

During this period a concerted effort was also made to suppress the enemy SAM capability and anti-aircraft weapons which showed a significant increase after cessation of bombing north of the 19th Parallel. One special three week operation, named "THOR" was initiated on 1 July, which concentrated a high density of strikes in the area just north of the DMZ. The purpose of "THOR" was to neutralize the North Vietnamese artillery and anti-aircraft guns which had been active in this area. These programs were successful as indicated by the few aircraft losses when compared to the large number of missions flown.

The bombing of North Vietnam was halted completely on 1 November in a further attempt to hasten the peace negotiations. Up to the bombing halt, 32,474 missions were flown over North Vietnam. The breakdown by individual service is: 5,445 by the Marine Corps, 11,665 by the Navy and Air Force pilots flew 15,496 missions, including 132 B-52 missions over the north and in the DMZ.

Since the bombing halt, missions over North Vietnam have been limited to unarmed reconnaissance aircraft accompanied by escorts armed with appropriate weapons for countering SAMs and anti-aircraft fire. In addition, Search and Rescue (SAR) forces have been employed, accompanied by suppressive fire when required, for rescue of downed crewmembers.

United States' losses over the North during the year were 144 fixed wing aircraft and two helicopters, attributed to enemy aircraft, surface-to-air missiles (SAMs) and anti-aircraft fire. Enemy aircraft losses during the year were seven MIG-21s and seven MIG-17s. Of these, eight were downed by Air Force and six by Navy aircrews

A CHRONOLOGY OF AIR OPERATIONS AGAINST NORTH VIETNAM 1964 - 1968

Air operations commenced against North Vietnam on 5 August 1964, as a retaliatory action for the communist torpedo boat raids against the destroyers USS MADDOX and USS TURNER JOY in international waters in the Tonkin Gulf. The attack was directed against the torpedo boat base in the vicinity of Vinh by 64 U.S. Navy aircraft from the USS TICONDEROGA and USS CONSTELLATION. The first U.S. aircraft downed to hostile fire were on this raid, an A-4 Shyhawk and an A-1 Skyraider. The next two air attacks against North Vietnam were also retaliatory in nature and were carried out as a result of attacks against U.S. forces at Pleiku on 7 February 1965, and at Qui Nhon on 11 February 1965. The air operations were again mounted from aircraft carriers and carried out against NVN Army barracks and port facilities in the Dong Hoi area. The carriers involved were the USS CORAL SEA, USS HANCOCK and USS RANGER.

As the enemy's offensive actions in South Vietnam increased in intensity, United States involvement gradually increased. The first jets were introduced into the Republic in late February 1965 to increase the capability for support of ground operations. The first scheduled air strike against the movement of supplies from North Vietnam occurred on 2 March 1965. In two separate strikes on this day U.S. Air Force aircraft attacked supply areas just north of the DMZ and a joint VNAF/USAF strike was flown against a port facility and supply transshipment point 20 miles northwest of Dong Hoi.

On 15 March 1965 the next strike against supply activities was scheduled. This was a highly successful strike against the Phu Qui ammunition depot by both Air Force and Navy aircraft. A restrike against the same target was executed on 19 March, again by a joint Navy and Air Force striking force. Almost daily after this time, air strikes were executed against targets having military significance in the flow of war materials south toward the Republic. The primary targets were ammunition and other supply areas, bridges, radar sites, and supply traffic on rail, road and waterways.

The first MIGs were sighted on 3 April by Navy interceptor aircraft during a raid on the Than Hoa bridges. The next day (4 April) the first U.S. aircraft were downed by enemy aircraft when two Air Force F-105s were downed by MIGs as they orbited waiting their target time during another raid on the Than Hoa bridges.

The first of a series of deliberate bombing pauses over North Vietnam was from 2400, 12 May through 0600, 18 May 1965.

The first enemy aircraft downed by the U.S. occurred on 17 June 1965 when two Navy F-4 Phantoms from the USS MIDWAY engaged four MIG-17s and downed two of them.

B-52 bombers were introduced into the war on 18 June 1965 for the first time with their early raids limited to South Vietnam.

On 24 July 1965, the first U.S. aircraft was downed by a surface-to-air missile (SAM). It was an Air Force F-4 Phantom on a strike against a munitions plant 40 miles west of Hanoi.

A second bombing pause was initiated by the U.S. at 1800 on 24 December 1965 and continued until 0001 on 31 January 1966. Up to this pause 25,340 strike sorties had been flown since 5 August 1964 over North Vietnam. A sortie is an action by one aircraft between the takeoff and landing.

The first B-52 strike in North Vietnam occurred on 12 April 1966 against the Mu Gia Pass, where the Ho Chi Minh trail passes through a gap in the mountains.

Vietnam based Marine pilots joined in strikes against North Vietnam during July 1966.

Tactical air strikes commenced in the DMZ on 24 July 1966 and B-52s hit the DMZ for the first time on July 30th.

On 2 December 1966 the U.S. lost 8 aircraft to enemy action in raids over North Vietnam, the most lost in any one day.

Christmas and New Years bombing pauses were initiated by the U.S. over the periods of 0700, 24 December to 0700, 26 December 1966 and 0700, 31 December 1966 to 0700, 2 January 1967.

One of the most significant days in U.S. air action was 2 January 1967 when 7 MIG-21s were downed by U.S. Air Force F-4 Phantoms near Hanoi.

The fifth bombing pause was initiated by the U.S. from 0700, 8 February to 0100, 14 February 1967 over the Vietnamese TET holiday.

Another major air battle over Hanoi occurred on 31 May 1967 when 7 MIG-17s were downed by U.S. Air Force pilots.

A four-hour bombing pause was declared on 23 May 1967 on Buddha's birthday.

The record number of missions by U.S. aircraft over North Vietnam was on 19 August 1967 when 209 were flown, 94 by the Navy, 88 by the Air Force and 27 by the Marine Corps. The individual service high missions over North Vietnam are as follows:

USAF - 105	- 18 AUG 67
USN - 94	- 19 AUG 67
USMC - 60	- 16 DEC 67

A Christmas bombing pause covered the period 1800, 24 December to 1800, 25 December 1967. In addition, a New Years pause was held from 1800, 31 December 1967 to 0600, 2 January 1968.

The TET celebration of 1968 called for the ninth and final pause at 1800, 29 January but it was cancelled at 0930, 30 January due to the TET offensive.

On 31 March 1968, bombing of North Vietnam was limited to below the 20th Parallel. Up to this time the prime targets had been jet airfields, as well as major military, manufacturing, and transportation sites. In addition, effort was expended to neutralize the enemy air defense capability by hitting radar sites, SAM sites, and anti-aircraft positions. Subsequent to 31 March, the primary effort changed to interdicting the flow of materials through the Panhandle.

Bombing of the North was halted by decree of President Johnson at 2100 1 Nov 1968. As of that time, the following statistics had accumulated:

1. STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF AIR NORTH 1964 - 1968

		<u>USN</u>	<u>USAF</u>	<u>USMC</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Sorties	1964	64	- -	0	64
	1965	<u>unk</u>	<u>unk</u>	0	<u>25,276</u>
	(TOTAL)	unk	unk	0	25,340
Missions	1966	10,612	12,277	1,194	24,083
	1967	11,732	18,575	7,331	37,638
	1968	<u>11,665</u>	<u>15,364</u>	<u>5,445</u>	<u>32,474</u>
	(TOTAL)	34,009	46,216	13,970	94,195

2. B-52 MISSIONS OVER NORTH VIETNAM AND THE DMZ

	<u>NVN</u>	<u>DMZ</u>
1966	13	29
1967	63	174
1968	<u>65</u>	<u>67</u>
(TOTAL)	<u>141</u>	<u>270</u>

3. ENEMY AIRCRAFT DOWNED BY U.S. AIRCRAFT OVER NVN

	<u>USAF</u>	<u>USN</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
MIG 21	25	8	33
MIG 17	56	21	77
AN 2	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
(TOTAL)	<u>81</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>111</u>

4. U.S. AIRCRAFT DOWNED BY ENEMY HOSTILE FIRE OVER NVN

FIXED WING	919
HELICOPTER	10

AIRCRAFT LOSSES

MACV - Official U.S. aircraft losses in connection with the war in Vietnam through 31 December 1968, the figures in parenthesis represent those aircraft lost from 2 January 1968 to 31 December 1968:

FIXED WING AIRCRAFT (1968 LOSSES)

CATEGORY I:	1,246	(251)
*NVN:	919	(143)
**RVN:	327	(108)
CATEGORY II:	1,247	(381)

HELICOPTERS

CATEGORY I:	982	(519)
NVN:	10	(2)
RVN:	972	(517)
CATEGORY II:	1,293	(519)

CATEGORY I - Combat aircraft lost to hostile action while flying missions over North Vietnam or the Republic of Vietnam.

CATEGORY II - Combat aircraft lost to non-hostile action, support aircraft losses and all other aircraft losses in connection with the war.

*NVN (Started 5 August 1964)

**RVN (Started 1 January 1961)

U. S. N A V Y O P E R A T I O N S

1 9 6 8

The U.S. Navy support of the Vietnam effort is provided by two primary forces. One assigned in-country as a specified command -- **Naval Forces Vietnam**, and the other -- **U.S. SEVENTH Fleet**, providing naval gunfire, amphibious and tactical air support.

NAVAL FORCES VIETNAM (NAVFORV)

GENERAL: Operations conducted within the Republic of Vietnam by NAVFORV during 1968 were greatly expanded and marked by significant changes in strategy.

For the first time in the war U.S. Navy units began operations against enemy infiltration routes along inland waterways of the III Corps Tactical Zone. Increased security along the Republic's shipping channels and coastal waters, through increased strength and capabilities of existing naval units, led to the creation of Operation SEA LORDS in October. In addition U. S. Navy units began extensive training programs in 1968 to increase the effectiveness of Vietnamese Naval Forces.

OPERATION MARKET TIME (Task Force 115): During the year U.S. Navy and Coast Guard units conducting MARKET TIME patrols continued coastal surveillance. During their patrols units detected more than 770,000 craft, 65 percent of which were boarded or inspected. Between February 21st and 1 March MARKET TIME units intercepted five enemy trawlers. Two were turned back and three were destroyed. One trawler alone was carrying over 650 carbines, sub- and light machine guns and large quantities of assorted grenades and ammunition.

MARKET TIME units also greatly increased the use of fire support capabilities providing naval gunfire missions and blocking patrols in support of ground operations during 1968. These offensive operations cost the enemy 1,111 killed, 77 captured and more than 9,000 structures or craft destroyed or damaged.

OPERATION GAME WARDEN (Task Force 116): An increased number of river patrol boats (PBRs) on GAME WARDEN patrols operating along inland waterways in conjunction with "Seawolf" light helicopter fire teams, **nearly doubled** their activities in 1968. Their increased capabilities also enabled them to expand operations to the I Corps Tactical Zone.

