; Dong Son; Tam Ky; Thang Binh; Vinh Huy, Objective: Swift is to prevent enemy disruption of the national elections. Units: USMC - Task Force X-Ray (1/5th Marines, H-2/5th Marines, 3/5th Marines); USA - 4th Infantry Division: 3d Bde (1/14th Inf: note: 1/14th Inf attached to USMC Task Force X-Ray); NVA/VC-2d NVA Division. 3d NVA Regiment, 1st Viet Cong Regiment. Events: 4 September- "Battle of Dong Son (2)/Chau Lam." Companies D,B-1/5th Marines encounter heavy resistance near the hamlets of Dong Son (2) and Chua Lam, eight miles southwest of Thang Binh. As the fighting increases in intensity, companies K,M-3/5th Marines are sent in as reinforcements. Casualties: U.S. - 54 KIA, 104 WIA; NVA/VC -130 KIA. 5-7 September - Companies D,B-1/5th Marines again engage a large enemy force, this time at Vinh Huy, approximately 12 miles southwest of Thang Binh. Marine losses are 35 KIA and 92 WIA. Losses for the 1st Viet Cong Regiment are 61 KIA. 6 September - "Battle of Hill 43." Companies I,K-3/5th wage a fierce battle for Hill 43, approximately nine miles southwest of Thang Binh. Losses: U.S.-34 KIA, 109 WIA; NVA/VC-88 KIA. Casualties: Totals for Swift. U.S. -127 KIA, 362 WIA; NVA/VC - 517 KIA, 8 POWs

11 September-11 November 1967: Operation Wheeler, Locations: I Corps; Quang Tin Province, Tam Ky; Tien Phuoc. Type: Search and Destroy. Units: USA - Task Force Oregon-23d Infantry Division(Americal) after 25 September, 196th Light Infantry Brigade (1/1st Inf, 3/21st Inf, 4/31st Inf), 4th Infantry Division: 3rd Bde (1/14th Inf, 1/35th Inf), 101st Airborne Division: 1st Bde (1/327th Abn, 2/327th Abn, 2/502d Abn, A-2/17th Cav); VNAF 2d ARVN Division; NVA/VC - 2d NVA Division (21st and 31st NVA regiments), 1st and 21st Main Force regiments (VC) reported in area of operations. Events: 7-9 October - U.S. forces from A-2/502d Airborne, A-2/237th Airborne and A-1/35th Infantry fight a running three-day battle throughout Quang Tin Province. Losses: U.S. - 34 KIA, 26 WIA; NVA/VC - 92 KIA. 21 October - While patrolling northwest of Tam Ky, A-2/502d Airborne receives heavy mortar and machinegun fire from an enemy force of unknown size. American losses are 7 KIA and 17 WIA. 27 October - B-2/237th Airborne clashes with a well-entrenched NVA company 10 miles northwest of Tam Ky. Eleven Americans are KIA and 18 WIA in the six-hour battle. Enemy losses are unknown. Comment: Wheeler combined with Wallowa 11 November. Casualties: Totals for Wheeler U.S. - 126 KIA, 498 WIA;; NVA/VC-1,103 KIA, 50 POWs.

22 September 1967: MACV redesignates Task Force Oregon as 23d Infantry Division (Americal). The new division is based at Chu Lai (I Corps; Quang Tin Province) and initially consists of only the 196th Light Infantry Brigade. The 11th and 198th Light Infantry brigades join the Americal by the end of the year.

4 October - 11 November 1967: Operation Wallowa. Locations: I Corps: Quang Tin Province; Chu Lai; Hiep Duc; Que Son; Tam Ky; Thang Binh. Objective: The goal of Wallowa is to reinforce the III MAF allowing more Marines to be deployed further north and to relieve some of the pressure in southern I Corps, Units: USA - 1st Cavalry Division: 2d Bde (5/7th Cav, B-1/9th Cav), 3d Bde (1/7th Cav, 2/12th Cav), 23rd Infantry Division (Americal): 196th Light Infantry Brigade (2/1st Inf, 1/6th Inf, 3/21st Inf, 4/31st Inf, 1/46th Inf); NVA/VC - 2d NVA Division (3d and 21st NVA rgts). Comment: Wallowa merged with Wheeler on 11 November. Casualties: Totals for Wallowa current to 31 October. U.S. - 46 KIA, 480 WIA; NVA/VC - 675 KIA, 17 POWs.

20 October 1967: The 4/3d Infantry (The Old Guard) of the 11th Infantry Brigade, 23d Infantry Division (Americal), arrives in South Vietnam. The battalion is stationed at Duc Pho (I Corps; Quang Ngai Province.)

21 October 1967: The 198th Light Infantry Brigade arrives in South Vietnam. The Brigade is assigned to the 23d Infantry Division (Americal) and is stationed at Duc Pho (I Corps; Quang Ngai Province).

22 October 1967: The 1/6th Infantry (The regulars) and the 1/46th Infantry (The Professionals) of the 198th Light Infantry Brigade, 23d Infantry Division (Americal), arrive in South Vietnam. The battalions are stationed at Duc Pho (I Corps: Quang Ngai Province).

November 1967: The monsoon (rainy) season begins in the northern provinces and ends in the south.

6-17 November: Operation Essex 1967. Locations: I Corps: Quang Nam Province; "Antenna Valley"; An Hoa; Ap Bon. Type/Objective: Search and Destroy six miles south of An Hoa. Essex is a complementary operation to the Army's Wheeler/Wallowa. It is the Marines' intention to drive the NVA from the Essex area of operations into the Que Son Valley and forces from the 23d Infantry Division (Americal). Units: USMC - 2/5th Marines; NVA/VC - 2d NVA Division (2d NVA Regiment). Event: 6 November - Companies F,H-2/5th Marines assault the village of Ap Bon (2). Marine losses are 16 KIA and 37 WIA. Casualties U.S. - 37 KIA, 122 WIA; NVA/VC - 72 KIA.

11 November 1967 - 11 November 1968: Operation Wheeler/Wallowa. Locations: I Corps; Quang Nam and Quang Tin provinces; Que Son Valley; Nui Hoac Ridge; Hiep Duc; FSB Center; LZs Baldy, Cacti and West. Type/ Objective; Search and Destroy operation to clear the enemy out of Quang Nam and Quang Tin provinces, with special emphasis on the Que Son Valley, Units: USA - 1st Cavalry Division: 2d Bde (5/7th Cav), 3d Bde (1/7th Cav, 2/12th Cav), 23d Infantry Division (Americal): 196th Light Infantry Brigade (2/1st Inf, 3/21st Inf, 4/31st Inf), 198th Light Infantry Brigade (1/6th Inf, 1/46th Inf, 1/1st Cav), 101st Airborne Division: 1st Bde (1/327th Abn, 2/327th Abn, 2/502d Abn, A-2/17th Cav); NVA/VC - 2d NVA Division (3d and 31st NVA rgts). Events: 3 January Units: from the 196th Light Infantry Brigade encounter soldiers from the 2d NVA Division near Hiep Duc (Quang Tin Province). Eighteen Americans are KIA and 100 WIA. 9 February 1968 - the 1/14th Infantry and 1/35th Infantry (3d Bde/4th Infantry Division attached to the 23d Infantry Division) meet the 21st NVA Regiment near Go Noi Island, 12 miles south of DaNang. More than 230 of the enemy are KIA. Comment: Wheeler/Wallowa is a combination of the 1st Cavalry's Wallowa (4 October - 11 November) and the 23d Infantry Division's Wheeler (11 September - 11 November). Casualties: U.S. - 682 KIA, 3995 WIA; NVA/VC - 10,008 KIA, 184 POWs.

13-30 November 1967: Operation Foster/Badger Hunt. Locations: I Corps; Quang Nam Province; Song Thu Bon River; An Hoa; Dai Loc; Duc Duc; Hiep Duc. Type/Objective: Search and Destroy 15 miles southwest of Da Nang in retaliation for VC raids on Dai Loc and Duc Duc. Foster/Badger Hunt is also to prevent enemy infiltration into the DaNang rocket belt. Units: USMC-3/7th Marines (Foster), SLF Bravo-BLT 2/3d Marines (Badger Hunt); NVA/VC - 20 and V-25 battalions (VC), Q-13 Viet Cong Company. Casualties: U.S. -25 KIA, 137 WIA; NVA/VC-125 KIA, 8 POWs.

18 December 1967: The 1/20th Infantry (Syke's Regulars) of the 11th Light Infantry Brigade (Americal), arrives in South Vietnam. The battalion is stationed at Duc Pho (I Corps; Quang Ngai Province).

