

VN-1-D

HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES MILITARY ASSISTANCE COMMAND, VIETNAM
Office of Information
APO US FORCES 96243

MAGGI

21 July 1966

FOR THE PRESS:


This release has been prepared to present the major events of news interest occurring in this command during the 2d Quarter of 1966.

It has been divided into three sections:

- A summary of the major developments of the quarter
- A chronology of news events
- Highlights by month of significant events

It is noted that statistics provided are those available at the time of writing and are subject to change

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SUMMARY OF MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

With few exceptions, every large scale U.S. military action during the quarter was a search and destroy operation. Some of these operations inflicted heavy losses on the enemy in terms of personnel killed or captured. Others, although not taking a heavy toll of enemy dead, disrupted his logistic base by causing him to abandon his food stores, ammunition caches and medical supplies. Still other operations, although adding nothing significant in terms of supplies captured or enemy killed, forced him to abandon an area of operation of his own choosing and move to an area of operation not of his choosing.

Thus, these operations had a spoiling effect in that the enemy did not have the initiative and was forced to relocate his units rather than commit them in a situation not of his choosing.

The tempo of B-52 bombing strikes on suspected or known enemy base camps was continued on a daily basis. On most days, there were a minimum of two raids. On selected days, the raids were as high as three. Tangible results are beginning to accumulate both from ground sweeps through an area after a raid and from prisoner interrogations, that the raids are not only demoralizing to the enemy, but also lethal. Some of these raids were in direct support of ground operations when suitable targets occurred during a battle. Tactical air strikes in support of ground operations conducted in the Republic averaged approximately 300 per day during the quarter. A sample of the effectiveness of tactical air can be shown from the fact that during the months of April and May, 17 per cent of the total enemy killed was by air action exclusively.

During the quarter, the 1st Australian Task Force (1ATF) augmented its fighting strength. Commanded by Brig. Gen. G.D. Jackson, O.B.E., the Task Force now has the 5th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (5RAR) and the 6th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (6RAR). It is supported by the 1st Field Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery, which consists of three batteries - the 103d, 105th and 161st Field Batteries, Royal Australian Artillery.

The 173d Airborne Brigade added another battalion to its organization during the quarter. The addition of the 4th Battalion, 503d Infantry, now gives the 173d three organic maneuver battalions.

The strength of the 1st Logistical Command increased during the quarter to some 30,000 men at the end of June. This major logistical support command has as one of its functions, the unloading of incoming vessels of military cargoes for the land forces of the United States, Australia, Korea and New Zealand and expediting these supplies to those allied troops in the II, III and IV Corps areas. During June, the command off-loaded a record 374,673 tons of supplies for distribution to combat units. Of this total, the new port complex at Cam Ranh Bay, barely a year in operation, unloaded 82,976 tons, nearly matching the total of all incoming Free World cargoes to Vietnam for June 1965.

The 1st Logistical Command also distributed food, clothing and medicines to thousands of Vietnamese during the quarter. In April, the volume of these supplies was reported at about two million pounds per month.

One of the most important functions of the 1st Logistical Command is the provision of medical support. In March, the command was admitting some 3,500 hospital patients each month, of which more than two-thirds would be returned to duty. About 11 per cent of these cases were wounded-in-action; 79 per cent were

disease cases, and 14 per cent were non-battle injuries.

As of June, the command was delivering more than 38 million gallons of fuel monthly to United States and Free World military forces in the II, III and IV Corps areas.

Additionally, nearly every company-sized unit in the 1st Logistical Command was taking part in one or more civic action projects ranging from medical, financial and relief assistance to orphanages, to construction projects and English language instruction.