NAVAL RIVERINE ASSAULT FORCE (Task Force 117): The River Assault Force also doubled in size in 1968 with the addition of two self-propelled barracks ships and 86 attack craft. Combined with U.S. Army units to form the Mobile Riverine Force, Task Force 117 continued to penetrate enemy sanctuaries throughout the Delta. They also expanded operations, bringing new pressures and inflicting heavy losses on the enemy in southern III Corps and northern I Corps.

During the Tet offensive Navy units throughout the country took a significant part in giving the enemy one of his worst defeats of the war. Their greatest effort however was made in the Mekong Delta area. There, Riverine Force units provided the main force in repelling enemy attacks at My Tho, Dong Tam, Cai Lay and Vinh Long. At the city of Ben Tre a concentrated effort by Game Warden patrol boat and Seawolf helicopter gunship crews managed to stem the enemy attack after two days of heavy fighting.

Throughout the year U.S. Navy units continued to search out and engage the enemy, inflicting heavy losses. By October TF 115 had expanded its naval gunfire support operations and had begun raids into the IV Corps waterways while continuing to maintain coastal surveillance. TF 116 had increased its strength sufficiently to maintain patrols on all the major rivers in the Delta. Operations of TF 117 had been expanded following the arrival of the second task group. These developments permitted, for the first time, coordinated operations of all three Task Forces.

Operation SEA LORDS was initiated in late October for the conduct of coordinated operations into previously secure enemy strongholds along the rivers and canals south of the Bassac River. This operation is directed at interdicting enemy lines of communication from the Gulf of Thailand to the Bassac River. In addition it is designed to open the Trans-Delta waterways and pacification of the adjacent areas and the clearing and pacification of the Bassac Islands.

One of the most far reaching programs undertaken by U.S. Naval Forces during 1968 is the extensive training program for Vietnamese Naval Forces. This valuable training in both operations and maintenance will enable the Vietnamese Navy to assume the defense responsibility of its coastal and inland waterways. In addition to numerous other activities in 1968, the Vietnamese Navy assumed the responsibility of eight of the 53 coastal surveillance stations and is now responsible for the Dong Nai River and Long Tau River sweeps for command detonated mines.

U.S. SEVENTH FLEET

GENERAL: Seventh Fleet ships, ranging from the rocket-firing USS WHITE RIVER to the world's largest artillery platform, the battleship NEW JERSEY, covered all areas of the coast of North and South Vietnam during 1968.

Navy support was divided into three areas: North Vietnam, the Demilitarized Zone and South Vietnam. Up through 31 March 1968 (end of bombing above the 20th parallel) all of North Vietnam was target for the Navy's aircraft and off-shore guns. From April until the bombing halt on November 1, Naval firepower was concentrated in the Panhandle section of North Vietnam, along the DMZ and South Vietnam. Also in South Vietnam, the Seventh Fleet Amphibious Forces conducted 20 combat operations.

NAVAL GUNFIRE: The year began with Seventh Fleet destroyers and cruisers conducting Sea Dragon gunfire operations in North Vietnam, limiting the flow of enemy war materials into the South. The majority of the action was directed against coastal supply routes and air defense sites.

Shore batteries in North Vietnam kept up their firing at U.S. Navy ships throughout the year. In May, they scored their first hit of 1968 on a destroyer, the USS OSBORNE. Damage was light. Several other ships were later hit with negligible structural damage and no loss of American lives.

The summer months saw a concentration of firepower on the Panhandle section of North Vietnam. Structures, bunkers, waterborne craft, and supply areas were the targets for the heavy fire. In September alone Sea Dragon units reported destroying 154 enemy supply craft.

With the bombing halt on November 1, Seventh Fleet guns were often directed to the DMZ. This DMZ action consisted of shelling enemy concentration points in support of Marine and Army troops located just south of the DMZ. Bunkers, trenches, artillery and automatic weapons sites, caches, "spider holes", supply areas and waterborne supply craft of all sizes were destroyed or damaged. In September the USS NEW JERSEY, the world's only active battleship entered combat when she fired her 16-inch shells for the first time in war in 15 years. During December, naval gunfire in the DMZ was sharply curtailed, responding only to evidence of enemy presence there.

Naval gunfire in South Vietnam covered Viet Cong held areas close to shore, from the DMZ to and around the tip of the Republic. The first NGFS action of the year came in support of Operation WHEELER/WALLOWA near Quang Tri in I Corps. Along with the cruisers and destroyers, rocket firing ships with their ordnance were also used against VC and NVA positions.

With the halt of firing missions in North Vietnam, Seventh Fleet ships, including the NEW JERSEY, increased their efforts in the Republic. With their guns turned in support of U.S. and Free World Force ground operations in the South, Seventh Fleet ships inflicted heavy losses on the enemy in the closing months of the year.

Complementing U.S. Seventh Fleet units, the Australian destroyers HMAS HOBART and HMAS PERTH contributed greatly to Allied Forces efforts in offshore bombardment throughout the year.

NAVAL AIR OPERATIONS: Navy aircraft were directed to targets beyond the reach of shells. At the beginning of the year, carrier-based aircraft bombed various targets around the city of Hanoi, including the Cat Bi airfield and nearby railroad yards and thermal power plants. Restricted to the Panhandle region of North Vietnam in April, Navy pilots continued to hammer enemy supply facilities and defense positions.

In late June and early July, Navy flyers shot down four MIG-21 aircraft over North Vietnam, bringing the total of communist aircraft downed by Naval Aviators to 27 since June 1965. (Additional information on Naval air operations in NVN may be found in Section V of this summary.

AMPHIBIOUS OPERATIONS: During the year, the Seventh Fleet Amphibious Forces conducted 20 combat operations in the I Corps tactical zone of Vietnam. Two amphibious ready groups (ARGs) patrolled off the Vietnamese coast last year. There was at least one ARG on the line at all times. Each ARG carried a special landing force (SLF), consisting basically of a Marine battalion landing team (BLT) and a helicopter squadron. The ARG/SLF is a combat-ready fast reaction force, capable of moving quickly to any area.

This Navy-Marine Corps force can launch its own independent operation or respond immediately to support of in-country operations. On several occasions, the ARG terminated one operation, backloaded the SLF, and shifted the entire force up to 100 miles in 48-72 hours, launching a new assault responsive to the rapidly changing situation.

In July, Operation Eager Yankee saw the initial helicopter and waterborne assault launched under cover of darkness. In Operations Swift Move and Valiant Hunt, the ARG/SLF turned its attention to cordon, search and clear operations, designed to eliminate VC infrastructure in furtherance of the accelerated pacification campaign.

In addition to combat amphibious operations, three "special" operations, nicknamed Mighty Yankee, Tight Jaw and Liberty Canyon were conducted. The first two operations saw the successful repatriation of 21 North Vietnamese prisoners-of-war. These men were returned to North Vietnam from amphibious ships. They were disembarked in small boats at a point in international waters near Vinh, approximately 150 miles north of the DMZ.

In Operation Liberty Canyon, the amphibious ships transported a large segment of a U.S. Army division from I Corps to the III Corps tactical zone.

Other combat amphibious ships of ARG were engaged in special combat support lifts of equipment, supplies and troops. Continuous support was also provided to Operation Market Time, Game Warden and Mobile Riverine Force units.

Task Force 76 landing ship tanks (LSTs) were an asset for the delivery of personnel, supplies and major equipment to and within Vietnam, often through hostile, shallow waterways — and many times under fire.

Throughout the year, in a total of 675 trips; ships of the Amphibious Force lifted almost 23,000 troops, more than 9,600 vehicles and 670 million pounds of cargo to ports in Vietnam and in the western Pacific.

During the enemy's Tet offensive, the Amphibious Force was called on to increase its support of Allied troops in the Hue and Cua Viet areas of Vietnam. Hue was cut off by enemy forces and the Cua Viet area was being subjected to enemy artillery attacks.

The Amphibs had to find a new route for deliveries. Navy Frogmen from one of the ARGs surveyed the beach at Thon My Thuy, about midway between Hue and Cua Viet. The site was found to be suitable for smaller landing craft, but not suitable for beaching LSTs. The problem was resolved by installing over 700 feet of pontoon supported causeway to accommodate offloading directly from the LSTs. "Wunder Beach" as it was nicknamed, proved to be an important factor in keeping the men ashore supplied until the tempo of operations returned to normal.

1968 U.S. CASUALTIES AND ENEMY KIA

The following is a recap of the weekly casualty figures released by the Department of Defense. These figures reflect the casualties reported to the Department by the military services during the week indicated. Delayed reports and status changes (missing to dead, died of wounds etc) for earlier weeks were included in the total of week they were received. This table includes casualties reported from 30 December 1967 through 4 January 1969.

WEEK ENDING	UNITED STATES			M/C/I (#)	ENEMY KIA
	KIA	WIA (h)	WIA (n-h)		
6 Jan	184	585	547	915	3033
13 Jan	278	711	612	968	2228
20 Jan	218	949	847	976	2021
27 Jan	203	901	777	982	2644
3 Feb	416	1,529	1,228	997	16,110 *
10 Feb	400	934	560	1,169	13,118
17 Feb	543	1,247	1,300	1,242	6,974
24 Feb	470	1,330	1,345	1,221	6,349
2 Mar	542	1,105	1,086	1,137	4,463
9 Mar	509	1,401	1,365	1,087	5,168
16 Mar	336	853	1,063	1,103	3,642
23 Mar	349	1,000	965	1,073	2,982
30 Mar	330	1,829	2,057	1,080	2,896
6 Apr	279	1,344	1,846	1,080	2,847
13 Apr	363	1,352	1,342	1,093	3,071
20 Apr	287	736	722	1,089	2,397
27 Apr	302	1,363	1,095	1,107	2,110
4 May	383	974	527	1,121	3,741

11 May	562 *	1.153	1.072	1.138	3.786
18 May	549	1.314	968	1.211	5.348
25 May	426	1.419	1,268	1.215	3.867
1 Jun	438	2.180	1.690	1.209	4.737
8 Jun	380	1,360	1.379	1.209	3.176
15 Jun	324	1.247	1,078	1.211	2.019
22 Jun	299	1.184	1,036	1.200	2.518
29 Jun	187	851	1,077	1.195	1.714
6 Jul	198	651	597	1.187	1.562
13 Jul	188	760	577	1.187	1.259+
20 Jul	157	1.092	922	1.187	1.549
27 Jul	193	580	506	1.187	1,671
3 Aug	171	563	487	1.187	1,461
10 Aug	173	447	341	1.187	2.102
17 Aug	159	609	575	1.193	2.129
24 Aug	308	679	465	1.208	5.329
31 Aug	408	1,398	1,115	1.197	5.292
7 Sep	195	681	719	1.199	2,049
14 Sep	217	739	746	1.204	2.886
21 Sep	290	949	813	1.204	3,380
28 Sep	247	818	961	1.203	3.398
5 Oct	190	533	793	1.214	2.115
12 Oct	177	659	619	1.206	1.821
19 Oct	100+	217	372	1.205	1.440
26 Oct	109	253	464	1.212	1.995

2 Nov	150	429	785	1,217	2,162
9 Nov	166	549	704	1,215	1,601
16 Nov	127	393	638	1,212	2,103
23 Nov	160	573	859	1,215	2,706
30 Nov	228	469	625	1,261	2,727
7 Dec	192	424	686	1,243	2,006
14 Dec	222	520	676	1,251	2,207
21 Dec	151	403	435	1,243	2,236
28 Dec	113	429	529	1,243	2,135
4 Jan	101	337	262	1,238	1,846
<u>TOTAL</u>	14,647	47,005	46,123		182,127

KIA - Killed in action

WIA (h) - Wounded in action and required hospital care

WIA (n-h) - Minor wounds no hospital care required

M/C/I # - Personnel missing, captured or interned since 1 Jan 1961

* highest of the war

+ lowest for 1968

COMBAT DEATHS FOR OTHER FORCES IN VIETNAM

Forces	<u>RVNAF</u>	<u>OTHER FREE WORLD FORCES</u>
Calendar Year 1968	17,486 **	979
Total since 1 Jan 1961	73,888	2,689

** As reported by GVN

U.S. MILITARY STRENGTH FIGURES IN VIETNAM

The figures below represent an average of high strength periods.
(Off-shore Naval forces are not included in these totals.)