19 December 1967: The 11th Light Infantry Brigade, part of the 23rd Infantry Division (Americal), officially arrives in South Vietnam. The Brigade is stationed at Duc Pho (I Corps; Quang Ngai Province).

19 December 1967: the 3/1st Infantry of the 11th Light Infantry Brigade, 23d Infantry Division (Americal), arrives in South Vietnam. The battalion is stationed at Duc Pho (I Corps; Quang Ngai Province).

19 December 1967-10 June 1968: Operation Muscatine. Locations: I Corps; Quang Ngai Province; Binh Son; Duc Pho; Son Tinh. Type/Objective: Search and Destroy. The goals of Muscatine are the relief of the ROK 2d Marine Brigade and the pacification of Quang Ngai Province. Units: USA - 4th Infantry Division: 3d Bde (2/12th Inf, 1/14th Inf, 2/22d Inf, 3/22d Inf), 23d Infantry Division (Americal), 11th Light Infantry Brigade (3/1st Inf., 4/3d Inf, 1/20th Inf, 4/21st Inf), 198th Light Infantry Brigade (1/6th Inf, 1/46th Inf 5/46th Inf, 1/52d Inf); VNAF -2d ARVN Division. Event: 16 March 1968- In the most notorious and well publicized atrocity committed by American troops during the war, a platoon of C-1/20th Infantry (11th Infantry Brigade/23d Infantry Division (Americal)) attacks the village of Son My (4)... better known as My Lai. The soldiers, led by Lt. William Calley, kill between 200 and 500 unarmed civilians. My Lai is located in I Corps, Quang Ngai Province, approximately six miles northeast of Quang Ngai City. Casualties: Totals for Muscatine. U.S. - 186 KIA, 417 WIA; NVA/VC - 1,129 KIA.

31 December 1967: There are now more than 480,000 U.S. personnel in South Vietnam, an increase of 1000,000 for the year. U.S. ground forces end the year in the following strengths: Army - 331,000, Marines - 78,000; American losses for the year: 9353 KIA, 62024 WIA. Another 328 U.S. aircraft were lost over North Vietnam in 1967, bringing the total number of planes lost or shot down to 779 since the Rolling Thunder program began. Total American losses in Vietnam since 1959; 16,021 KIA, 107,407 WIA; VNAF strength at the end of the year: 800,000; VNAF losses for the year 11,135 KIA; total VNAF KIA since 1965: 62,428; estimated NVA/VC strength at the end of 1967: 500,000; estimated NVA/VC losses since 1965: 186,616 KIA.

31 January - 7 March 1968: The TET Offensive. Locations: Attacks launched in all four corps areas. Objective: The communist leadership hoped to bring about a quick end to the war by launching an all-out offensive against the cities, hoping to trigger a massive uprising of southern sympathizers who would join forces with the communists and topple the Thieu-Ky government and drive the Americans out of Vietnam. The communists were well aware 1968 was an election year in the United States and what impact an attack of this nature would have on American public opinion. Events: 31 January-The TET Offensive begins as communist forces attack cities and allied installations throughout the country. Thirty-six of the 44 provincial capitals, five of six autonomous cities and 23 major bases and airfields are attacked on the first night of the Vietnamese holiday season. Note: Other events listed under individual operation entries. Casualties: Totals for TET. U.S. 1536 KIA, 7764 WIA, 11 MIA; VNAF - 2788 KIA, 8299 WIA, 687 MIA; NVA/VC - 45,000 KIA (estimated), 6,991 POWs.

6-9 February 1968 - Operation Miracle.

Location: I Corps; Quang Nam Province. Units: USA - 23d Infantry Division (Americal), 198th Light Infantry Brigade (1/6th Inf); NVA/VC - 2d NVA Division (elements). Casualties: Not included in source document.

10 February 1968: The 1/52d Infantry (The Ready Rifles) arrives in South Vietnam. The 1/52d is part of the 198th Light Infantry Brigade, 23d Infantry Division (Americal). The battalion is stationed at Chu Lai (I Corps; Quang Tin Province).

8 March - 17 May: Operations Carentan I-II. Locations: I Corps; Quang Tri and Thua Thien provinces; Song Bo River; Col Co Beach; Hue; Phuoc Yen; Van Xa Lang; Xom Dong; FSB Hardcore; LZs Devil, Detroit, Geronimo, Pinky. Type/Objective: Carentan I-II combines Search and Destroy, Cordon and Search and Reconnaissance in Force operations into the lowlands of Quang Tri and Thua Thien provinces. Note: Carentan I (8-30 March) and Carentan II (1 April-17 May). Units: USA-23d Infantry Division (Americal), 198th Light Infantry Brigade (2/1st Infantry), 3d Brigade/82d Airborne Division (1/505th Abn., 2/505th Abn, 1/508th Abn), 101st Airborne Division: 1st Bde (2/327th Abn, 2/17 Cav), 2d Bde (1/501st Inf, 2/501st Inf, 1/502d Inf); VNAF - 1st ARVN Division; NVA/VC - 324-B NVA Division (90th, 803d and 812th NVA regiments), 4th NVA Regiment. Events: 10 April- "Battle of Thon Phuoc Dien." Companies A,B,D-2/501st Infantry (101st Abn Div) encounter an estimated six battalions from the 812th NVA Regiment near the small village of Thon Phuoc Dien, 12 miles southeast of Quang Tri City. Seven Americans are KIA and 35 WIA in the firefight. Enemy losses are reported at 66 KIA. 28 April-4 May- While conducting a Cordon and Search of the villages of Thon Duong Son and Phuoc Yen, several elements of the 101st Airborne Division clash with a strong enemy force four miles northwest of Hue. Involved in the action are B,D-2/501st Infantry, 1/502d Infantry, 2/1st Infantry, 2/17th Cavalry and the 2/327th Airborne versus the 8/90th NVA Regiment. Losses in the fight: U.S. - 6 KIA, 43 WIA; NVA/VC - 314 KIA, 107 POWs. 1 May - the 2/17th Cavalry battles a reinforced company of NVA soldiers 13 miles northwest of Hue. Losses: U.S. - 2 KIA, 26 WIA; NVA/VC-82 KIA, 5-6 May-"Battle of La Chu." While conducting a Cordon and Search of La Chu, three miles northwest of Hue, companies A,D-1/501st Infantry, A,C-2/501st Infantry, 2/17th Cavalry and C-2/34th Armor engage an NVA force of unknown size. Losses: U.S. - 1 KIA, 18 WIA; NVA/VC-55 KIA. Casualties: Totals for Carentan I-II. U.S.-193 KIA, 1,190 WIA, 11 MIA; NVA/VC - 1,892 KIA, 69 POWs.

30 March 1968-31 January 1969 ; Operation Cochise Green/Dan Sinh. Locations: II Corps; Binh Dinh Province; Kron River; Soui Ca Valley; Vinh Thanh Mountains; Bong Son; Truong Lam; LZs Dog, English and Uplift. Type: Search and Destroy - Pacification. Units: USA - 4th Infantry Division: 3d Bde (1/14th Inf, 1/35th Inf, 2/35th, 1/50th Inf [M], 23d Infantry Division (Americal) - elements, 173d Airborne Brigade (1/503d Abn, 2/503d Abn); VNAF - 22d ARVN Division (40th and 41st ARVN regiments); NVA/VC - 3d NVA Division (2d, 18th and 22d NVA regiments). Events: 5 May - Company A-2/503d is ambushed by a platoon of enemy troops south of Gia An, approximately nine miles northeast of Bong Son. Eight Sky Soldiers are WIA in the firefight. Thirteen NVA/VC bodies are found. 5 May - Companies A,C-1/50th Infantry (M) and B-1/69th Armor engage an estimated two NVA battalions near My Duc, three miles south of Bong Son. Losses: U.S. - 6 KIA, 50 WIA, 9 MIA; NVA/VC - 100 KIA. 7 May - The overnight position of companies B,C-1/50th Infantry (M) near the Dam Tra-O Lake, approximately 10 miles southeast of Bong Son, is rocketed killing seven and wounding 43 others. Enemy losses in the attack are reported at 18 KIA. 11 May - B,C-1/50th Infantry (M) confronts an estimated NVA battalion near Loc Son, 13 miles southeast of Bong Son. Losses: U.S. - 3 KIA, 33 WIA; NVA/VC - 60 KIA. 22 September-6 October - "Battle of Soui Ca Valley." Elements from the 41st ARVN Regiment and the 1/503d Airborne engage the 7 and 8/18th NVA Regiment in the Soui Ca Valley, approximately 20 miles south of Bong Son. A reported 197 NVA/VC are KIA. Casualties: Totals for Cochise Green/Dan Sinh. U.S. - 114 KIA, 187 WIA (current as of October 1968); NVA/VC - 929 KIA, 25 POWs (total).