CHRONOLOGY OF SIGNIFICANT NEWS EVENTS OF USMACV

2d Quarter 1966

APRIL

- 1 - US Naval Command Vietnam established.
Operations Lincoln, Fillmore, Jackstay, Circle Pines and Abilene in progress.
Victoria BOQ in Saigon attacked.
Operation Orange, a III MAF battalion-sized operation in Quang Nam Province, commenced.
- 5 - Operation Circle Pines, begun 29 March by the 2d Bde, 25th Inf Div and ARVN units in Hai Nghia Province, terminated.
- 6 - Operation Jackstay, begun 26 March by a battalion landing team of the 5th Marines in the Hung Sat Special Zone, terminated.
- 8 - Operation Lincoln, begun 25 March by elements of the 1st Cav Div southwest of Pleiku, terminated.
- 10 - The U.S. Navy introduced speedy new river patrol boats (PBR) into service in Vietnam.
- 11 - Operation Orange terminated.
Operation Denver commenced in Phoung Long Province by the 173d Abn Bde and the Royal Australian Regiment.
- 12 - U.S. Air Force B-52s struck at North Vietnam for the first time, hitting Mu Gia Pass.
Operation Nevada, a search and destroy operation in Quang Ngai Province, commenced by a multi-battalion force from the 7th Marines, 1st Marine Div.
- 13 - Tan Son Nhut Air Base heavily shelled by the VC, inflicting personnel and material damage.

- 15 - Operation Abilene in Phouc Tuy Province, a 1st Inf Div search and destroy operation that began 30 March, terminated.
- 16 - Operation Kahala in Hau Nghia Province, commenced by the 2d Bde, 25th Inf.
- 17 - Operation Nevada terminated.
Two SAM sites attacked, about 15 miles from Hanoi.
Thu Ly railroad bridge 33 miles south-southwest of Hanoi cut by Air Force pilots.
Hai Dong railroad and highway bridge 21 miles northwest of Haiphong cut by U S Navy pilots.
- 18 - The Hong Bi thermal plant near Hanoi hit again.
- 20 - VC attack An Khe air field.
- 21 - Operation Kahala terminated.
Operation Hot Springs commenced in Quang Ngai Province by a multi-battalion force of the 7th Marines with a search and destroy mission.
- 23 - Operation Hot Springs terminated.
Two MIG-17s shot down over North Vietnam by Air Force pilots.
- 25 - Operation Denver terminated.
- 26 - First MIG-21 of the war shot down by Air Force pilots.
Operation Wyoming, a multi-battalion operation of the 1st and 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division, commenced in Quang Tin Province.
- 27 - Air Force B-52 pilots struck Mu Gia Pass again.
- 28 - 1st Bde, 25th Inf Div Lands at Vung Tau.
- 29 - Two more MIG-17s shot down by the Air Force.

30 - Operation Wyoming terminated.

Operations Fillmore, Austin, Georgia, Birmingham and Longfellow continued in Progress.

Another MIG-17 downed by Air Force.

MAY

2 - Operation Georgia enemy kill now at 69.

Operation Longfellow terminated.

3 - Operation Orange enemy kill rises to 76.

Operation Birmingham uncovers large stores of enemy supplies and equipment.

Maj Gen Norton assumes command of 1st Cav Div.

U.S. artillery fire directed on VC positions across river in Cambodia.

A Navy A-1J downed in air action over the North.

5 - B-52 strike in support of Operation Birmingham.

6 - Operation Davy Crockett announced.

7 - Enemy kill in Davy Crockett climbs to 332.

8 - Operation Austin announced.

11 - Operation Georgia terminated.

12 - Operation Montgomery announced.

An Air Force Phantom downs the 12th MIG of the Vietnam conflict.

175 VC killed by 3d Marines Div in one action.

17 - Operation Birmingham terminated.

20 - Operations Paul Revere and Crazy Horse announced while Austin terminated.

23 - The 2d Marines Medium Helicopter Sqd arrives in Vietnam.

SWIFT boat sunk by enemy recoilless rifle.

25 - Enemy kill in Operation Crazy Horse rises to 256.

30 - USAF attacks Yen Bay facilities.

JUNE

3 - Operation Adelaide I & II announced.

4 - Crazy Horse kill hits 464.

5 - Operation Hakiki announced.

6 - Operation Crazy Horse terminated.

1st Cav Div's An Khe airfield attacked.

7 - Operation Hawthorne announced.

8 - Ky Tho compound mortared.