AUGUST 1961	800	DECEMBER 1965	184,000
NOVEMBER 1962	11,000	DECEMBER 1966	390,000
NOVEMBER 1963	17,000	DECEMBER 1967	497,000
DECEMBER 1964	23,000	DECEMBER 1968	537,500

LOSSES IN VIETNAM

YEAR	ARMY	NAVY	MARINE CORPS	AIR FORCE	Total
LOSSES FROM HOSTILE ACTIONS					
DEATHS					
1961	5	-	-	6	11
1962	17	-	-	14	31
1963	45	3	9	21	78
1964	118	1	2	26	147
1965	898	75	335	61	1,369
1966	3,073	120	1,681	134	5,008
1967	5,443	311	3,452	172	9,378
1968	9,333	464#	4,618	177	14,592
Total*	18,959	974	10,100	611	30,644

MISSING					
Total*	169	118	81	543	911

LOSSES FROM NON-HOSTILE ACTION

DEATHS					
Total*	3,184	545	1,045	364	5,138

MISSING					
Total*	73	-	2	4	79

includes 1 Coast Guard member

* cumulative from January 1, 1961 through January 4, 1969.

ENEMY LOSSES

YEAR	NUMBER KIA	YEAR	NUMBER KIA
1960	5,669	1965	35,436
1961	12,133	1966	55,524
1962	21,158	1967	88,104
1963	20,575	1968	181,146
1964	16,785	TOTAL	436,530

LOSSES IN OTHER CONFLICTS

	WORLD WAR II	KOREA
BATTLE DEATHS	291,557	33,629
NON-FATAL WOUNDS*	670,846	103,284

* the number wounded were those who required admission to a hospital

CEASE-FIRE PERIODS AND INCIDENTS

Since the beginning of the Vietnamese War there have been several cease-fires and bomb halts. In each instance there have been enemy initiated incidents. In the following listing, those incidents in which casualties occurred are categorized as significant.

CHRISTMAS

1800 24 Dec - 0600 26 Dec 1965 -- 84 incidents

0700 24 Dec - 0700 26 Dec 1966 -- 81 incidents (24 significant, 5 US KIA, 34 WIA)

1800 24 Dec - 1800 25 Dec 1967 -- 110 incidents (40 significant, 2 US KIA 24 WIA)

1800 24 Dec - 1800 25 Dec 1968 -- 133 incidents (47 significant, 2 US KIA 36 WIA)

NEW YEARS

0700 31 Dec 1966 - 0700 2 Jan 1967 -- 111 incidents (24 significant, 14 US KIA, 27 WIA)

1800 31 Dec 1967 - 0600 2 Jan 1968 -- 177 incidents (55 significant, 27 US KIA, 205 WIA)

TET

1200 20 Jan - 1800 23 Jan 1966 -- 106 incidents

0700 8 Feb - 0700 12 Feb 1967 -- 272 incidents (89 significant, 18 US KIA, 158 WIA)

1968 TET OFFENSIVE - Allied forces declared 36 hour stand-down from 1800 29 Jan - 31 Jan 1968. The cease-fire did not apply to I Corps or the DMZ because of the high level of enemy movement indicated in certain areas. The cease-fire was cancelled at 0930 on 30 Jan as the enemy attacks took place. The enemy cease-fire was declared from 0100 27 Jan 1968 - 3 Feb 1968.

BUDDHA'S BIRTHDAY

0001 23 May - 0001 24 May 1967 -- 71 incidents (32 significant, 12 US KIA, 57 WIA)

All of the above stand-down periods were accompanied by bomb halts over North Vietnam with the exception of Tet 1968; when supply routes south of Vinh continued to be hit.

ENEMY MATERIEL LOSSES

Listed below are the more significant categories of weapons, ammunition and food lost by the enemy to South Vietnamese, U.S. and other Free World Forces in 1968. These totals include the results of cache finds as well as captured and destroyed on the battlefield. The 1967 totals in parenthesis are shown for comparative purposes.

<u>AMMUNITION</u>	<u>TONS</u>	<u>ROUNDS/PIECES</u>	
Small Arms	305	15,236,775	(4,017,663)
Mortars	673	186,546	(44,107)
Grenades	56	110,778	(34,283)
Rockets	186	4,934	(457)
RPG	231	109,568	(6,213)
Artillery	819	86,204	(4,016)
<u>WEAPONS</u>			
Individual		58,173	(28,873)
Crew-served		10,811	(2,856)
<u>FOOD</u>			
Rice	5,508.8		
Salt	279		

In terms of combat logistics requirements for enemy units, the above can be evaluated and equated as follows:

The individual weapons would equip more than 100 VC battalions.

The crew served weapons would be a basic complement for over 130 VC battalions.

The rice would be sufficient to feed forty 500-man battalions for one year.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION
THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

The Republic of Vietnam (RVN) is a long, narrow, crescent shaped country which forms the southeast coastal rim of the Southeast Asian Peninsula bordering on the South China Sea. The RVN extends about 575 miles north to south and is about 37 miles wide at the demarcation line (17th Parallel). At its widest point, from Tay Ninh Province to Ninh Thuan Province, it measures about 225 miles across. It presents nearly 1,500 miles of coastline. The RVN is bordered by North Vietnam on the north and Laos and Cambodia on the west. The long inland border shared with Laos and Cambodia is remote and vaguely defined.

Most of the northern two-thirds of the country consists of hills and mountains (the Chaine Annamitique), and the southern one-third is mainly a flat plain (the Mekong Delta). The highlands, which extend from the northern border to within 60 miles of Saigon, are characterized by steep slopes, sharp crests and narrow valleys and are covered mainly by dense broadleaf, evergreen rain forests. Most peaks are from 4,000 to 7,000 feet above sea level, and a few in the north are over 8,000 feet. In the west central part of the country, the Central Highlands or the Western Highlands, the mountains grade into rolling, generally grassy, upland plains. On the east the highlands are flanked by narrow, coastal plains which are compartmented by rocky headlands. Belts of sand dunes and, in areas with suitable soil, rice fields are common along the coast. From the crests that mark the drainage divide in the highlands, streams flow eastward to the sea or westward into Cambodia.

The southern third of the RVN is an extensive, low, flat plain, separated from the hills and mountains to the north by a band of rolling plains called the transition zone. The zone contains dense to open forest and scattered areas of grass and dry crops. The flat plains comprise the deltas of the Mekong River west of Saigon and the Dong Nai river east of Saigon, and their distributaries. The plains are characterized by a poorly drained surface that is criss-crossed by many streams and an intricate network of canals and ditches. Elevations in the Delta nearly everywhere are less than 10 feet; in the rolling plains they are commonly less than 1,000 feet. The delta is extensively cultivated in wetland rice and is generally considered the "Ricebowl of Vietnam" and potentially the Ricebowl of Southeast Asia." Long stretches of mangrove swamp line the coast and parts of the lower courses of tidal estuaries, and there are large areas of marsh. The Plaine de Joncs (Plain of Reeds) is a large marsh west of Saigon containing vast areas of tall reeds and scattered scrub trees.

The seasonal alternation of the monsoons determine both the rainfall and the temperature in the RVN throughout the year. However geographical features do alter patterns locally. Annual rainfall is heavy in nearly all regions and torrential in many. Heaviest annual rainfall occurs at Hue - 128 inches. The wet season, the southwest monsoon, extends from mid-May to late September. The dry season, the northeast monsoon, extends from early November to mid-March. These two major seasons are separated by short transitional periods, the spring transition from mid-March to mid-May and the autumn transition from September to early November. This weather pattern holds true for most of the Republic. The exception being the northeast coastal region, where the seasons are reversed.

Through administrative division, the RVN consists of four corps tactical zones, or corps, and certain separate areas such as the Capital Military District. The corps are numbered with roman numerals, I through IV from north to south. Each corps consists of a number of provinces: I Corps (5), II Corps (12), III Corps (11), and IV Corps (16), 44 provinces in all. Each province is organized into districts. Districts are organized into villages with an average of 8-12 villages per district and 4-6 hamlets per village.

I CORPS is the smallest of the corps tactical zones in area and with a population of approximately 2,989,000 it is also the smallest in population. It is narrow and generally very rugged. Some of the mountain peaks are in excess of 5,000 feet. The coastal plains are fertile and will support two rice crops annually.

II CORPS, the largest of the four in area, is third in population with approximately 3,013,000. The area is divided geographically into two regions, the Central Highlands and the Central Lowlands. The northern portion of the Central Highlands varies in elevation from 600 to 1,600 feet, with some peaks much higher. It is covered with bamboo and tropical broad leaf forest, interspersed with farms and rubber plantations. The southern portion of the Highlands lies at the 3,000 foot level. It slopes gradually toward the Cambodian border to the west and falls off sharply and steeply toward the sea on the east. The Central Lowlands, along the coast and in the river valleys, are fertile and extensively cultivated. Most of the population lives in this portion of the corps area.

III CORPS, although not usually considered the delta region, contains the northern portion of the Mekong River Delta. Topographers call this area the transition zone because the mountains of the Central Highlands change to flatlands where most of the terrain is under 625 feet in elevation. Much of III Corps has been cleared for cultivation of rice, but large tracts of rain forest still stand along the Cambodian border and central provinces of the zone. Second only to IV Corps in population, III Corps includes the most heavily populated areas of the Republic, including the capital city Saigon.

Of the almost 5.5 million people living in the III Corps Tactical Zone, 2,204,000 live in the Saigon/Cholon area. Another 1,148,000 people live in Gia Dinh Province which surrounds the capital city.