31 March 1968: The 5/46th Infantry (The Professionals) of the 198th Light Infantry Brigade/23d Infantry Division (Americal) arrives in South Vietnam. The battalion is initially stationed at Chu Lai (I Corps; Quang Tin Province).

8 April-11 November 1968: Operation Burlington Trail. Locations: I Corps; Quang Tin Province; "Hawk Hill"; Tam Ky; Tien Phuoc; LZs Pleasantville, Professional and Young, Objective; As a companion operation to Wheeler/Wallowa, Burlington Trail is a sweep of the Quang Nam/Quang Tin border area. Units: USA - 23d Infantry Division (Americal: 11th Light Infantry Brigade (1/20th Inf), 196th Light Infantry Brigade (2/1st Inf), 198th Light Infantry Brigade (1/6th Inf, 1/46th Inf, 1/1st Cav); VNAF-2d ARVN Division (6th ARVN Regiment); NVA/VC - 2d NVA Division. Casualties: U.S. - 129 KIA, 965 WIA; NVA/VC-1931 KIA.

9-19 April 1968: Operation Norfolk Victory. Locations: I Corps; Quang Ngai Province; Song Ve Valley; Base Area 121; Nghia Hanh; Tu Nghia. Objective: Prevention of enemy massing for an attack on Quang Ngai City and to neutralize Base Area 121. Units: USA -23d Infantry Division (Americal); 11th Light Infantry Brigade (3/1st Inf, 4/3d Inf, 1/20th Inf); VNAF - 4/4th ARVN Regiment 1/4th ARVN Cavalry. Casualties: U.S. - 6 KIA, 33 WIA; NVA/VC - 45 KIA, 2 POWs.

14 April 1968: The 4/21st Infantry (Gimlet) arrives in South Vietnam. The 4/21st is part of the 11th Light Infantry Brigade/23 Infantry Division (Americal). The battalion is stationed at Duc Pho (I Corps; Quang Ngai Province).

15 April 1968-28 February 1969: Operation Scotland II. Locations: I Corps; Quang Tri Province; Ca Lu; Daido; Dong Ha; Khe Sanh. Type/Objective: Search and Destroy. Scotland II is a continuation of Scotland I and is also a follow-up to the recently terminated Pegasus. Units: USA - 1st Cavalry Division: 3d Bde (elements); USMC 1/1st Marines, 2/1st Marines, 1/3d Marines, 2/4th Marines, 3/4th Marines; VNAF-2d ARVN Regiment; NVA/VC-304th and 320th NVA divisions. Event: 29 April-4 May- "Battle of Dong Ha." The battle develops as an estimated 8,000 troops of the 320th NVA Division attempt to take the 3d Marine Division's headquarters at Dong Ha. The defenders consist of Task Force Robbie: 2/4th Marines and 1/3d Marines assisted by the 2d ARVN Regiment. The heaviest fighting occurs near the village of Daido, 1.5 miles northeast of Dong Ha. American losses in the battle; 68 KIA, 323 WIA. Casualties: Totals for Scotland II. U.S. - 435 KIA, 2,395 WIA; NVA/VC -3304 KIA, 64 POWs. (Note 23d Inf Division's 196th Light Infantry Brigade's 3/21st Inf won a Presidential Navy Unit citation fighting the 320 NVA Division with the 3/4th Marines. There is a book by Keith Nolan published in 1994 on this action. The military records got crossed up when the 3/21st was pulled out as the reserve for the assault into the Ashau valley and used with the Marines when they discovered the 320th NVA Division moving south.)

19 April-17 May 1968: Operation Delaware/Lam Son -216. Locations: I Corps: Quang Tri and Thua Thien provinces; Ashau Valley; Pac Nhe Valley; Rao Loa River; "Punchbowl"; A Loui; Ta Bat; FSB Bastogne; LZs Cecile, Pepper, Stallion, Tiger and Vicky. Type/Objective: Reconnaissance in Force. Delaware is an airmobile raid into the enemy stronghold of the Ashau Valley. The goal is to exploit the enemy defeat in Pegasus and take advantage of enemy troops massed in the area. A secondary purpose of Delaware is to prevent another attack on Hue. Units: USA - 1st Cavalry Division; 1st Bde (1/8th Cav, 2/8th Cav, 1/12th Cav), 2d Bde (1/5th Cav, 5/7th Cav, 1/9th Cav), 3d Bde (1/7th Cav, 2/7th Cav), 23 Infantry Division (Americal), 196th Light Infantry Brigade (2/1st Inf, 3/21st Inf, 4/31st Inf), 101st Airborne Division; 1st Bde (1/327th Abn, 2/327th Abn, 2/502d Abn); VNAF - 1st ARVN Division (3d ARVN Regiment, 6th ARVN Airborne Battalion). Casualties: Totals for Delaware/Lam Son-216. U.S. - 142 KIA, 731 WIA, 47 MIA; NVA/VC 869 KIA. (Note- Americal Division troops were listed as reserve units for this operation. They were not sent in, instead they were used to fight the 320th NVA division along the DMZ)

May: the monsoon (rainy) season begins in the southern provinces and ends in the North.

5 May 1968: The second TET Offensive, or Mini TET, begins throughout the country. Although not as fierce or widespread as the 31 January attack, 152 Americans die in just eight days of fighting.

10-12 May 1968 : Operation Golden Valley. Location: I Corps: Quang Tin Province; Kham Duc. Objective; Evacuation of approximately 1400 personnel from the Kham Duc Special Forces Camp, 60 miles west of Chu Lai. Units: USA - 23d Infantry Division (Americal); 196th Light Infantry Brigade (2/1st Inf), 198th Light Infantry Brigade (A/1/46th Inf); NVA/VC - 2d NVA Division (elements). Event: 12 May - "Battle of Kham Duc." Elements from the 2d NVA Division attack the U.S. Special Forces Camp at Kham Duc. The defenders, 2/1st Infantry, A-1/46th Infantry, kill more than 300 NVA. At least 20 Americans are KIA. Also during the attack, an evacuation plane carrying 150 civilians is hit and shot down by enemy fire killing all aboard. Casualties: Totals for Golden Valley. U.S. - 20+ KIA, 116 WIA, 21 MIA; NVA/VC - 345 KIA.

19-29 June 1968: Operation Chattahoochee Swamp. Locations: I Corps: Quang Ngai Province: Base Area 121; Duc Pho; Ha Thanh. Type/Objective: Search and Destroy aimed at neutralizing enemy units in the vicinity of Base Area 121. Units: USA - 23d Infantry Division (Americal), 11th Light Infantry Brigade (3/1st Inf); VNAF - 2d ARVN Division (1/4th ARVN, 2/4th ARVN, 4/4th ARVN regiments); NVA/VC - 81st Local Force Battalion (VC). Casualties: U.S.- 2 KIA, 18 WIA; NVA/VC -23 KIA.

20 June-3 July 1968: Operation Vance Canyon. Locations: I Corps; Quang Ngai Province; Base Areas 114 and 120; Chu Lai; Tra Bong; LZ Gator. Type/Objective: Search and Destroy into enemy Base Areas 114 and 120. Units: USA-23d Infantry Division (Americal); 198th Light Infantry Brigade (1/52d Inf, 5/46th Inf). Casualties; U.S. - 5 KIA, 14 WIA; NVA/VC - 6 KIA.

6 July-4 August 1968: Operation Pocahontas Forest. Locations: I Corps; Quang Nam Province: Phuoc Chau Valley ("Antenna Valley"); Ap Bon; Ap Hai; Hiep Duc; LZ West. Type: Search and Destroy. Units: USA - 23d Infantry Brigade (4/3d Inf, 4/21st Inf), 196th Light Infantry Brigade (4/31st Inf); VNAF - 2/5th ARVN, 3/5th ARVN, 4/5th ARVN); NVA/VC - 2d NVA Division-elements, 1st Main Force Regiment (VC). Casualties: U.S. - 4 KIA, 58 WIA; VNAF - 2 KIA, 6 WIA; NVA/VC - 96 KIA.

18 August 1968: Location: I Corps; Quang Tin Province; Song Chang Valley ("AK Valley"). Action: American troops are ambushed while trying to retrieve bodies from previous day's ambush. Units: USA - 23d Infantry Division (Americal): 196th Light Infantry Brigade (B,D-4/31st Inf); NVA/VC - 2d NVA Division (elements). Casualties: U.S. - 15 KIA, 41 WIA.