9 - Operation Adelaide II terminated.

10 - Operation Reno I terminated.

Operation Muskegon terminated.

Operation Hakiki terminated.

Operation El Paso announced.

11 - Marine jets kill 79 enemy.

B-52 strike in support of Operation Hawthorne.

Operation Lexington terminated.

12 - El Paso kills 93 VC in one day.

Operation Apache announced.

Navy F8 downs MIG-17.

13 - B-52 strike again in support of Operation Hawthorne.

Operation Apache terminated.

- 14 - Operation Hollandia announced.
Hawthorne kill count hits 465.
- 15 - Paul Revere kill now at 400.
COMUSMACV departs for Hawaii conference with CINCPAC.
- 16 - Marine recon platoon holds off VC battalion.
432 strike sorties flown in support of Hawthorne so far.
- 18 - Market Time Coast Guard cutters in fire fight with three junks.
Operation Fort Smith announced.
- 19 - Operation Hollandia terminated.
Marine company thwarts VC attempt to blow ESSO fuel tanks.
Operation Deck House I announced.
- 20 - Operation Fresno announced.
Infiltration trailer sunk by Market Time forces.
- 21 - Operation Nathan Hale announced.
Navy F8 downs MIG-17.
- 22 - Soc Trang airfield is fired on by unknown size enemy force.
- 23 - Marines destroy ammunition at abandoned special forces camp.
- 24 - Nathan Hale kills rises to 341.
- 25 - Paul Revere up to 490 VC killed.
- 26 - Operation Jay announced.
- 27 - Deckhouse I terminated.
- 28 - Air Force pilots hit Hanoi POL.
Navy pilots hit Haiphong and Do Son POL.
- 30 - Air Force pilots hit Viet Tri and Nguyen Khe POL.
Navy pilots hit Bac Giang POL and Kep Radar.

IGHLIGHTS BY MONTH OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

APRIL 1966

U S and Free World Military Assistance Forces strength in Vietnam reached 259,000 by the end of the month.

GROUND OPERATIONS

During the month, U S forces conducted 56 battalion-sized operations that had contact. 10 more were made by FVMAF and an additional 10 were combined operations.

In the same period, U.S. forces totaled 647 battalion days of operation while FVMAF had 175. Small unit actions during April numbered 366.

Operation Lincoln, conducted in Pleiku and Darlac Provinces by a brigade from the 1st Cavalry Division and a battalion of the 25th Infantry Division, closed early in the month with light friendly casualties. The enemy lost 453 killed, 12 captured and 88 individual and 8 crew-served weapons seized.

Operation Fillmore in Phu Yen Province, II Corps, continued through the month, employing elements of the 101st Airborne Division. At month's end, 189 enemy had been killed, 39 captured and 41 individual weapons seized. A companion action, conducted in conjunction with Fillmore by elements of the Capital HHC Division, Ban Kae 60-5, terminated in mid-month with 292 enemy dead, 74 captured and 30 individual weapons seized.

Another combined operation was held in Quang Ngai Province in I Corps by a multi-battalion USMC and ARVN force. Called Hot Springs/Lien Ket 16, it terminated in April with 327 enemy killed, 16 captured and 62 weapons seized.

At month's end, the multi-brigade 1st Infantry Division's Operation Birmingham in Tay Ninh Province of III Corps, had uncovered 27 enemy base camps and captured great quantities of sheet metal, rice, salt, uniforms, fuel, medical supplies, etc.

NAVAL ACTIVITY:

U.S. Navy and Coast Guard patrol boats in Operation Market Time coastal surveillance operations boarded and searched 27,126 vessels during April detaining 67 junks and 615 enemy suspects.

Seventh Fleet units fired 117 shore bombardment missions in the Republic during the month against enemy targets or in support of friendly troops.

AIR OPERATIONS:

Communist land infiltration routes from North Vietnam to the south were repeatedly struck during the month. In particular, Mu Gia Pass was hit twice by USAF B-52s and tactical air, resulting in it being blocked for periods by landslides.