The IV Corps Tactical Zone is the heaviest populated area of the Republic of Vietnam with more than 5,996,000 people. Except for isolated peaks, the land in the IV Corps area does not rise over 10 feet above sea level. Rice is the chief crop of the fertile soil of the Mekong Delta. Canals criss-cross the area, dense rain forests cover the western portion, and mangrove swamps abound along the coast.

POPULATION FIGURES 1968

1. Republic of Vietnam: 17,498,000

2. Provinces: (In Thousands)

I Corps: 2,989
 Quang Nam....1,063
 Quang Ngai....594
 Quang Tin....441
 Quang Tri....293
 Thua Thien....515

II Corps: 3,013
 Binh Dinh.....906
 Binh Thuan.....321
 Darlac.....233
 Khanh Hoa.....460
 Kontum.....99
 Lam Dong.....70
 Ninh Thuan.....174
 Phu Bon.....66
 Phu Yen.....315

Pleiku.....156
 Quang Duc.....32
 Tuyen Duc.....182

III Corps: 5,453
 Bien Hoa.....438
 Binh Duong.....234
 Binh Long.....64
 Binh Tuy.....64
 Gia Dinh.....1,148
 Hau Nghia.....180
 Long An.....422
 Long Khanh.....140
 Phuoc Long.....44
 Phuoc Tuy.....188
 Tay Ninh.....326

IV Corps: 5,996
 An Giang.....548
 An Xuyen.....274
 Ba Xuyen.....359
 Bac Lieu.....324
 Chau Doc.....490
 Chuong Thien...248
 Dinh Tuong.....612
 Go Cong.....169
 Kien Giang.....382
 Kien Hoa.....549
 Kien Phong.....355
 Kien Tuong.....47
 Phong Dinh.....457
 Se Dec.....276
 Vinh Binh.....414
 Vinh Long.....491

3. Major Cities:

Saigon...2,204,900
 DaNang.....289,578
 Hue.....150,000
 Bien Hoa...138,455
 Qui Nhon...116,818
 Can Tho....81,476
 My Tho.....81,308
 Vung Tau...79,092
 Dalat.....77,158
 Phan Thiet..73,971
 Nha Trang...71,501
 Rach Gia...71,376

Ban Me Thuot..67,665
 Ben Tre
 (Truc Giang).61,304
 Long Xuyen...56,508
 Cam Ranh.....53,854
 Quang Long
 (Camau).....52,781
 Khang Hung
 (Soc Trang)..51,306
 Hoi An.....44,127
 Quang Ngai...41,595
 Sa Dec.....39,381

Tam Ky.....38,570
 Chau Phu
 (Chau Doc).38,436
 Tan An.....36,103
 Pleiku.....33,454
 Vinh Long...33,208
 Bac Lieu....31,762
 Phu Cuong...27,008
 Kontum.....26,908
 Tay Ninh....26,413
 Xuan Loc....24,201
 Quang Tri...21,837

4. The following are significant urban communities of the Saigon metropolitan area which are not included in Saigon's population total above. When combined the "Greater Saigon" area's population totals 2,909,395.

Gia Dinh....358,686
 Phu Nhuan...139,476

Tan Son Hoa...103,411
 Phu Tho.....43,251

Tan Son Nhi...41,763
 Tan Phu.....17,908

VIETNAM HISTORICAL CHRONOLOGY

The following chronology provides dates of events highlights and statistics which may be of value to the press for historical reference. Information other than that pertaining to the United States is intended for background only.

- 3000 B. C. Legendary founding of Vietnam.
- 208 B. C. Founding of kingdom of Nam-Viet composed of parts of present-day southern China and three provinces in northern Vietnam.
- 111 B. C. Nam-Viet annexed by China and governed as Chinese province of Giao Chi.
- 939 A. D. Vietnamese achieve independence after 1,000 years of Chinese domination following battle of Bach Dang.
- 1427 Warrior Le Loi proclaims himself Emperor of Vietnam, founds Le dynasty.
- 1471 Vietnamese subdue Chams along central Vietnam coastal plains, effectively ending Champa empire.
- 1771 Tay Son revolt by three brothers against rival Nguyen and Trinh ruling houses briefly unites Vietnam.
- 1802 Prince Nguyen Anh proclaims himself Emperor of Vietnam at Hue, takes name Gia Long. Beginning of Nguyen dynasty, Vietnam's last dynasty.
- 1848 Tu Duc becomes Emperor, seeks to eliminate all foreign religious and commercial influences.
- 1862 French annex northern half of Cochin China.
- 1867 French complete annexation of Cochin China.
- 1883 French protectorates established over Tonkin and Annam, bringing entire country under French control.
- 1899 French colonies and protectorates in Indochina merged into an Indochinese Union.
- 1925 Bao Dai, last of Nguyen emperors, ascends throne.

- 9 Feb 1930 French crush Yen Bay revolt, effectively destroying the major nationalist force, the Vietnamese Nationalist Party (VINQDD).
- 1930 Communist Party of Indochina organized in Hong Kong under Nguyen Ai Quoc (Ho Chi Minh).
- 1939 Viet Minh formed as coalition of various groups seeking independence.
- 1940 Japan takes control of Indochina, leaving pro-Vichy French administration intact.
- 9 Mar 1945 Japan ends French rule, permits Bao Dai to proclaim Vietnam's independence.
- 19 Aug 1945 Viet Minh Front under Ho Chi Minh takes power in Hanoi.
- 25 Aug 1945 Bao Dai abdicates in favor of the Hanoi government.
- 2 Sep 1945 "Democratic Republic of Vietnam" under Ho as President proclaimed. Bao Dai named "Supreme Counsellor."
- 6 Mar 1946 France recognizes DRV as a "free state" within the Indochinese Federation and the French Union.
- 6 Jun 1946 Fontainebleau Conference breaks up after two months with French and Vietnamese positions irreconcilable.
- 23 Nov 1946 French bombard Haiphong.
- 19 Dec 1946 Indochina war officially begins.
- 8 Mar 1949 France approves self-government for Vietnam under Bao Dai.
- 16 Dec 1949 After defeating nationalist armies, Chinese communist troops arrive at Vietnamese border.
- 18 Jan 1950 Communist China becomes first country to recognize Hanoi regime.
- 30 Jan 1950 USSR recognizes Hanoi regime.
- 7 Feb 1950 U. S. and Britain extend de jure recognition to Saigon regime.
- 8 May 1950 U. S. agrees to send military aid to France for Indochina war.
- 30 May 1950 U. S. economic mission arrives in Saigon.
- 15 Jul 1950 U. S. Military mission arrives in Vietnam.

- 23 Dec 1950 U. S. signs Pentilateral Agreement with France, Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos for indirect military aid; Military Assistance Advisory Group (MAAG) Indochina established to administer the aid; Vietnam becomes sovereign nation in French Union.
- 7 Sep 1951 U. S. signs agreement with Vietnam for direct economic aid.
- 26 Dec 1953 Viet Minh offensive cuts Vietnam in two near 17th Parallel.
- 26 Apr 1954 Geneva conference on Indochina and Korea opens.
- 7 May 1954 Dien Bien Phu falls, ending French military influence in Asia.
- 7 Jul 1954 Bao Dai appoints Ngo Dinh Diem Prime Minister.
- 21 Jul 1954 Geneva agreements end Indochina hostilities, partition Vietnam at 17th Parallel, set national elections in 1956.
- 8 Sep 1954 Southeast Asia Defense Treaty signed at Manila.
- 10 Oct 1954 North Vietnamese communist regime formally takes control in Hanoi.
- 23 Oct 1954 President Eisenhower offers U. S. military aid to Diem.
- 1 Jan 1955 U. S. begins direct aid to Vietnam.
- 20 Jan 1955 U. S. takes over training of South Vietnamese Army from the French.
- 19 Feb 1955 SEATO treaty ratified by member states which are obligated under treaty protocol to aid Protocol States of Laos, Cambodia and South Vietnam in the event of overt aggression.
- 7 Jul 1955 Communist China signs aid agreement with Hanoi.
- 19 Jul 1955 Diem declares South Vietnam will not take part in elections prescribed at Geneva unless they are guaranteed free.
- 18 Jul 1955 USSR signs aid agreement with Hanoi.
- 23 Oct 1955 National referendum deposes Bao Dai as Chief of State in favor of Diem.
- 26 Oct 1955 Diem proclaims Vietnam a Republic under his presidency.

- 4 Mar 1956 Constituent Assembly elected in country's first national election.
- 28 Apr 1956 MAAG officially assumes responsibility for training Vietnamese Army.
- 28 Apr 1956 French Military High Command in Vietnam is dissolved.
- 26 Oct 1956 Vietnam's first constitution promulgated and Constituent Assembly becomes National Assembly.
- 1 May 1957 French responsibility for training Vietnamese Navy and Air Force terminated.
- 8 Apr 1959 Diem declared to the National Assembly that the RVN was engaged in a "hot war" and the southern provinces were in a "state of siege."
- May 1959 At request of GVN, CINCPAC directed US advisors be provided to infantry regiment, artillery, armored and separate Marine battalion level. CINCPAC also took steps to obtain Special Forces mobile training teams from USARPAC and CCNUS sources to assist in training RVN Ranger Companies for counter-guerrilla warfare.
- 30 Aug 1959 Diem government victor in second national elections.
- 5 Feb 1960 GVN requested the US to double MAAG strength to 685.
- 5 May 1960 US announced that MAAGV was being increased to 685.
- 30 May 1960 US Special Forces team arrives RVN to conduct training.
- Sept 1960 Third Congress of the Lao Dong (Communist) Party announced its objective of "liberating SVN" through a "people's revolutionary struggle," which would be long, drawn out, and arduous.
- 25 Oct 1960 President Eisenhower assures Diem of continued US assistance.
- 11 Nov 1960 Abortive coup against Diem.
- 22 Nov 1960 Civil Guard transferred from Interior to Defense enabling MAAGV to train and equip them.
- Dec 1960 "National Liberation Front" set up at undisclosed location.
- 31 Jan 1961 MAAGV authorized to detail advisors down to all battalion headquarters and to serve at command posts at lower level when required.

- Feb 1961 RVNAF estimated total VC strength at 10,000.
- 3 Apr 1961 US-RVN Treaty of Amity and Economic Relations signed in Saigon.
- 9 Apr 1961 Diem elected for second five-year term in RVN's first presidential election.
- 5 May 1961 President Kennedy says US considering use of US military forces to help RVN.
- 10 May 1961 Ambassador Nolting presented credentials.
- 11-12 May 1961 Vice-President Johnson pledged US aid to RVN forces.
- 2 Aug 1961 GVN ordered all men between 25 and 35 to report for military duty.
- 11 Aug 1961 Increase of RVNAF up to 200,000 authorized.
- Oct 1961 RVNAF estimated VC strength at 17,500.
- 11 Oct 1961 President Kennedy announces dispatch of Gen Maxwell D. Taylor to SEA. President Diem asked for a bilateral defense treaty and for dispatch of US troops to Vietnam.
- 18 Oct 1961 President Diem declares nationwide state of emergency, assumes special powers, and asks for U. S. combat troops.
- 26 Oct 1961 President Kennedy sends personal message assuring President Diem of continued US support.
- 4 Dec 1961 President Kennedy informed President Diem that US prepared to participate in increased joint effort with RVN. US uniformed forces would participate in operational missions with RVN forces.
- 11 Dec 1961 Two US Army helicopter units, the 8th and 57th Transportation Companies, arrive as first complete US military units sent to RVN.
- 14 Dec 1961 President Kennedy letter to President Diem agrees to increase US aid to RVN.
- 17 Dec 1961 U. S. Army logistical support team from 9th Log Command on Okinawa deployed to RVN.
- 9 Jan 1962 ARVN to be increased from 170,000 to 200,000.