20 August 1968: Location: I Corps; Quang Tin Province; Song Chang Valley ("AK Valley"), Action; NVA ambush. Unit: USA - 23d Infantry Division (Americal): 196th Light Infantry Brigade (B-3/21st Inf). Casualties: U.S. - 5 KIA, 24 WIA.

22 August 1968: Location: I Corps; Quang Tin Province; Song Chang Valley ("AK Valley"). Action: NVA ambush. Units: USA - 23 Infantry Division (Americal): 196th Light Infantry Brigade (C-2/1st Inf, A-4/31st Inf). Casualties: U.S. - 4 KIA, 4 WIA.

26 August 1968: Location: I Corps: Quang Nam Province; Que Son Valley ("Death Valley"). Action: NVA ambush. Unit: USA - 23 Infantry Division (Americal): 196th Light Infantry Brigade (C-4/31st Inf).

4-24 September 1968: Operation Champagne Grove. Locations: I Corps; Quang Ngai Province; Song Re Valley; Base Area 121; Ha Thanh; LZs Bronco, Dottie and Gator. Type: Search and Destroy. Units: USA - 23d Infantry Division (Americal): 11th Light Infantry Brigade(3/1st Inf, 4/3d Inf, 1/20th Inf, 4/21st Inf, 1/1st Cav), 198th Light Infantry Brigade (1/46th Inf); VNAF - 2d ARVN Division (elements); NVA/VC 3d NVA Division, 2d Main Force Regiment (VC). Event: 13 September - Companies A-4/3d Infantry, B-1/46th Infantry and A,B-1/1st Cavalry battle a force of unknown size from the 2d Main Force Regiment three miles northwest of Quang Ngai City. Sixty-one of the enemy are reported KIA. Casualties: Totals for Champagne Grove. U.S. - 43 KIA, 172 WIA; NVA/VC - 378 KIA.

2-9 October 1968: Operation Dukes Glade. Locations: I Corps: Quang Nam Province, Nui Mat and Nui Ve Dop mountains. Type Search and Destroy. Units: USA - 23 Infantry Division (Americal); 11th Light Infantry Brigade (4/21st Inf), Casualties: U.S. - 1 KIA, 3 WIA; NVA/VC 20 KIA.

7-12 October 1968: Operation Logan Field. Location: I Corps; Quang Ngai Province; Cape Batangan. Type/Objectives: Search and Destroy into area northeast of Quang Ngai City. Units: USA - 23d Infantry Division (Americal), 11th Light Infantry Brigade (1/20th Inf); NVA/VC-48th Local Force Battalion (VC). Casualties: U.S. - 13 KIA, 66 WIA; NVA/VC - 14 KIA.

25 October-2 November 1968: Operation Vernon Lake I. Locations: I Corps; Quang Ngai Province; Song Ve Valley; LZs Bulldog, Buff and Dancer. Type/Objective; Search and Destroy to exploit B-52 strikes in the area. Units: USA - 23d Infantry Division (Americal: 11th Light Infantry Brigade (3/1st Inf, 4/3d Inf); NVA/VC - 3d NVA Division (elements), 2d Main Force Regiment (VC). Casualties: U.S. - 1 KIA,, 7 WIA; NVA/VC - 93 KIA.

18-19 October 1968: Operation Dale Common. Locations: I Corps: Quang Ngai Province; Song Ve Valley; Mo Duc; LZ Bulldog. Type: Search and Destroy. Units: USA - 23d Infantry Division (Americal); 11th Light Infantry Brigade (3/1st Inf), Casualties: U.S. - 3 WIA; NVA/VC - 23 KIA.

2 November 1968-28 February 1969: Operation Vernon Lake II. Locations: I Corps; Quang Ngai Province: Da Vach Mountains; Song Re and Song Ve valleys; Song Tam Rao River. Type Search and Destroy. Units: USA - 23d Infantry Division (Americal): 11th Light Infantry Brigade (3/1st Inf, 4/21st Inf); NVA/VC - 3d NVA Division (2d NVA Regiment). Casualties: U.S. -23 KIA, 158 WIA; NVA/VC-455 KIA, 8 POWs.

10-17 November: Operation Daring Endeavor,. Locations: I Corps; Quang Nam and Quang Tin provinces; Cua Dai River; Barrier Island; Hoi An. Type/Objective: Search and Destroy in area approximately 17 miles southeast of DaNang. Units: USA-23d Infantry Division (Americal)-(B,C-1/1st Cav, B/8th Cav); USMC-BLT 2/7th Marines. Casualties: U.S. - 1 KIA, 35 WIA; NVA/VC - 33 KIA.

17-23 November: Location: I Corps: Quang Nam Province; Nui Chom Mountains. Action: "Battle of Nui Chom Mountain." Americal troops battle the enemy in the mountains approximately 4.5 miles northwest of Hiep Duc. Units: USA-23d Infantry Division (Americal): 196th Light Infantry Brigade (4/31st Inf), 198th Light Infantry Brigade (5/46th Inf). Casualties: U.S. - 4 KIA, 33 WIA; NVA/VC-66 KIA.

2 December 1968-28 February 1969: Operation Hardin Falls. Location: I Corps; Quang Tin Province; Thang Binh; FSB Fiddler's Green. Type/Objectives: Search and Destroy in support of pacification efforts in Quang Tin, Units: USA - 23d Infantry Division (Americal)-(1/1st Cav); NVA/VC -V-15 and 78th Local Force companies (VC). Casualties: U.S. - 1 KIA, 14 WIA; NVA/VC - 78 KIA.

7 December 1968- 8 March 1969: Operation Taylor Common. Locations: I Corps; Quang Nam Province; An Hoa Basin; "Arizona Territory"; Nong Son; Thuong Duc. Type/Objective; Search and Clear/Destroy of An Hoa Basin, seeking enemy Base Area 112, approximately 23 miles southwest of Da Nang. Units: USMC - Task Force Yankee (1/3d Marines, 3/3d Marines, 5th Marines); VNAF - 1st ARVN Ranger Group; NVA/VC-21st and 141st NVA regiments. Casualties; U.S. - 151 KIA, 1324 WIA; NVA/VC 1398 KIA, 29 POWs.

15 December 1968- 28 February 1969: Operation Fayette Canyon. Locations: I Corps; Quang Nam Province; "Antenna Valley"; Nui Mat Rang Mountains. Type/Objective: Reconnaissance in Force-Search and Destroy campaign to locate and eliminate enemy base camps and staging areas. Fayette Canyon is a companion operation to the Marine's Taylor Common. Units: USA - 23d Infantry Division (Americal) - 196th Light Infantry Brigade (2/1st Inf); NVA/VC - NVA 2d Division (1st Main Force Rgt (VC). Casualties: U.S. - 2 KIA, 17 WIA; NVA/VC - 327 KIA, 4 POWs.

31 December: There are now more than 530,000 U.S. personnel in South Vietnam. U.S. ground forces end the year in the following strengths: Army 359,313, Marines - 80,716; American losses for the year: 14,314 KIA, 207,495 WIA; VNAF strength at the end of 1968: 820,000; VNAF losses for the year: 20,482 KIA; total VNAF losses since 1965; 88,343 KIA; estimated NVA/VC strength at the end of 1968; 240,000+; estimated NVA/VC losses for the year: 35,774 KIA, 6991 POWs; estimated NVA losses since 1961: 439,000 KIA

13 January - 9 February 1969: Operation Bold Mariner. Locations: I Corps; Quang Ngai Province; Batangan Peninsula; Van Tuong. Type/Objective: Cordon and Search and sweeping operation in old Starlite area of the Batangan Peninsula. Units: USMC - SLF Alpha BLT- 2/26th Marines, SLF Bravo BLT-3/26th Marines; VNAF - 2d ARVN Division; NVA/VC - 38th Main Force (VC) Regiment, 48th Local Force (VC) Battalion. Comment: Bold Mariner is the largest amphibious assault of the Vietnam War. Casualties; U.S.-5 KIA, 32 WIA; NVA/VC - 60 KIA, 26 POWs.

13 January-21 July 1969: Operation Russell Beach. Locations: I Corps; Quang Ngai Province; Batangan Peninsula; Quang Ngai City; LZ Minuteman. Type/Objective; Combined Search and Destroy/Cordon and Search operation. Russell Beach is a complementary operation to Bold Mariner. Units: USA - 23d Infantry Division (Americal)-11th Light Infantry Brigade (4/3d Inf), 196th Light Infantry Brigade (5/46th Inf); USMC - SLF Alpha BLT- 2/26th Marines. SLF Bravo - 3/26th Marines; VNAF - 2d ARVN Division (6th ARVN Regiment); NVA/VC - 3d NVA Division (22d NVA Regiment), 38th and 48th Local Force (VC) battalions. Comment: During the course of Russell Beach and Bold Mariner, more than 12,000 civilians are checked out and relocated off the Batangan Peninsula to the Quang Ngai City area. Casualties: Combined USA/USMC totals. 56 KIA, 268 WIA; NVA/VC - 158 KIA, 104 POWs.