Sea infiltration routes were pounded by US Navy planes during the period as well. Almost daily, strikes along the coasts accounted for hundreds of sunken and damaged barges, junks and other water craft.

Several of the main arteries into Hanoi were severed by destruction of key bridges leading into the North Vietnam capital. The source of much of the electrical power of the area was also hit when Navy planes returned to strike the Uong Bi thermal plant.

Red jets tangled with American aircraft on a number of occasions during April and lost. U.S. Air Force pilots shot down five MIG-17s and a newer MIG-21, while losing none to the Communists.

ENEMY OPERATIONS:

Viet Cong terrorists bombed the Victoria BCG at the start of April, using a truck with 400 to 500 pounds of explosives. Three U.S. personnel were killed and 113 injured.

Tan Son Nhut Air Base was hit by mortar and recoilless rifle fire about mid-month. Damage was inflicted on gasoline supplies and aircraft, plus civilian and military personnel were injured.

Minor enemy attacks were also conducted during the month against U.S. forces near Da Nang, Chu Lai and Phu Bai in I Corps, and An Khe and Pleiku in II Corps.

SUMMARY OF AIR SORTIES OVER THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM
(nearest 100 sorties)

Type Sortie	USAF	USN	USMC	USA	TOTAL
I: FIXED WING					
A: Strike (1)	34	32	31	-	97
B: Recon (2)	73	1	2	105	181
II: HELO TASKS (3)	13	11	143	674	841

NOTES: (1) Includes close air support (CAS), direct air support (DAS), escort, interdiction, air defense, training and other.

(2) Includes visual, photo, electronic, forward air controller (FAC), and other.

(3) Includes armed missions, combat and logistic troop and cargo lifts, evacuations, search and recovery (SAR) and other.

HIGHLIGHTS BY MONTH OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

MAY 1966

U.S. and Free World Military Assistance Forces strength in Vietnam reached 290,000 by the end of the month.

GROUND OPERATIONS:

During the month, U.S. forces conducted 37 battalion-sized operations that had contact; six more were made by FVMAF; and an additional eight were combined operations.

In the same period, U.S. forces totaled 648 battalion days of operation while FVMAF were engaged in 163.

Operation Georgia, conducted in Quang Nam Province (I Corps), by a reinforced U.S. Marine battalion, ended May 10. The operation began 20 April as a search and destroy mission. Friendly casualties were light while the enemy suffered 103 killed, 10 captured and 408 suspects detained.

Again in I Corps, Quang Ngai Province, a combined U.S. Marine/ARVN search and destroy operation dubbed Montgomery/Lien Ket 40, terminated on 14 May. The enemy had 59 killed, 61 captured, 64 suspects detained and 17 individual weapons were seized in the operation which began 9 May. Friendly casualties were light.

Operation Justin VI, a brigade-sized search and destroy mission by elements of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division and the 173d Airborne Brigade in Quang Duc and Phouc Long Provinces (II Corps), began 7 May. Enemy losses were 101 killed, six captured, 33 individual and six crew-served weapons were seized. Eighty-one tons of rice were also seized. Twenty-eight air sorties were flown in support of this operation which terminated 18 May with light friendly casualties.

Operation Navy Docket, a brigade-sized operation conducted by the 3d Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, in Binh Dinh Province, began 4 May and terminated 16 May. Friendly casualties were light in this search and destroy mission while enemy losses included 244 killed, 82 captured, 730 suspects detained and 40 individual and 12 crew-served weapons seized.

Operation Birmingham began 24 April in Tay Ninh Province and terminated 17 May. The multi-battalion 1st Infantry Division operation received light casualties while killing 119 enemy, capturing 28 plus 30 ralliers and seizing 131 individual weapons. Materials and facilities seized or destroyed in this operation included: 2,103 tons of rice, 325 tons of salt, 1,1985 sheets of metal, 66 base camps, four small jungle factories, three jungle hospitals, six aid stations, 7050 complete uniforms, 1000 pounds of medical supplies and an odd assortment of explosive ordnance.