- 31 Jan 1962 VC strength estimated between 20,000-25,000. Divided into three categories; full time guerrillas, part-time guerrillas and village para-military.
- 1 Feb 1962 US Special Forces personnel join CIDG program as advisors to create an irregular anti-VC para-military force.
- 3 Feb 1962 President Diem launches Strategic Hamlet program.
- 8 Feb 1962 DOD announces creation of US Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, under Gen. Paul D. Harkins. USARVTS Support Group (Provisional) organized to provide administrative and logistic support to US Army combat support units in RVN.
- 14 Feb 1962 President Kennedy states US troops in RVN instructed to fire to protect themselves if fire upon, but are "not combat soldiers in the generally understood sense of the word."
- 22 Mar 1962 First clear and hold operation initiated in Binh Duong province.
- 1 Apr 1962 USARVTS Support Group (Provisional) redesignated US Army Support Group, Vietnam (USASGV).
- 8 Apr 1962 VC execute two wounded American POW's near An Chau in Central Vietnam. Each, with hands tied, shot in the face. They could not keep up with their captors.
- 25 Aug 1962 US announces \$10 million aid for emergency project to help refugees in guerrilla war.
- Sept 1962 GVN successes force Ho Chi Minh to change time-table. In 1959 he predicted defeat of GVN in one year; revised estimate of 15-20 years. Main target of VC were strategic hamlets.
- 22 Feb 1963 DOD states US pilots flying many VNAF operational missions and are authorized to make tactical strikes.
- 17 Apr 1963 Amnesty Program proclaimed for VC defectors.
- 27 Apr 1963 First Anniversary for Strategic Hamlet Program.
- 15 May 1963 Buddhist leaders presented their demands to President Diem.
- 3 Jun 1963 Buddhist Demonstration renewed in Hue. GVN imposed martial law in Hue.
- 11 Jun 1963 First Buddhist monk committed suicide by fire in Saigon.

- 16 Jun 1963 Largest anti-government Buddhist riots to date staged in Saigon.
- 27 Jun 1963 President Kennedy announced appointment of Henry Cabot Lodge as ambassador to Republic of Vietnam.
- 21 Aug 1963 Martial law proclaimed throughout RVN; curfew and censorship imposed.
- 27 Aug 1963 Cambodia broke diplomatic relations with RVN.
- 1-2 Nov 1963 Diem and Nhu overthrown and slain in military coup lead by Maj Gen Duong Van (Big) Minh. The Military Revolutionary Council suspended the constitution and dissolved the National Assembly.
- 7 Nov 1963 US recognizes Military Revolutionary Council and new provisional government of Premier Nguyen Ngoc Tho.
- 2 Jan 1964 Council of Notables convenes to draft new constitution.
- 30 Jan 1964 Maj Gen Nguyen Khanh replaces Minh in a non-violent coup.
- 10 Feb 1964 Maj Gen Khanh names himself Premier and Maj Gen Minh Chief of State.
- 5 Apr 1964 Additional GVN reforms; conscription to increase armed forces, establishment of new civil defense corps, dissolution of Council of Notables, new constitution, and holding of elections for a National Assembly.
- 25 Apr 1964 President Johnson announces General William C. Westmoreland to replace General Harkins as COMUSMACV.
- 2 May 1964 Aircraft ferry USNS CARD sabotaged while docked in Saigon Harbor.
- 18 May 1964 President Johnson requested \$125 million in additional economic and military aid to SVN
- 25 May 1964 Beginning of other Free World Assistance.
- 20 Jun 1964 General Harkins departs MACV.
- 23 Jun 1964 Amb. Henry Cabot Lodge resigns; Gen Maxwell D. Taylor named to replace him.
- 27 Jul 1964 Pentagon announces several thousand additional US advisors will go to VN.

- 2 Aug 1964 USS MADDOX on patrol in Gulf of Tonkin attacked by Three North Vietnamese PT boats.
- 4 Aug 1964 USS MADDOX and USS TURNER JOY attacked by five NVN PT boats.
- 5 Aug 1964 US carrier planes hit PT pens and Vinh oil tanks in first air strike against North Vietnam.
- 16 Aug 1964 Khanh relieves Minh as Chief of State and assures RVN presidency.
- 25 Aug 1964 Khanh resigns presidency.
- 27 Aug 1964 Khanh, Minh, Khiem agree to lead nation as triumvirate.
- 29 Aug 1964 Triumvirate appoints Dr. Nguyen Xuan Oanh to head government.
- 1 Sep 1964 National Liberation Front of South Vietnam called for a general military offensive against Government and US forces. The VC also called upon the South Vietnamese people to "demand" the withdrawal of US troops and the establishment of "neutrality" in SVN.
- 3 Sep 1964 Khanh replaces triumvirate with 15-member committee.
- 4 Sep 1964 Khanh announced that civilian government would be established in SVN.
- 8 Sep 1964 Government reorganized; Khanh retains Premiership; Minh becomes Chairman.
- 13 Sep 1964 Coup attempt prevented by action of generals including Air Force Commander Nguyen Cao Ky.
- 18 Sep 1964 New Tonkin Gulf incident: NVN PT boats harass US destroyers EDWARDS and MORTON.
- 20 Sep 1964 Montagnard rebellion against RVN authority centering in Quang Duc Sector.
- 26 Sep 1964 High National Command set up to guide RVN to civilian rule.
- 28 Sep 1964 Montagnard rebellion ended following talks between Khanh and tribal leaders.
- 21 Oct 1964 Khanh resigns to make way for civilian government.
- 24 Oct 1964 Phan Khac Suu elected RVN President; Tran Van Huong Prime Minister.

- 26 Oct 1964 Civilian Chief of State sworn into office.
- 1 Nov 1964 Civilian Premier sworn into office.
- 1 Nov 1964 VC launch attack against Dien Hca airbase.
- 4 Nov 1964 Fifteen-man civilian government is installed.
- 25 Nov 1964 Following continued student and Buddhist demonstrations in Saigon, GVN imposes martial law and a curfew on Saigon and adjoining provinces of Gia Dinh.
- 20 Dec 1964 In a bloodless coup the Armed Forces dissolved the High National Council. Civilian Premier Chief of State and Premier's cabinet not effected.
- 24 Dec 1964 Brink BQ in Saigon bombed.
- 31 Dec 1964 First Regular NVA units began infiltrating into SVN.
- 1 Jan 1965 US military strength in Vietnam is approximately 23,000.
- 27 Jan 1965 Khanh takes over government from Huong in non-violent coup.
- 7 Feb 1965 VC attack US compound at Pleiku. Retaliatory US air strike against North Vietnam hits Dong Hoi.
- 8 Feb 1965 President Johnson orders US government sponsored dependents evacuated from SVN.
- 9 Feb 1965 USMC Hawk air defense missile battalion deployed at Da Nang. Khanh names Canh acting premier.
- 10 Feb 1965 VC blow up US BQ at Qui Nhon.
- 15 Feb 1965 Dr. Phan Huy Quat named premier, replacing Canh.
- 19 Feb 1965 US jets used for first time in SVN in strike against VC in Binh Dinh sector.
- 22 Feb 1965 Maj Gen Tran Van Minh replaces Khanh as RVNAF Commander-in-Chief.
- 25 Feb 1965 600 ROK troops arrive in SVN
- 27 Feb 1965 US White Paper accuses NVN of deliberate aggression in SVN.
- 8 Mar 1965 First US Marine Infantry (3rd Bn, 9th Mar) lands in SVN.
- 19 Mar 1965 First US Army battalion (716th MP Bn) arrives in SVN.

28 Mar 1965 US 7th Fleet undertakes SVN coastal surveillance.

30 Mar 1965 US Embassy in Saigon damaged by VC explosions.

1 Apr 1965 US Army 1st Logistical Command activated in SVN.

4 Apr 1965 First US planes shot down by MIG's over NVN.

16 Apr 1965 First NVN surface-to-air missile (SAM) site reported under construction near Hanoi.

19 Apr 1965 Honolulu Conference on US military plans in SVN.

3 May 1965 US 173rd Airborne Bde begins arriving in SVN.

6 May 1965 Armed Forces Council dissolves itself, votes confidence in Quat.

7 May 1965 III Marine Amphibious Force activated in SVN.

12 May 1965 First bomb halt over NVN -- 2400 12 May through 0600 18 May.

2 Jun 1965 Advance party of 1st Bn Royal Australian Regt arrives in SVN.

10 Jun 1965 Battle of Dong Xoai begins.

11 Jun 1965 Premier Quat resigns, returning power to the military.

14 Jun 1965 Generals form National Leadership Committee under Maj Gen Nguyen Van Thieu.

17 Jun 1965 US aircraft shoot down first MIG's over NVN.

18 Jun 1965 First B-52 bomber raid in SVN.

19 Jun 1965 Brig Gen Nguyen Cao Ky named premier.

25 Jun 1965 VC mines blast My Canh floating restaurant in Saigon.

27 Jun 1965 173rd Airborne Brigade undertakes first major US combat offensive of war.

8 Jul 1965 Gen Taylor resigns as Ambassador of SVN, Lodge named to replace him.

12 Jul 1965 2nd Bde, 1st Inf Div begins landing in SVN.

15 Jul 1965 MACV confirms presence of NVA 101st Regiment in SVN.

16 Jul 1965 Defense Secretary McNamara arrives for a five-day SVN visit.

20 Jul 1965 US Army Support Command, Vietnam redesignated US Army, Vietnam with General Westmoreland as commander. First US Coast Guard vessels arrive in SVN.