23 February 1969: "Post TET"-1969 Offensive begins throughout South Vietnam. In III Corps alone, 100 U.S. soldiers die in the first day of fighting. Within two weeks 789 Americans are dead and another 4,287 wounded.

25 February: Formal truce negotiations begin in Paris.

18 March 1969 (begins): Operation Geneva Park, Locations: I Corps: Quang Ngai and Quang Tin provinces; Ho Cong and Nui Luoi mountains; Song Tra Khuc River; "The Horseshoe"; LZs Bayonet, Fat City, Gator and Stinson. Type/Objective; Search and Destroy. The goal of Geneva Park is the prevention of the attacks on Chu Lai and Quang Ngai City and to secure major lines of communication. Units: USA - 23d Infantry Division (Americal): (4/3d Inf, 1/6th Inf, 3/31st Inf, 5/46th Inf, 1/52d Inf); VNAF - 2d ARVN Division (6th ARVN Regiment); NVA/VC - 78th and 409th Main Force (VC) Rocket battalions. Events: 1 February 1970 - A-1/52d Infantry is mortared at LZ Stinson. One American is KIA and 12 WIA, 22 February 1970- Eleven troopers of the 17th Cavalry are hit by a 1000-lb bomb rigged as a mine. Five Americans are KIA and one WIA. 5 August 1970- C- 1/52d Infantry is ambushed by enemy troops who detonate two claymore mines 10 miles west of Chu Lai (Quang Tin Province). Losses: 2 KIA, 9 WIA. Casualties: Totals for Geneva Park are current only to 31 October 1970. U.S. - 166 KIA, 1138 WIA; NVA/VC - 1714 KIA, 37 POWs.

18 March 1969 (begins): Operation Frederick Hill. Locations: I Corps; Quang Nam and Quang Tin provinces; Hiep Duc, Que Son and "Antenna" valleys; "Pineapple Forest"; Barrier Island; Truong Giang Channel; FSBs Hawk Hill and West. Type/Objective: Search and Destroy into the highlands of Quang Nam and Quang Tin. The secondary mission of Frederick Hill is to secure the population centers along the coastal plain. Units: USA - 23d Infantry Division (Americal); 2/1st Inf. 3/21st Inf, 4/31st Inf, 1/46th Inf, 1/1st Cav; USMC - 2/7th Marines; VNAF - 2d ARVN Division (5th ARVN Regiment); NVA/VC - 2d NVA Division (4000 NVA reported in the area of operations). Events: 11 June 1969-Elements of the 2d NVA Division's 35th Sapper Battalion attack LZ East killing 16 Americans and wounding 33. Enemy losses are 27 KIA, 12 August 1969 - An enemy force of unknown size attacks C-1/1st Cavalry and A-3/16th Artillery at FSB Hawk Hill. Losses in the assault: U.S. - 7 KIA, 51 WIA; NVA/VC - 13 KIA, 18 August 1969-Companies B,D-4/31st Infantry each battle an enemy force of unknown size east of Hiep Duc (Quang Tin Province). American losses in the day's fighting: 13 KIA and 48 WIA. 19-20 August 1969- A-3/21st Infantry air assaults into the site of a helicopter crash near An Lam (3), seven miles east of Hiep Duc, to recover the bodies of the dead Americans. They meet heavy resistance and are not able to retrieve the bodies until 24 August. Losses in the fight: U.S. - 6 KIA, 10 WIA; NVA/VC - 20 KIA. 28 August 1969 - The 2/7th Marines comes under heavy fire 31 miles south of Da Nang (Quang Nam Province). Thirteen Marines are KIA, 42 WIA. 6-7 January 1970 - A-1/1st Cavalry, D-3/21st Infantry, F/17th Cavalry and 3/4th ARVN Regiment fight a two-day battle near Tam Ky (Quang Tin Province). Losses: U.S. - 5 KIA, 20 WIA; NVA/VC - 131 KIA. 10 February 1970- An NVA force of unknown size attacks a night defensive position (NDP) of A-2/1st Infantry 12 miles northwest of Tam Ky (Quang Tin Province). Losses: U.S. - 1 KIA, 8 WIA; NVA/VC - 7 KIA. 20 February 1970- F/17th Cavalry engages an enemy force of unknown size 13 miles northwest of Tam Ky (Quang Tin Province). The American unit loses seven KIA and 12 WIA. Later the same day A-2/1st Infantry runs across and enemy force in the same location. Five more U.S. soldiers are KIA and 10 WIA. Enemy losses in both firefights are unknown. 19 March 1970- Nine soldiers are KIA and one WIA from B-1/1st Cavalry when the enemy detonates a mine near Binh Son, 18 miles northwest of Tam Ky (Quang Tin Province). Casualties: Casualty totals for Frederick Hill are current only to 31 October 1970. U.S. - 426 KIA, 2575 WIA; NVA/VC - 4184 KIA, 50 POWs.

18 March 1969 (begins): Operation Iron Mountain. Locations: I Corps; Quang Ngai Province; Song Tra Cau and Song Ve valleys; Nui Hon Vu and Nui Tam Cap mountains; Duc Pho; Mo Duc; Nghia Han; FSB Debbie; LZs Bronco, Pepper and Snoopy. Type/Objective; Search and Destroy designed to prevent enemy troop massing and to support local pacification efforts. Units: USA - 23d Infantry Division (Americal): 3/1st Inf, 4/3d Inf, 1/20th Inf, 4/21st Inf, 1/1st Cav; VNAF - 2d ARVN Division (4th and 6th ARVN rgts); NVA/VC - 3d NVA Division. Events: 9-10 June 1969 - Companies A-1/20th Infantry and E-1/1st Cavalry battle a large NVA force in the western Song Tra Cau Valley, 10-15 miles northwest of Duc Pho. Sixty-one enemy bodies are found following the fight. 14 August 1969-- C-1/20th Infantry is rocked by a mine explosion six miles north of Duc Pho (Quang Ngai Province). One soldier is KIA and 30 WIA in the blast. 29 August 1969--C-1/1st Cavalry kills 51 NVA in a battle six miles south of Duc Pho (Quang Ngai Province). The American unit suffers only five WIA. 12 October 1969 - Company B-1/20th Infantry is inserted into a very hot LZ three miles southeast of Quang Ngai City. Four are KIA and 12 WIA during the combat assault. 3 January 1970--Elements of the 2d NVA Sapper Battalion attack Company B-4/3d Infantry at its night defensive position (NDP), six miles south of Duc Pho (Quang Ngai Province). Losses in the fight: U.S. - 7 KIA, 11 WIA; NVA/VC - 29 KIA. 2 April 1970- Seven U.S. soldiers are KIA and 19 WIA when troopers of D-4/3 Infantry trip a large mine 13 miles northwest of Duc Pho (Quang Ngai Province), 15 April 1970- Troops attached to C-4/3d Infantry and C-4/21st Infantry accidentally set off a mine which in turn detonates the mortar rounds they are carrying. The tragedy claims 14 KIA and 32 WIA. Casualties: Totals for Iron Mountain are current only to October 1970, U.S. - 363 KIA, 2090 WIA; NVA/VC - 3136 KIA, 84 POWs.

5-20 May: Operation Daring Rebel. Location: I Corps; Quang Tin Province; Barrier Island. Type/Objective: Daring Rebel is a Search and Clear "County Fair" type of operation conducted along the Quang Tin coast. Units: USMC-BLT-1/26th Marines; VNAF - 51st and 54th ARVN regiments; ROK-2d Korean Marine Brigade: NVA/VC-3d, 36th and 38th NVA regiments. Casualties: U.S. - 2 KIA, 51 WIA; NVA/VC -303 KIA, 328 POWs.

16 May-13 August 1969: Operation Lamar Plain. Locations: I Corps; Quang Tin Province; Base Area 117; Tam Ky; LZs Professional and Rustler. Type/Objective: Search and Destroy into enemy Base Area 117, approximately 45 miles south of Da Nang. Units: USA - 23 Infantry Division (Americal) (1/46th Inf), 101st Airborne Division: 2d Bde (1/501st Inf, 1/502d Inf); NVA/VC - 2d NVA Division. Events: 21 May--1/46th Infantry (Americal) engages an enemy force of unknown size near Phuoc An 12 miles southwest of Tam Ky. Losses in the five-hour firefight; U.S. - 7 KIA, 19 WIA; NVA/VC - 6 KIA. 8 July - A-1/502d Infantry squares off against an estimated NVA company near Hau Duc, approximately 20 miles southwest of Tam Ky. Losses in the fight: U.S. - 9 KIA, 7 WIA; NVA/VC - 4 KIA. Casualties: Totals for Lamar Plain. U.S. - 105 KIA, 333 WIA; NVA/VC - 524 KIA, 11 POWs.