Operation Wahiana, a multi-brigade operation of the 25th Infantry Division in Hau Nghia Province (III Corps), terminated 27 May. Friendly casualties were light in the operation which began 16 May. Enemy losses included 157 killed and 10 captured. There were 234 tactical air sorties flown in support of this operation.

Operation Crazy Horse, a brigade-size search and destroy mission, was initiated by the 1st Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division on 16 May in Binh Dinh Province (II Corps). The operation developed from the capture of enemy documents by an ARVN CIDG unit which revealed the presence of an estimated enemy battalion or more that planned to attack a Special Forces camp. By the end of the month, enemy killed totaled 286 and 21 captured. Friendly casualties are light as the operation continues.

Operation Lexington, a brigade-sized action by the 2d Brigade, 1st Infantry

Division in Rung Sat Special Zone, was initiated 17 May. Results to date are 42 enemy dead and 10 captured with light friendly casualties. The operation continues.

Operation Fillmore, initiated 25 March by elements of the 2d ROK Division and the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, continued through the reporting period. By the end of the month, the enemy toll had risen to 298 killed, 51 captured and 372 suspects detained. Friendly casualties are light.

Operation Bardihoop, involving the 1st Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment and elements of the 173d Airborne Brigade, began on 15 May. The operation continued through the reporting period with enemy losses totaling 29 killed, one captured and 41 suspects detained. Friendly casualties are light.

Operation Paul Revere, with elements of the 3d Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, began on 10 May and continued through the reporting period. So far in the operation located in Pleiku Province, enemy losses are 307 killed, 17 captured while friendly casualties remain light.

NAVAL ACTIVITY:

U.S. Navy and Coast Guard patrol boats in Operation Market Time boarded and searched a combined total of 33,800 junks and sampans, seizing 70 and detaining 870 suspects.

A total of 58 7th Fleet ships fired 113 shore bombardment missions in support of ground operations during the reporting period.

AIR OPERATIONS:

The largest Air Force strike against a single target in North Vietnam and an increase in the number of strike sorties against VC targets in the Republic

occurred during the reporting period.

The big strike in the North came on the last day of the month when F-105s and F-4Cs flew 18 missions against Yen Bay Military Storage Complex about 80 miles northwest of Hanoi.

In an encounter with four MIG-17s about 105 miles northwest of Hanoi, an F-4C crew downed the twelfth MIG of the Vietnam conflict on 12 May.

Among the targets listed as destroyed in the North were more than 200 buildings, 170 trucks, 130 bridges, 110 barges, 50 AAA gun positions, 29 ferry complexes, 26 storage areas, 22 radar sites and a combination of 22 radar and SAM missile sites. There were also several rail and road interdictions.

Air Force strike pilots flew 4,541 close air support and other combat sorties in the Republic during the reporting period.

Principal ground operations supported by TAC air were Birmingham, Crazy Horse, Davy Crockett and Paul Revere.

B-52 Bombers conducted 35 missions against known or suspected enemy concentrations and base camps.

SUMMARY OF AIR SORTIES OVER THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM
(nearest 100 sorties)

Type Sortie	USAF	USN	USMC	USA	TOTAL
I. FIRED WING					
A. Strike (1)	43	28	28		99
B. Recon (2)	69		1	98	168
II HELD TASKS (3)	11	1	131	723	866

NOTES: (1) Includes close air support (CAS), direct air support (DAS), escort, interdiction, air defense, training and other.

(2) Includes visual, photo, electronic, forward air controller (FAC) and other.

(3) Includes armed missions, combat and logistic troop and cargo lifts, evacuations, search and recovery (SAR) and other.

ENEMY OPERATIONS:

Enemy activity during the period consisted primarily of harassing actions, sniper fire, mining and booby traps. There was some increase in night-time harassment of outposts, watch towers and isolated villages over the previous month. VC attacks decreased while acts of terrorism increased. No major enemy operations were launched during the period.

HIGHLIGHTS BY MONTH OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

JUNE 1966

The strength of U.S. and Free World Military Assistance Forces in Vietnam reached 303,000 by the end of the month.