21 Jul 1965 New Zealand Field Artillery Btry arrives in SVN.

24 Jul 1965 First US aircraft downed by SAM over NVN.

27 Jul 1965 US aircraft hit SAM sites in NVN for first time.

28 Jul 1965 President Johnson announces US troop strength in SVN will rise to 125,000.

29 Jul 1965 1st Bde, 101st Abn Div lands in SVN.

1 Aug 1965 US Army Task Force Alpha activated as the first US Army field force headquarters in SVN.

2 Aug 1965 Honolulu conference on US troop deployment in SVN.

18 Aug 1965 Ambassador Lodge arrives for second tour in SVN.

12 Sep 1965 First elements of US Army 1st Cav Div (Airmobile) land in SVN.

25 Sep 1965 Task Force Alpha redesignated Field Forces Vietnam.

28 Sep 1965 Honolulu conference on US troop deployment in SVN.

17 Oct 1965 Battle of Plei Me begins.

7 Nov 1965 MACV confirms presence of five NVA regiments in SVN.

14 Nov 1965 Battle of Ia Drang Valley begins.

27 Nov 1965 ARVN 7th Regiment attacked by VC at Michelin Plantation. Heavy ARVN casualties.

28 Nov 1965 Sec Def McNamara arrives in SVN for two days.

4 Dec 1965 VC explosives blast Metropole Bldg in Saigon.

10 Dec 1965 Honolulu military planning conference on SVN.

24 Dec 1965 US and RVNAF begin 30-hour Christmas stand-down. Bombing of NVN stopped (until 31 Jan 66).

29 Dec 1965 3rd Bde of the US Army 25th Inf Div begins arriving in SVN.

1 Jan 1966 US military strength in SVN is approximately 184,000.

5 Jan 1966 First elements of 2nd Bde, 25th Inf Div arrive in RVN.

- 8 Jan 1966 Senior representatives of US Mission, Saigon, the Vietnam Coordinating Committee, Washington, and other USG agencies meet for four days at Warrenton, Virginia, to determine the course of joint US-GVN Revolutionary Development program.
- 15 Jan 1966 Premier Ky tells the 2nd Armed Forces Congress in Saigon that a national referendum on a constitution will be held in October 1966 and that general elections will be held in 1967. He lists the GVN's 1966 targets as: winning the war, pacifying the countryside, stabilizing the economy and building democracy.
- 16 Jan 1966 LTC Jean B. Engler, USA, succeeds BG John Horton, USA, as Deputy Commanding General, USARV.
- 17 Jan 1966 USAID representative Douglas Ramsey captured by VC near Cu Chi in Hiau Nghia Province.
- 18 Jan 1966 United States Operations Mission (USOM) Vietnam redesignated United States Agency for International Development (USAID) mission.
- 20 Jan 1966 US, Free World and RVN forces undertake an 84-hour stand-down over the Lunar New Year (TET) holiday. Enemy-initiated incidents in violation of the cease-fire total 106; 77 against Free World Forces and 29 against RVN/AF units. Friendly losses over the period: 13 KIA, 36 WIA, 1MLA. The holiday sees the climax of an intensive US-GVN psychological warfare campaign to encourage enemy defections under the Chieu Hoi program.
- 25 Jan 1966 All 46 aboard killed when USAF C-123 crashes near An Khe in worst air crash in Vietnam to date involving US troops.
- 31 Jan 1966 US aircraft resume bombing in NVN after 37-day halt.
- 1 Feb 1966 US Military strength in RVN reaches 201,000.
- 7 Feb 1966 President Johnson, Premier Ky and Chief of State Thieu meet at Honolulu in a two-day conference with heavy emphasis on the political, social and economic aspects of the war. A "Declaration of Honolulu" outlines the joint US-GVN goals of determined military effort along with attacks on hunger, ignorance and disease in Vietnam.
- 7 Feb 1966 Television formally begins in SVN.
- 17 Feb 1966 Deputy US Ambassador Porter assumes responsibility for all aspects of US support of Revolutionary Development in RVN.
- 10 Mar 1966 US naval units begin river mine-sweeping operations in RVN.

- 14 Mar 1966 First USAF Squadron arrives at newly-activated Phan Rang
airbase.
- 15 Mar 1966 II Field Force Vietnam activated at Bien Hoa under MG Jonathon
O. Seaman, USA; Field Force Vietnam redesignated I Field
Force Vietnam, remains at Nha Trang under MG Stanley R.
Larsen, USA.
- 21 Mar 1966 First 11 US River Patrol Boats arrive in Vietnam.
- 1 Apr 1966 2nd Air Div redesignated 7th Air Force, continues as the
USAF component of USMACV.
- 1 Apr 1966 US Naval Forces, Vietnam (NAVFORV) established to exercise
operation control of USN forces in RVN as naval component
of USMACV.
- 1 Apr 1966 USARV Signal Bde (USASTRATCOM Signal Bde, SEA) activated.
- 1 Apr 1966 Headquarters Area Command (HAC) activated under BG R. L.
Ashworth, USA, to assume support functions formerly performed
by HEDSUPPACT.
- 1 Apr 1966 HQ, 25th Inf Div closes in RVN.
- 1 Apr 1966 Victoria BOQ in Saigon bombed.
- 4 Apr 1966 Converted seaplane tender USS CORPUS CHRISTI BAY arrives at
Cam Ranh Bay to provide a floating aviation maintenance
facility for US Army helicopters.
- 12 Apr 1966 B-52's used against NVN for the first time, striking the Mu
Gia Pass near the NVN-Laos border to augment tactical efforts
to close the main infiltration route via the SE Lactian
Panhandle. It is the first use of the massive B-52 bombardment
pattern for road interdiction.
- 14 Apr 1966 As the National Political Congress closes, Directorate
Chairman Thieu promulgates a decree for an elected constituent
assembly within five months. The Buddhist Institute "accepts"
the decree and agrees that the Ky government should remain in
power until the elections.
- 20 Apr 1966 Royal Australian Army Task Force begins arriving in RVN.
- 23 Apr 1966 Enemy MIG-21's engage US aircraft for the first time in the
war, unsuccessfully attacking a mission-support aircraft
during F-105 strike against Bac Giang rail-road Bridge 25
miles NE of Hanoi. F-4's escort aircraft counter the two MIG-
21's and eight MIG-17's. Two MIG-17's downed.

- 26 Apr 1966 First MIG-21 of the war is downed by a USAF F-4 firing Sidewinder missiles in a brief engagement involving two F-4's (undamaged) and two MIG-21's 65 miles NNE of Hanoi; the pilot ejects.
- 1 May 1966 US military strength in SVN reaches 252,000.
- 1 May 1966 First three USN Patrol Air Cushion Vehicles (PACV) arrive in RVN.
- 17 May 1966 NSAS officially disestablished and the Naval Support Activity, Saigon, simultaneously established under Capt H. T. King, USN, to provide support to US Naval Forces in II, III, IV CTZ's and coastal waters.
- 2 Jun 1966 GVN requests United Nations observers for the September elections.
- 5 Jun 1966 1st Australian Task Force becomes operational under II FFORCEV.
- 29 Jun 1966 USAF and USN aircraft bomb PCL facilities at Hanoi and Haiphong for first time, inflicting heavy damage. One USAF F-105 downed by ground fire. Four MIG-17's encountered and one probably destroyed during dog-fight. No SAM's sighted.
- 1 Jul 1966 USN aircraft sink three NVN PT boats in Gulf of Tonkin capture 19 NVN seamen.
- 1 Jul 1966 A C-141 aircraft flies from Saigon to Travis AFB, Calif in the first direct USAF Medevac from RVN to the US.
- 2 Jul 1966 Construction of new MACV headquarters near Tan Son Nhut begins.
- 5 Jul 1966 West Germany pledges 14.6 million piaster aid credit to help improve social welfare facilities in SVN.
- 7 Jul 1966 MIG-21's attack US jets 25 miles NE of Hanoi, firing air-to-air missiles for first time but with no hits.
- 14 Jul 1966 Philippine President Marcos signs bill providing for dispatch of 2,000-man Philippine Engineer Battalion (PHILCAG) to RVN.
- 17 Jul 1966 Ho Chi Minh proclaims partial mobilization of NVN, reiterates intransigent stand on settlement of the war.
- 20 Jul 1966 USN pilot LTJG Dieter Dengler airlifted from jungle after escaping from enemy prison camp and evading recapture for 20 days.

- 23 Jul 1966 First civilian Philippine medical team arrives in SVN.
- 24 Jul 1966 US tactical air strikes commence in DMZ.
- 24 Jul 1966 Royal Thai Air Force squadron arrives in SVN to aid VNAF airlift mission.
- 29 Jul 1966 First British medical team arrives in RVN.
- 30 Jul 1966 B-52's bomb enemy facilities in DMZ for first time.
- 3 Aug 1966 Elements of 4th US Inf Div land at Qui Nhon.
- 7 Aug 1966 Seven US aircraft downed over NVN (Five USAF F-105's, 1 USAF F-101, 1 USN A-1) record loss to date for one day.
- 14 Aug 1966 196th US Light Inf Bde lands at Vung Tau.
- 17 Aug 1966 Advance elements of the 2,000-man Philippine Civic Action Group (PHILCAGV) arrive in SVN.
- 1 Sep 1966 US military strength in RVN reaches 306,000.
- 1 Sep 1966 USMACV logistics advisory effort transferred to USARV as result of transfer of RVNAF support responsibilities from MAF to the individual Services.
- 5 Sep 1966 First elements of 9th ROK Inf (White Horse) Div land at Nha Trang.
- 7 Sep 1966 11th USA Armored Cavalry Regt arrives at Vung Tau.
- 8 Sep 1966 Spanish medical team arrives in Saigon.
- 9 Sep 1966 First deep-water pier in Da Nang harbor opens with arrival of USS ALUDRA.
- 10 Sep 1966 The first US aircraft, USAF A1-E, shot down in DMZ by NVA AAA fire.
- 11 Sep 1966 Elections held throughout RVN for Constituent Assembly.
- 12 Sep 1966 First Brazilian contribution, medical supplies, arrives in RVN.
- 14 Sep 1966 West German hospital ship HELGOLAND arrives in Saigon to treat VN civilians.
- 27 Sep 1966 RVN's 117-member constituent assembly inaugurated.