27 June-6 July 1969: Operation Bold Pursuit. Location: I Corps; Quang Tin Province; Tam Ky. Unit: USMC-SLF Alpha BLT-1/26th Marines. Casualties: U.S. - 4 KIA, 37 WIA; NVA/VC - 42 KIA, 8 POWs.

7 July 1969: The first U.S. troops to withdraw from South Vietnam leave Saigon. Eight hundred men of the 3/60th Infantry/9th Infantry Division go home. By 29 August, 25,000 U.S. personnel will have been withdrawn.

20 July 1969 (begins): Operation Nantucket Beach. Locations: I Corps; Quang Ngai Province; Batangan Peninsula; LZ Gator. Type/Objective: Cordon and Search operation in support of pacification efforts in Quang Ngai. Units: USA - 23d Infantry Division (Americal): 1/6th Inf, 1/46th Inf, 5/46th Inf, 1/52d Inf; VNAF - 4th ARVN REgiment, 1/6th ARVN< 2/6th ARVN; NVA/VC - 48th Local Force (VC) Battalion. Events: 5 October 1969 - the night defensive position of B-5/46th Infantry is attacked by a VC force of unknown size. Four Americans are KIA and 15 WIA; enemy losses are unknown. 11 August 1970- Troopers from A-1/6th Infantry hit a mine five miles north of Quang Ngai City. Thirteen U.S. soldiers are hurt in the blast. Casualties: Totals for Nantucket Beach are current only to 31 October 1970. U.S. - 37 KIA, 278 WIA; NVA/VC - 430 KIA, 25 POWs.

24 July-7 August 1969: Operation Brave Armada. Location: I Corps; Quang Ngai Province. Type/Objective: Special Landing Force (SLF) operation into area north of Quang Ngai City. Units: USMC- SLF Bravo BLT-2/26th Marines. Casualties: U.S. -1 KIA, 51 WIA; NVA/VC - 11 KIA, 5 POWs.

7 August 1969: Location: II Corps; Khanh Hoa Province; Cam Ranh Bay. Action: A team of Viet Cong commandos penetrates the defenses surrounding the Cam Ranh Bay complex and attacks the base hospital. Casualties: U.S. - 2 KIA 99 WIA. (Note this was a minor action but really hurt the morale of U.S. Army troops in Vietnam. If Cam Ranh Bay wasn't safe, then no place in Vietnam was safe.)

11-12 August 1969: Locations: I Corps; Quang Tin Province; Hiep Duc. Action: "Battle of LZ West." American and NVA/VC forces clash on a hill mass approximately five miles west of Hiep Duc. Units: USA - 23d Infantry Division (Americal) (4/31st Inf. C-3/16th Artillery); NVA/VC - 2d NVA Division (elements). Casualties: U.S. - none; NVA/VC - 59 KIA, 6 POWs.

3 September 1969: The leader of North Vietnam, Ho Chi Minh, dies in Hanoi at the age of 79.

20 November 1969: The Cleveland Plain Dealer newspaper publishes photographer Ron Haerberle's pictures of the massacre at My Lai.

31 December 1969: There are still approximately 475,000 U.S. personnel in Southeast Asia. U.S. ground forces total 385,000 and end the year in the following strengths: Army - 330,650, Marines - 55,040. So far, some 60,000 troops have returned home. American losses for the year: 9414 KIA, 62946 WIA. Total American losses in Vietnam since 1960: 40,024 KIA, 270,441 WIA. VNAF strength at the end of 1969: 897,000-1,000,000. VNAF losses for the year: 21,833 KIA. Total VNAF losses since 1965: 110,176 KIA. Estimated NVA/VC strength at the end of 1969: 240,000+. NVA/VC losses for the year: 45,000+. Estimated NVA/VC losses since 1965: 400,000+.

14 January 1970: Location: I Corps; Quang Nam Province; LZ Baldy. Action: Marines clash with enemy in a firefight near LZ Baldy. The fight takes place 19 miles south of DaNang. Unit: USMC-F-2/7th Marines. Casualties: U.S. - 2 KIA, 3 WIA; NVA/VC - 10 KIA.

12 February 1970: Locations: I Corps; Quang Nam Province; Que Son Valley; Ly Ly River; FSB Ross. Action North Vietnamese units ambush a U.S. Marines force near FSB Ross. Site of the ambush is 8.5 miles west of Hiep Duc. Units: USA-23d Infantry Division (Americal) (3/21st Infantry-as reinforcement); USMC - B-17th Marines. C-1/7th Marines (as reinforcements); NVA/VC-31st NVA Regiment reported in area of operations. Casualties: U.S. - 13 KIA, 13 WIA; NVA/VC - 6 KIA.

19 February 1970: Locations: I Corps; Quang Nam Province; Que Son Valley; Son Thang (Thang Tay [1]). Action: "Massacre at Son Thang." A five-man patrol ("killer team") enters the small village of Son Thang (Thang Tay [1]), 8.5 miles northwest of Hiep Duc. Seeking NVA/VC, the patrol finds only civilians. A woman attempts to run away, apparently spooking the Marines who unleash a hail of bullets that kill five women and 11 children. Efforts by the unit's commanding officer to cover the tragedy fail and the five members of the patrol are charged with premeditated murder two are convicted. Unit: USMC-B-1/7th Marines (five-man patrol). (Note-This was initially damaging to the image of American troops in Vietnam, but the way the Marine Corps handled the incident may have actually improved the military's image.)

24 April 1970: Location: I Corps; Quang Nam Province; Que Son Valley; FSB Ross. Action: U.S. Marines and a company of NVA regulars clash in a five hour firefight approximately 10 miles east of Hiep Duc. Unit: USMC - H-2/7th Marines. Casualties: U.S. -6 WIA; NVA/VC - 6 KIA.

26 May - 13 June 1970: Locations: I Corps; Quang Nam Province: Que Son Mountains; Hill 800; FSBs Baldy, Buzzard, Crow, Ross and Ryder. Type/Objective: Search and Destroy into area northeast of Hiep Duc. Units: USMC - 3/7th Marines, 3/11th Marines, 1st Recon Battalion. Casualties: U.S. -1+ KIA, 11+WIA; NVA/VC - 9 KIA, 4 POWs.

11 June: Location: I Corps; Quang Nam Province; Than My. Action: Two companies of VC sappers attack the village of Than My. U.S. Marines assist local forces in driving the enemy from the area. Losses in the day's action: U.S. - 1 KIA, 10 WIA; NVA/VC - 3 KIA; Civilians-74 KIA, 63 WIA (300 homes destroyed).

26 June 1970: Location: I Corps; Quang Nam Province; LZ Baldy, Action; Booby traps and ambushes plague Marines south of DaNang. Units: USMC-1/7th Marines. Casualties: U.S. - 5 KIA.

12 July - 25 August 1970: Operations Elk Canyon I-II. Locations: I Corps; Quang Tin Province; Song Tranh River; Kham Duc; FSBs Judy and Mary Ann; LZ Boxer. Objective: Disruption of enemy supply lines and rear areas west of Tam Ky. Units: USA - 23d Infantry Division (Americal) (2/1st Inf, 1/46th Inf); VNAF - 4th and 5th ARVN regiments; NVA/VC - 36th NVA Regiment (K-80 NVA Battalion). Events: 13 August - D-2/1st Infantry tangles with an enemy force of unknown size two miles north of Kham Duc. Losses: U.S. - 1 KIA, 9 WIA; NVA/VC - 2 KIA. 26 August - Thirty-one Americans are KIA and nine injured when enemy forces shoot down a CH-47 "Chinook" while on a flight from Kham Duc to FSB Judy. Casualties: Totals for Elk Canyon I-II. U.S. - 36 KIA, 90 WIA; NVA/VC - 78 KIA, 1 POW.