GROUND OPERATIONS:

During the month, U.S. forces conducted 75 battalion-sized operations with contact and FVMAF conducted 17 battalion-sized operations with contact. An additional 27 combined operations with contact were conducted.

In the same period, U.S. forces totaled 640 battalion days of operation and FVMAF totaled 164.

Operation Crazy Horse, which began on 16 May in Binh Dinh Province, was terminated 5 June. Elements of the 1st Cavalry Division, the Korean Capital ROK Division and the Vietnamese CIDG accounted for 516 VC killed, 31 captured and 119 suspects detained. USAF pilots flew 265 strike sorties in support of the operation. Friendly casualties were light throughout the operation.

Fighting in Operation Hawthorne terminated 20 June. Elements of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, accounted for 570 enemy killed and 22 captured in the operation which began 2 June. USAF pilots flew 472 strike sorties in support of the operation.

Operation El Paso continued through the reporting period. Elements of the 1st Infantry Division continued to uncover more caches of rice. As of 24 June, total rice captured was 1,472 tons.

On 29 June, U.S. and Vietnamese Marines killed 202 VC in one battle following

a VC attack on a Vietnamese Marine Battalion 18 miles northwest of Hue. U.S. Marine reinforcing elements were airlifted from Operation Jay into the battle. This action enabled the combined forces to inflict heavy casualties during the short engagement. There were no U.S. casualties.

NAVAL ACTIVITY:

U.S. Navy and Coast Guard patrols in Operation Market Time boarded and searched 22,215 vessels, seizing 99 vessels and detaining 1,113 suspects.

In Game Warden activities, 4,489 vessels were boarded and searched. 15 were seized and 135 suspects were detained. Six more SWIFT boats were added to the U.S. Navy and Coast Guard units engaged in Market Time patrols during the month of June. This raised the total number of SWIFTs in operation to 54.

On 20 June, a 120-foot steel-hulled trawler, attempting to infiltrate a cargo of arms and ammunition into the Delta region, was run aground and captured by two Coast Guard cutters at the mouth of the Co Chien River, 80 miles south of Saigon. The vessel was carrying mortars, recoilless rifles, pistols, anti-tank weapons, grenades, bayonets, and several hundred rounds of ammunition of various calibers. The cutters making the capture were part of Market Time operations.

During the reporting period, 153 naval gunfire support missions were fired in support of friendly operations.

AIR OPERATIONS:

B-52 strikes against suspected enemy concentrations or base camps totaled 48.

In North Vietnam, transportation routes and rolling stock were attacked repeatedly throughout the month. On 5 June, nine SAM missiles were fired at U.S.

Navy carrier-launched aircraft during attacks against storage areas and transportation points. All nine missiles missed.

On 21 June, an Air Force C-123 Provider was downed by ground fire while on a defoliation mission 32 miles south-southwest of Da Nang. This was the first aircraft of this type to be downed since defoliation missions were undertaken in 1962.

On 29 June, the major petroleum storage facilities in the Hanoi and Haiphong areas were attacked by Navy and Air Force aircraft. No SAM sightings or MIG aircraft were reported during the attack.

SUMMARY OF AIR SORTIES OVER THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM
(nearest 100 sorties)

Type Sortie	USAF	USN	USMC	USA	TOTAL
I: FIXED WING					
A: Strike (1)	52	25	30		107
B: Recon (2)	65		1	99	165
II: HELICOPTERS (3)	10	14	99	750	873

NOTES: (1) Includes close air support (CAS), direct air support (DAS), escort, interdiction, air defense, training and other.

(2) Includes visual, photo, electronic, forward air controller (FAC) and other.

(3) Includes armed missions, combat and logistic troop and cargo lifts, evacuations, search and recovery (SAR) and other.

ENEMY OPERATIONS:

There were 3,430 VC incidents during the month. Of these, 38 were attacks, 23 were ambushes, 2,477 involved some sort of terrorism, 217 were acts of sabotage, 112 involved distribution of propaganda and 563 were anti-aircraft firings against

friendly aircraft.

There were no large-scale offensives launched by the enemy during the reporting period.

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