- 24 Oct 1966 US, RVN, ROK, Australian, New Zealand, Philippine and Thai Chiefs of State meet in Manila for two-day summit conference of war.
- 26 Oct 1966 President Johnson visits Cam Ranh Bay.
- 1 Nov 1966 US military strength in RVN reaches 350,000.
- 15 Nov 1966 Tuy Hoa Airbase activated.
- 19 Nov 1966 Enemy releases 59 VN PW's captured at A Chau in March.
- 2 Dec 1966 Eight US aircraft downed over NVN with 13 fliers dead or captured, both one-day records for war to date.
- 7 Dec 1966 Influential Constituent Assembly member Tran Van Van assassinated in Saigon by man indentifying himself as VC.
- 12 Dec 1966 The Dong Nai water supply system inaugurated; when completed will be able to supply 127.5 million gallons of portable water daily to the 2.7 million inhabitants of the Saigon/Cholon/Gia Dinh area.
- 1 Jan 1967 7th AF takes over operational control of 140 USA Caribou (CV-2) aircraft, redesignated C-7A and assigned to 834th Air Div.
- 2 Jan 1967 New Year's stand-down period ends 0700H. MACV recorded 111 violations during the period, 24 are significant (i.e., casualties incurred).
- 2 Jan 1967 USAF F-4 Phantoms down seven MIG-21's in biggest air battle of war. Total MIG kills raised to 34.
- 4 Jan 1967 Two American engineers and a Filipino released by the VC after seven months as prisoners of the Viet Cong.
- 6 Jan 1967 First US assault in Mekong Delta as Marines of BLT 1/3 of the SEVENTHFLT Amphibious Ready Group/Special Landing Force go ashore in Kien Hoa Province in Operation DECKHOUSE V.
- 7 Jan 1967 First units of the Mekong Delta Mobile Riverine Force arrive in-country.
- 9 Jan 1967 World's fourth-largest dredge, the JAMAICA BAY mined and sunk by VC at Dong Tam, Dinh Tuong Province.
- 16 Jan 1967 US announces resumption of air strikes in Hanoi area.
- 18 Jan 1967 US announces use of bases in Thailand to support operations in Vietnam

- 25 Jan 1967 Soviet mine found in Saigon River, first Russian mine found in war.
- 1 Feb 1967 US military strength in RVN 410,000.
- 3 Feb 1967 First PBR (Operation Game Warden) lost to hostile fire.
- 3 Feb 1967 Coast Guard Activities, Vietnam (COGARDACTV) established under operational control of COMNAVFORV.
- 3 Feb 1967 28 PWs repatriated to NVN by GVN at Ben Hai river crossing, DMZ.
- 8 Feb 1967 At 0700H Allied forces commence observance of four-day stand-down for TET. Truce period marked by 183 minor and 89 significant cease-fire violations.
- 13 Feb 1967 US military court-martial jurisdiction over all civilian personnel serving with or accompanying US forces in Vietnam is announced.
- 24 Feb 1967 MACV announces initiation of use of artillery, based in RVN against military targets in and north of the DMZ.
- 26 Feb 1967 First river minefield laid in NVN by Navy aircraft.
- 27 Feb 1967 Russian made 140mm rockets used for the first time in RVN in an attack on Da Nang AB.
- 28 Feb 1967 For the first time radar-guided US jets bomb military sites in the Panhandle of North Vietnam and SE of Hanoi.
- 28 Feb 1967 The Mobile Riverine Force (TF 117) activated under command of COMNAVFORV.
- 1 Mar 1967 DOD states military court-martial jurisdiction will not apply to newsmen.
- 5 Mar 1967 MACV announces new procedure for reporting US casualties for significant actions numerically, instead of as "light, moderate, or heavy."
- 8 Mar 1967 First USN river craft for Mekong Delta Mobile Riverine Force arrive in-country.
- 13 Mar 1967 USG announces agreement with RTG to base B-52's in Thailand.

- 15 Mar 1967 President Johnson announces AMB Ellsworth Dunker will replace AMB Lodge in Saigon.
- 18 Mar 1967 Constituent Assembly votes unanimous final approval of entire constitution.
- 20 Mar 1967 President Johnson, SECDEF McNamara and CJCS GEN Wheeler arrive in Guam for talks with Premier Ky and Chief of State Thieu. AMB's Bunker, Komer and Lodge and GEN Westmoreland attend.
- 31 Mar 1967 Phu Cat's new 10,000 foot jet capable airfield opens.
- 1 Apr 1967 GVN promulgates new Constitution. Elections for President, VP upper House to take place 1 Sep--Lower House on 1 Oct.
- 2 Apr 1967 First of village and hamlet elections held. Election plan includes 961 villages and 4,578 hamlets.
- 6 Apr 1967 White House announces assignment of GEN Creighton W. Abrams, Jr. USA, as DEPCOMUSMACV.
- 10 Apr 1967 First B-52s land at U Tapao, Thailand.
- 19 Apr 1967 Eight Australian Canberra (B-57) bombers of Squadron No 2 arrive at Phan Rang AB to make Australia the second country to support RVN with a tri-service contingent.
- 19 Apr 1967 Prime Minister Ky announces National Reconciliation Program.
- 20 Apr 1967 Seventh Royal Australian Regiment arrives in RVN at Nui Dat.
- 20 Apr 1967 USN aircraft strike near the port city of Haiphong for the first time. An electric power plant destroyed and the entire city left in darkness.
- 25 Apr 1967 AMB Ellsworth P. Bunker arrives in Saigon and assumes duties as American Ambassador to RVN, replacing AMB Henry C. Lodge,
- 29 Apr 1967 Village elections completed with 984 elections held with an average turnout of 77 percent of registered voters. During elections VC kill 12 candidates and kidnap 31 others.
- 1 May 1967 US military strength in RVN is 460,000.
- 1 May 1967 USN planes hit Kep Airfield. First attack against NVN airfields.
- 4 May 1967 GEN Creighton W. Abrams, USA, and AMB Robert Komer arrive in Saigon to take up duties as DEPCOMUSMACV and DEPCOMUSMACV for CORDS, respectively.

- 10 May 1967 Kien An Airfield, 5- $\frac{1}{2}$ miles SW of Haiphong hit for first time.
- 12 May 1967 Prime Minister Ky announces his candidacy for President.
- 13 May 1967 First increment of New Zealand infantrymen arrive in RVN at Hue Dat and are placed under operational control of ATF.
- 14 May 1967 Hamlet elections (to last five weeks) begin in 4,612 out of a total estimated 12,000 hamlets in RVN.
- 16 May 1967 Constituent Assembly approves presidential election law.
- 19 May 1967 GEN Creighton W. Abrams, USA, assumes duties as DEPCOMUSMACV.
- 20 May 1967 First O-2 aircraft, twin engine Cessna successor to the O-1 "Birdog" FAC aircraft, arrives in-country at Nha Trang.
- 23 May 1967 24-hour allied stand-down for Buddha's Birthday.
(71 violations, 32 significant)
- 28 May 1967 All Field functions in pacification and nation building combined under COMUSMACV with the merger of the Civil Operations Office (AMEMB) and the Revolutionary Development Directorate (MACV) into CORDS.
- 28 May 1967 AMB Robert W. Komer, assumes duties as DEPCOMUSMACV for CORDS.
- 1 Jun 1967 First F-5 Freedom Fighter Jets turned over to VNAF.
- 6 Jul 1967 Hanoi radio announces death of four star NVA General Nguyen Chi Thanh, Commander of VC and NVA operations in RVN for three years.
- 11 Jul 1967 Newport marine terminal (Saigon) officially opens.
- 15 Jul 1967 LTG Bruce Palmer, Jr. USA, officially opens the new USARV HQ at Long Binh.
- 20 Jul 1967 GVN ceases censorship of Vietnamese press.
- 29 Jul 1967 MACV Staff begins relocation to new headquarters near TSN.
- 1 Aug 1967 DOD announces USS NEW JERSEY (BB-62) to be recommissioned.
- 1 Aug 1967 A-37, the first light attack counterinsurgency aircraft, arrives in RVN at Bien Hoa AB, for combat evaluation.
- 3 Aug 1967 White House announces 45,000-man increase in personnel for RVN.
- 3 Aug 1967 RVN presidential campaign opens.

- 13 Aug 1967 US planes bomb railroad yard and bridge ten miles from Red Chinese border and hit two other nearby rail centers in the closest American raids to China since the Korean War.
- 3 Sep 1967 National elections for President, Vice-President and Upper House of the GVN. Eighty three percent of the registered voters participate. Thieu elected President; Ky Vice-President.
- 10 Sep 1967 NVN port of Cam Pha bombed by US war planes for first time.
- 21 Sep 1967 A 2,300-man Queen's Cobra Regt of the Royal Thai Army arrives at Saigon's Newport (to be stationed at Bear Cat).
- 22 Sep 1967 TF OREGON is redesignated AMERICAL Division.
- 23 Sep 1967 Official communique from Moscow announces signing of USSR/NVA military assistance agreement whereby the USSR will furnish "airplanes, anti-aircraft and rocket equipment, artillery and small arms, ammunition and other military equipment."
- 29 Sep 1967 President Johnson outlines terms for peace negotiations in a speech in San Antonio, which becomes labeled the "San Antonio Formula".
- 29 Sep 1967 New American Embassy Chancery dedicated in Saigon.
- 8 Oct 1967 The new Huey Cobra, designed especially for ground support in RVN, is used for the first time in a combat operation.
- 8 Oct 1967 First air attack, conducted by aircraft from the carrier CONSTELLATION, on the MIG capable Cat Bi Airfield, four miles SE of Haiphong.
- 17 Oct 1967 Australia and New Zealand announce troop increases for RVN from 6,300 to 8,000 and 376 to 546, respectively.
- 22 Oct 1967 A total of 72.9 percent of registered voters turn out for Lower House elections.
- 24 Oct 1967 U. S. Air Force, Marine, and Navy jets, in a coordinated raid, bomb Phuc Yen Airfield, the control center for enemy air defense 18 miles NW of Hanoi, for the first time in the war. Ten MIG aircraft destroyed--nine on the ground, one in the air--and one other probable kill listed in addition to extensive damage to the air complex.
- 29 Oct 1967 First NVN firing of SAMs at US B-52s (near IMZ).
- 31 Oct 1967 Newly elected President Thieu and Vice President Ky are inaugurated; the Directorate is dissolved. The new Lower House is installed and the Constituent Assembly passes out of existence. President Thieu appoints Nguyen Van Loc as Prime Minister.

- 11 Nov 1967 ILLF turns three NCC FMs over to US "peace group" representative in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.
- 14 Nov 1967 MG Bruce Hochmuth, USMC, Commander of the 3rd Mar Div, is killed in a helicopter crash near Dong Ha in Quang Tri Province. MG Rathvon McCall Thompson, USMC, is named as his replacement.
- 16 Nov 1967 Hanoi Shipyard No. 2 bombed by jets from USS CORAL SEA. First time any Hanoi shipyard has been hit.
- 23 Nov 1967 Battle of Dak To, Hill 875 taken. (LOSSES: Frd 325 KIA, 1,137 WIA; EN: 1,243KIA.)
- 26 Nov 1967 B-52s strike area just north of Lu Gia Pass, deepest B-52 penetration of NVN yet.
- 4 Dec 1967 A squadron of 14 U. S. Navy A7's, the new Corsair II aircraft, join the Vietnam conflict for the first time in a bombing raid over NVN.
- 5 Dec 1967 The Constituent Assembly is formally disbanded after the convening of the first National Legislative Assembly.
- 13 Dec 1967 The command elements of the US Army's 101st Abn Div, commanded by MG C. K. Barsanti, USA, arrive in RVN in the largest and longest aerial troop deployment in the history of modern warfare. US troop strength in RVN surpasses number in Korean War.
- 23 Dec 1967 President Johnson makes a brief Christmas visit to US troops at Cam Ranh Bay.
- 24 Dec 1967 A 24-hour Christmas stand-down is observed from 241800H to 251800H. (At the end of the truce period a total of 40 major incidents; i. e., resulting in casualties, and 78 minor incidents recorded.)
- 31 Dec 1967 A 36-hour New Year's stand-down is observed from 311800H Dec 67 to 020600H Jan 68. (at the end of the truce period a total 63 major incidents; i. e. resulting in casualties, and 107 minor incidents recorded.)
- 1 Jan 1968 U. S. military strength in RVN is 486,000 (320, USA, 31,000 USN, 78,000 USMC, 56,000 USAF, 452 USCG).
- 1 Jan 1968 FVMAF strength in RVN is 48,739 ROK, 6,811 Australia, 516 New Zealand, 2,020 Republic of the Philippines, 2,205 Thailand.
- 2 Jan 1968 36-hour New Year's stand-down ends at 020600H. Sixty-three major (casualties incurred) and 107 minor enemy violations recorded.