31 August 1970 - & May 1971: Operation Imperial Lake. Locations: I Corps; Quang Nam Province; Que Son Mountains; Que Son Valley; FSBs Ross and Ryder; LZs Baldy and Vulture. Type/Objective: Search and Destroy. Imperial Lake is the last Marine effort to clear the enemy from the Que Son Mountains south of DaNang. Units: USA-23d Infantry Division (Americal) (elements); USMC - 2/5th Marines, 3/5th Marines, 1/7th Marines, 2/7th Marines, 3/7th Marines, 1st Recon Battalion; NVA/VC-D-3, R-20 and V-25 NVA/VC battalions reported in the area of operations. Events: 31 August - Ten Marine artillery batteries pound the Que Son Mountains in one of the largest preparatory artillery strikes of the war. Shells rain down on 53 different target areas for six hours. Ordnance expended: 13,400 shells with a total weight of 370 tons. The barrage was followed by two hours of fixed wing air strikes in which 63 tons more of explosives are used. 5-9 September - The 2/7th Marines trap and battle 30-50 North Vietnamese in a ravine near LZ Vulture. Three Marines are KIA and 12 WIA in the minisiege. Marine aircraft are called in to pound the ravine with 40 tons of bombs. Casualties: Totals for Imperial Lake. U.S. - 24 KIA, 205 WIA; NVA/VC - 305 KIA.

5-8 September 1970: Operation Nebraska Rapids. Locations: I Corps; Quang Nam Province; Thu Bon River Route 534; Hiep Duc; LZ Baldy. Type/Objective: Search and Destroy with mission of clearing and securing Route 534 from LZ Baldy west to Hiep Duc. Units: USA - 23d Infantry Division (Americal) (2/1st Inf, 3/21st Inf, 4/31st Inf); USMC - B - 1/7th Marines; I,K,M-3/7th Marines. Casualties: U.S. - 1 KIA, 13 WIA; NVA/VC - 2 KIA, 1 POW.

2-15 October 1970: Operation Tulare Falls I. Location: I Corps; Quang Nam Province; Que Son Mountains; Hill 55; LZ Baldy. Objective: Tulare Falls I is meant to prevent communist attacks on Hill 55 in the Que Son Mountains, south of DaNang. Units: USA - 23d Infantry Division (Americal) - Task Force Saint (2/1st Inf, 1/1st Cav); USMC - 5th Marines. Casualties: U.S. - 19 WIA; NVA/VC - 30 KIA, 21 POW's.

22 October - 30 November 1970: Operation Hoang Dieu. Location: I Corps; Quang Nam Province. Objective: Hoang Dieu is a systematic search of the majority of villages and hamlets in Quang Nam Province in an effort to root out the Viet Cong infrastructure. Units: USA - 23d Infantry Division (Americal) - Task Force Burnett (2/1st Inf, 1/1st Cav); USMC - 1st Marine Division (elements); VNAF - 2d ARVN Division (51st ARVN Regiment ARVN Ranger Group). Casualties: U.S. - 3 KIA, 62 WIA; NVA/VC - 590 KIA (reported)

23 October-3 November: Operation Noble Canyon. Locations: I Corps; Quang Nam Province; Que Son Mountains; Hill 441; FSB Ross. Type/Objective: Search and Clear near Hill 441, 10 miles east of Hiep Duc. Unit: USMC - 3/5th Marines. Casualties: U.S. - 8 WIA; NVA/VC - 4 KIA, 1 POW.

27 October - 30 November 1970: Operation Tulare Falls II. Location: I Corps; Quang Nam Province; Que Son Mountains; LZ Baldy. Type; Search and Destroy. Units: USA - 23d Infantry Division (Americal) - Task Force Burnett (2/1st Inf, 1/1st Cav). Casualties: U.S. - 4 KIA, 26 WIA; NVA/VC - 22 KIA, 2 POWs.

18 December 1970- 19 January 1971: Operation Hoang Dieu 10. Location: I Corps: Quang Nam Province. Objective: Hoang Dieu 101 is a continuation of the search and clear efforts begun in Hoang Dieu. Units: USMC - 1st Marines; VNAF - 51st ARVN Regiment. Casualties: U.S. - 5 KIA, 87 WIA; NVA/VC - 690 KIA (estimated), 87 POW's.

31 December 1970: About 350,000 total U.S. personnel remain in the Southeast Asian theater. U.S. ground forces are in the following strengths: Army - 255,000, Marines - 25,400. Nearly 200,000 troops have returned home so far. American losses for the year: 4204 KIA. Number of Americans killed in the Vietnam War since 1959: 444,228. VNAF strength at the end of 1970: 968,000+. VNAF losses for 1970: 20,914 KIA. Total VNAF killed in Vietnam War since 1965: 133,522.

30 January-7 February 1971: Operation Dewey Canyon II. Locations: I Corps; Quang Tri Province; "Red Devil Road." Objective: Preliminary support operation in preparation for Lam Son-719. American troops are charged with the clearing of Route 9 toward Khe Sanh to pave the way for the ARVN incursion into Laos. Units: USA - 1st Brigade/5th Infantry Division (M) (1/11th Inf, 1/77th Armor), 23d Infantry Division (Americal) (2/1st Inf, 4/3d Inf), 101st Airborne Division (Aviation and Infantry elements). Note: Some 9,000 U.S. troops participate in Dewey Canyon II. Casualties: U.S. - 55 KIA, 431 WIA; NVA/VC losses not included in the source document for the individual operation.

3 February - 29 March 1971: Operation Hoang Dieu-103. Location: I Corps; Quang Nam Province. Type/Objective: Search and Clear. Hoang Dieu-103 is a continuation of the Hoang Dieu series to secure the majority of the villages and hamlets in Quang Nam. Unit: USMC - 1st Marines. Casualties: U.S. - 2 KIA, 99 WIA; NVA/VC - 329 KIA, 10 POWs (totals for enemy casualties are combined VNAF/USMC figures).

8 February - 6 April 1971: Operation Lam Son - 719. Locations: I Corps; Quang Tri Province; Khe Sanh; Route 9; Vandergrift Combat Base; Laos; Base Areas 604 and 611; Tchepone. Type/Objective: Search and Destroy into NVA staging areas and strongholds in Laos. The United States' role in this VNAF operation is to clear the Khe Sanh area and provide aviation and artillery support. Units: USA - 1st Bde/5th Infantry Division (M) (1/11th Inf, 1/77th Armor), 23d Infantry Division (Americal) (2/1st Inf, 4/3d Inf), 101st Airborne Division (2/17th Cav), 101st Aviation Group (more than 650 U.S. aircraft and 10,000 troops participated in Lam Son-719); VNAF - 1st ARVN Division (1st, 2d and 3d ARVN regiments), 1st ARVN Airborne Division, 1st ARVN Armored Brigade (7th, 11th and 17th ACR squadrons); VNMC - 1st ARVN Ranger Group (21st, 37th and 39th ARVN Ranger battalions). (17,000 VNAF troops participate in Lam Son-719.) NVA/VC - 2d NVA Division, 304th NVA Division (304th NVA Regiment), 309th NVA Regiment (36th, 88th, and 102d NVA regiments), 324-B NVA Division (29th, 803d and 812th, NVA regiments), 4th 5th and 6th NVA regiments. (22,000 enemy troops reported in area of operations.) Casualties: U.S. - 215 KIA, 1,149 WIA, 42 MIA (108 U.S. helicopters destroyed and 600 others damaged in the operation); VNAF - 1,483 KIA, 5420 WIA, 691 MIA; NVA/VC - 13,636 KIA, 69 POW.

22 March 1971: Location: I Corps; Quang Tin Province; Tam Ky; FSB Mary Ann. Action: An estimated 50 NVA attack the 250 defenders of FSB Mary Ann, 32 miles west of Chu Lai. Units: USA - 23d Infantry Division (Americal) (1/46th Inf). Comment: Fifty NVA soldiers penetrate the base defenses and run amok shooting and tossing satchel charges. Almost half of the base's personnel are KIA or WIA. The Army investigates the incident and finds that lax perimeter security allowed the attack to happen. The Army files formal charges against several high ranking officers of the 23d Infantry Division. Casualties: Totals for attack on Mary Ann. U.S. - 33 KIA, 76 WIA; NVA/VC - 10 KIA.

20 April 1971: MACV acknowledges that fragging incidents, or the killing or injuring of unpopular noncoms and officers, are on the rise. The U.S. command admits to 34 deaths in 209 fragging incidents in 1970.

May ? 1971: Operation Caroline Hill. Location: I Corps: Quang Nam Province; Da Nang. Type/Objective: Search and Destroy into the mountains and lowlands west and south of Da Nang. Units: USA - 23d Infantry Division (Americal) (elements). Casualties: Casualty figures current only for 29 April-1 July. U.S. 15 KIA, 125 WIA; NVA/VC - 162 KIA, 11 POWs.

May 7, 1971: All Marine forces of II MAF cease combat operations and stand down awaiting transfer back to the world.

16 May 1971: MACV acknowledges that heroin addiction among the troops in South Vietnam has reached epidemic proportions. The official estimate is 10-15 percent of all lower-ranked enlisted men are addicts, amounting to some 37,000 soldiers.

21 May 1971: The 5/46th Infantry (198th Light Infantry Brigade) of the 23d Infantry Division (Americal) depart from South Vietnam.

28 June 1971: The 1/9th Cavalry of 1st Cavalry Division and the 4/21st Infantry (11th Light Infantry Brigade) of the 23d Infantry Division (Americal) depart from South Vietnam.

27 August 1971 Location: I Corps: Quang Nam Province; DaNang. Action NVA units attack elements of the 23d Infantry Division (Americal) at a night defensive position (NDP) 16 miles southwest of Da Nang. Casualties: U.S. - 5 KIA, 7 WIA.

25 October 1971: The 4/31st Infantry (196th Light Infantry Brigade) of the 23d Infantry Division (Americal) departs from South Vietnam.

29 October 1971: The 3/1st Infantry (11th Light Infantry Brigade) of the 23d Infantry Division (Americal) departs from South Vietnam.

1 November 1971: The 1/52d Infantry (198th Light Infantry Brigade) of the 23d Infantry Division (Americal) departs from Vietnam.

5 November 1971: The 4/3d Infantry (11th Light Infantry Brigade) of the 23d Infantry Division (Americal) departs from Vietnam.

13 November 1971: Two of the 23d Infantry Division's organic infantry brigades, 11th Light Infantry and 198th Light Infantry, officially leave South Vietnam.

21 November 1971: The 1/6th Infantry (196th Light Infantry Brigade) of the 23d Infantry Division (Americal) departs South Vietnam.

29 November 1971: The 23d Infantry Division (Americal) is deactivated in South Vietnam.

30 November 1971: the 1/20th Infantry (11th Light Infantry Brigade) of the 23d Infantry Division (Americal) departs South Vietnam.

31 December 1971: U.S. troop strength in South Vietnam is down to 158,000. More than 177,000 Americans have returned home. American losses for the year: 1,386 KIA. Total of Americans KIA in Vietnam War since 1959: 45,626, VNAF troop strength at the end of 1971: 1,050,000. VNAF losses for the year: 21,500 KIA. Total VNAF losses in Vietnam War to date: 156,260 KIA. NVA/VC troop strength estimate for end of 1971: 250,000+. NVA/VC losses estimated for 1971: 97,000 KIA. Total losses estimated for NVA/VC since 1965: 347,000+ KIA. The year ends on an ominous note for the U.S. command. The Army reports that between 1969 and 1971 more than 700 fragging incidents have occurred resulting in 82 deaths and 651 injured.

May 1972: Quang Tri Province falls to the communists. 66,000 U.S. troops remains in South Vietnam.

8 May 1972: President Nixon announces the mining of all ports in North Vietnam. This action is to prevent the flow of arms and supplies to the communists. Nixon adds that the mining search and seizure of ships and bombing of the north will stop if all American POWs are returned and an internationally supervised cease-fire begins.

20 June 1972: The 1/46th Infantry (196th Light Infantry Brigade) of the 23d Infantry Division (Americal) departs from South Vietnam.

29 June 1972: the 196th Light Infantry Brigade of the 23d Infantry Division (Americal) departs from South Vietnam.

23 August 1972: The 3/21st Infantry (196th Light Infantry Brigade) of the 23d Infantry Division (Americal) departs from South Vietnam.

31 December 1972: U.S. troop levels are down to 24,000 remaining in South Vietnam. U.S. losses in 1972: 4,300 KIA. Total U.S. losses in Vietnam War since 1959: 45,926 KIA. VNAF troop strength at the end of 1972: 1,000,000+ VNAF losses in 1972: 39,587 KIA. VNAF losses in Vietnam War to date 195,847 KIA. Enemy troop strength in South Vietnam is estimated at more than 150,000.

28 March 1973: the United States' 1st Aviation Brigade officially departs from South Vietnam.

29 March 1973 - The last U.S. troops leave South Vietnam. North Vietnam releases the last 67 American POWs. For the United States, the war is finally over. The war's statistics are staggering: More than 3,000,000 Americans served in Vietnam, 47,253 Americans were KIA or as the result of combat. 10,449 Americans died of nonbattle injuries. 313,919 Americans were WIA. 153,300 classified as "seriously" wounded. 1340 Americans are listed as MIA. 4,865 helicopters and 3,720 fixed-wing aircraft were shot down or destroyed. Eight million tons of bombs were expended in the Vietnam War ... four times that of the total tonnage dropped in all of World War II. 223,748 Vietnamese Armed Forces (VNAF) personnel were KIA in the war. 499,026 VNAF personnel WIA. 924,048 NVA/VC deaths estimated in the Vietnam War. 415,000 civilians KIA and an estimated 935,000 more wounded.

For history of the war after American ground troops were pulled out, find "Vietnam from Cease-Fire to Capitulation" by Col. William E. Le Gro. Published by U.S. Army Center of Military History, Washington D.C..

Operational Reports - Americal Division

AD 386 952	1 Feb 67 - 30 Apr 67-OR-LL
AD 387 801	1 May 67-31 Jul 67-Task Force Oregon
AD 388 478	1 Aug 67-31 Oct 67 (Artillery)
AD 387 683	1 Aug 67-31 Oct 67 Support Command
AD 391 882	1 Feb 68-30 Apr 68 (Artillery)
AD 393 672	1 May 69-31 Jul 68 (Artillery)
*AD 500 212	1 Aug 68-31 Oct 68 (Artillery)
AD 502 062	1 Nov 68-31 Jan 69 (Artillery)
AD 505 232	1 Feb 69-30 Apr 69 (Artillery)
AD 506 484	1 May 69-31 Jul 69 (Artillery)
AD 508 726	1 Nov 69-31 Jan 70 (Artillery)

Operational Report - Lesson Learned for the Americal Division.

AD 388 576	1 AUG 67 - 31 OCT 67.	(fiche only)
AD 389 940	1 NOV 67 - 31 JAN 68.	(fiche only)
AD 392 637	1 FEB 68 - 30 APR 68.	(fiche only)
*AD 394 911	1 MAY 68 - 31 JUL 68.	
*AD 500 558	1 AUG 68 - 31 OCT 68.	
*AD 502 518	1 NOV 68 - 31 JAN 69.	
*AD 504 330	1 FEB 69 - 30 APR 69.	
*AD 505 536	1 MAY 69 - 31 JUL 69.	
*AD 508 093	1 AUG 69 - 31 OCT 69.	
*AD 508 671	1 NOV 69 - 31 JAN 70.	
*AD 512 565	1 FEB 70 - 30 APR 70.	
*AD 513 857	1 MAY 70 - 31 JUL 70.	
AD 515 335	1 AUG 70 - 31 OCT 70.	
AD ????????	1 Nov 70 - 31 Jan 71.	(No ref listing from ESG)
AD 519 973	1 FEB 71 - 30 APR 71.	(can't order from NTIS)
*AD 520 351	1 MAY 71 - 15 OCT 71.	

Senior Officer Debriefing Report

*AD 513 370	1 MAR 67 - 18 OCT 68
*AD 513 369	SEP 67 - JUN 68
*AD 502 565	JUN 68 - MAY 69
*AD 514 481	Mar 70 - NOV 70

196th Light Infantry Brigade

AD 388 885 1 AUG 66 - 31 OCT 66
AD 388 888 1 NOV 66 - 31 JAN 66
AD 387 362 1 MAY 67 - 31 JUL 67
AD 387 537 1 AUG 67 - 31 OCT 67

Americal Aviation ORLL

*AD 392 384 Apr 30, 1968 (16th Cbt Avn Group)
*AD 394 157 Jul 31, 1968 " "
*AD 505 807 Jul 31, 1969 " "
*AD 507 522 Oct 31, 1969 " "
*AD 508 666 Jan 31, 1970
*AD 511 640 Apr 30, 1970
*AD 513 857 Jul 31, 1970
*AD 386 735 Jul 31, 1967 (14th Cmbt Avn Bn)

*Note at least portions of these ORLL's are been put into data base. Reports are un-edited, but can be used to search for materials found in the reports.

To order these materials write: United States Department of Commerce; National Technical Information Service; 5285 Port Royal Road; Springfield, VA 22161

For reports not listed above, you must get an AD number. You can have this number looked up by writing: U.S. Army and Joint Services; Environmental Support Group (ESG); 7798 Cisson Rd, Suite 101; Springfield, VA 22050-3197; Telephone 1-703-355-2670.

For History after America leaves Vietnam - try Vietnam from Cease-Fire to Capitulation; U.S. Army Center of Military History by Col. William E. Le Gro