- 14 Jan 1968 MG George S. Eckhardt, USA is appointed Senior Advisor, IV Corps Advisory Group relieving BG William R. Desobry, USA.
- 14 Jan 1968 786th U. S. warplane lost over NVN as MIG 21 downs an Air Force F-105 (38th U. S. air-to-air loss of the war).
- 15 Jan 1968 U. S. District Judge George L. Hart (Washington, D. C.) rules that wartime provisions of UCMJ apply to U. S. civilians in VN (J. H. Latney vs U. S.)
- 23 Jan 1968 VC release two U. S. servicemen (USMC Cpl and USA Pvt) near Tam Ky, Quang Tin Province.
- 25 Jan 1968 President Johnson orders callup of 14,000 Air Force and 600 Navy Air Reservists in response to Pueblo Crisis.
- 25 Jan 1968 First sighting of enemy artillery in Khe Sanh area, Quang Tri Province (9km NNW of Khe Sanh).
- 29 Jan 1968 Allied forces declare 36-hour TET stand-down from 291800H to 310600H, except in ICTZ of RVN, the DMZ and along supply routes in NVN south of Vinh.
- 29 Jan 1968 VC declare a seven day TET truce from 270100H January to 030100H February.
- 30 Jan 1968 GVN cancels TET cease fire and USMACV follows suit, resuming operations due to VC/NVA commencement of a general offensive throughout RVN.
- 31 Jan 1968 President Thieu declares martial law throughout RVN, to include a 24-hour curfew and press censorship.
- 1 Feb 1968 U. S. Military strength in RVN is 510,000.
- 1 Feb 1968 GVN declares martial law throughout the country, imposing a 24-hour curfew. MACV follows suit in respect to curfew.
- 3 Feb 1968 Joint U. S. -VN National Recovery Committee established under direction of VP Ky in order to aid civilian victims of the VC TET Offensive.
- 5 Feb 1968 GVN relaxes curfew allow movement during the hours 1400-1800.
- 6 Feb 1968 U. S. Mission announces U. S. will release three NVN seaman captured by U. S. Navy off the coast of NVN in July 1966, as a reciprocal gesture for three U. S. fliers released in January by Hanoi.
- 9 Feb 1968 U. S. MACV, Forward (HMACVFWD) is established at Hue -- Phu Bai, Thua Thien Province under GEN Creighton W. Abrams, USA.

- 10 Feb 1968 First sightings of Soviet-built IL-28 (Beagle) twin jet bombers is made at Phuc Yen Airfield, Near Hanoi.
- 11 Feb 1968 Intense TET Offensive countrywide actions taper off. Cumulative results from 291800H Jan through 112400H Feb are: Losses: En: 31,754 KIA, 5,821 DET, 17 RET, 7,505 I/W 1,276 C/S; Frd: 1,001 U. S., 2,082 ARVN, 60 FW KIA, (Tot: 3,143); 5,087 U. S., 7,806 ARVN, 244 FW WIA, (Tot: 13,137).
- 13 Feb 1968 Pentagon announces Operation IVY TREE, the movement of an additional 10,000 men to RVN to counter expected "second round" communist city offensive and assault on Khe Sanh Combat Base (one Abn Bde TF of 82nd Abn Div and one USMC regiment (RLT 27)(-)(Reinf) are units designated.)
- 15 Feb 1968 USAF F-4 Phantom lost over NVN, marking 800th U. S. loss in the three-year air war over NVN.
- 16 Feb 1968 3 U. S. pilots are released by NVN and are flown to Vientiane, Laos by ICC aircraft.
- 19 Feb 1968 C/2/14 Inf, 25th Inf Div captures 37 rds of CHICOM 107mm spin stablized rockets, the first such captured, confirming earlier report of use of this weapon by the enemy in III CTZ.
- 22 Feb 1968 White House announces selection of Samuel D. Berger to replace Eugene Locke, who resigned in January, as Deputy U. S. Ambassador to RVN.
- 22 Feb 1968 COMUSMACV, Gen Willian C. Westmoreland, USA launches Project TARP (TET Aggression Relief Project), a 43-day U. S. personnel voluntary fund drive to aid the civilian populace of RVN, which collects a total of \$130,970.16.
- 24 Feb 1968 USMC and ARVN forces retake most of Hue Citadel from VC/NVA forces, virtually ending 25-day siege and battle of Hue. (LOSSES: En: Approx 4,200 KIA: Frd: Approx 490 KIA).
- 24 Feb 1968 Hanoi's port, 1.8 miles SE of the center of the city, is hit by A-6 Intruder aircraft from USS ENTERPRISE, the first strike on this 11 acre complex.
- 25 Feb 1968 MG Julian J. Ewell, USA, assumes command of 9th Inf Div. relieving MG George G. O'Connor, USA.

- 28 Feb 1968 Enemy trawler is sighted by MARKET TIME P3U aircraft off Ca Mau Peninsula, IV CTZ and taken under covert surveillance and finally engaged 40 miles ENE of Ca Mau Point, being sunk by gunfire from USCGC WINONA about 010200H March.
- 28 Feb 1968 Enemy trawler is sighted by MARKET TIME P3U aircraft 160 km E of Nha Trang, II CTZ, and taken under covert surveillance. Fire from VNN PCE, spooko aircraft and USN PCF destroys the trawler after it flees to a cove 10 miles N of Nha Trang at 010231H March.
- 28 Feb 1968 Enemy trawler is sighted by MARKET TIME P3U aircraft and taken under covert surveillance by USCGC ANDROSCOGGIN. After attempting to evade trawler destroys itself near Duc Pho, II CTZ, at 010235H MARCH.
- 29 Feb 1968 Refugees, as a result of TET Offensive, now total 599,858 (I CTZ-121,518; II CTZ - 101,454; III CTZ - 94,766; IV CTZ - 109,441; Saigon/Cholon/Gia Dinh - 172,679). 68,099 homes are reported destroyed and 19,457 Civ wounded.
- 29 Feb 1968 Casualties from TET Offensive (291800H Jan Through 292400H Feb are: LOSSES: En: 45,005 KIA, 7,417 DET, 40 RET, 11,027 I/W, 1,726 C/S: Frd: 1,825 U. S. 3,557 ARVN, 92 FW KIA, (Tot: 5,474): 9,854 U. S. 12,806 ARVN, 349 FW WIA (Tot: 23,009).
- 29 Feb 1968 Operation NAPOLEON, which began on 5 Nov 1967 in Quang Tri Province combines with Operation SALINE, which began on 30 Jan 68 in Quang Tri Province, to form Operation NAPOLEON/SALINE.
- 1 Mar 1968 U. S. military strength in RVN is approximately 520,000.
- 1 Mar 1968 MG William R. Peers, USA, releives LTG William B. Rosson, USA, as CG, IEFV.
- 4 Mar 1968 COMUSMACV announces activation of Provisional Corps (PC) (737) to assist in command and control of US units in the northern part of I CTZ, under the command of LTG William B. Rosson, USA, but subordinate to CG III MAF.
- 8 Mar 1968 US casualties in VN (136,993 of which 19,313 are KIA) passes Korean figure.
- 10 Mar 1968 Provisional Corps, Vietnam activated, replacing MACV FWD.
- 16 Mar 1968 First reported use of 107mm rkts in I CTZ when enemy attacks Dong Ha Combat Base, Quang Tri Province.

- 17 Mar 1968 Project COMBAT LANCER: Six F-111 aircraft deploy to Takhli, RTAFB for six month combat evaluation.
- 23 Mar 1968 US strength in RVN passes 525,000 (525,464 including 3,577 men of USMC Special Landing Forces A and B (TG 79.4 and 79.5) from SEVENTHFLT).
- 24 Mar 1968 San D. Berger, Deputy US Ambassador designate to RVN arrives in Saigon to take up his duties.
- 25 Mar 1968 F-111 fighter-bombers employed for the first time in combat, missions over NVN Panhandle.
- 29 Mar 1968 USG flies three NVN naval personnel to Vientiane for release to NVN authorities in a reciprocal gesture for NVN's release of three US pilots in February.
- 1 Apr 1968 President Johnson in a radio and TV address to the nation announces an immediate bombing pause over portions of NVN north of 20°N latitude plus a 13,500 man troop increase for RVN over presently approved 525,000 man ceiling.
- 3 Apr 1968 Mr. William E. Colby assumes duty as ACofS for Civil Operations and Revolutionary Development Support (MACCORDS) as Mr. L. Wade Latham departs RVN.
- 4 Apr 1968 1/9 Marines make first sortie out of Khe Sanh and seize Hill 471 SE of the combat base.
- 8 Apr 1968 The Khe Sanh emergency resupply effort terminates with 2 airlift and 6 airdrop sorties. A total of 1,152 resupply sorties flown during the period 21 January to 8 April, delivering 12,773 Ton of Cargo. USAF, USN and USMC flew 24,449 sorties in support of the base. B-52s flew 2,548 sorties dropping over 60,000 tons of bombs. Tactical air delivered over 35,000 tons of bombs.
- 10 Apr 1968 President Johnson announces Adm. John S. McCain, Jr., USN presently CINCUSNAVEUR will relieve Adm. U. S. Grant Sharp, USN as CINCPAC; that Gen Creighton W. Abrams, Jr., USA, presently DEPCOMUSMACV will assume duties of COMUSMACV from Gen W. C. Westmoreland, USA; and that LTG Andrew Goodpaster, USA presently Commandant, National War College will be promoted to Gen and become next DEPCOMUSMACV.
- 10 Apr 1968 Elements of 1st Air Cav Dir re-occupy Lang Vei SF Camp, Quang Tri Province. Camp was overrun by enemy on 8 February.
- 11 Apr 1968 White House rejects Hanoi's proposal of Warsaw as the place for talks in that it is not "an appropriate site in neutral territory."

- 12 Apr 1968 Route 9 into Khe Sanh officially reopened.
- 12 Apr 1968 USAF F-111A resume operations over NVN Panhandle after being grounded since 30 March.
- 15 Apr 1968 Air Force Secretary Brown, CofS USA Gen Harold K. Johnson and CINCUSARPAC Gen Dwight Beach arrive in RVN for 5 day visit.
- 21 Apr 1968 Elements of the 1st Air Cav Dir, participating in Operation DELAWARE, invade A Shau Valley, Thua Thien Province, the largest NVA/VC supply base in I CTZ, marking first time US troops have entered the valley since enemy overran the A Shau SF Camp in March 1966.
- 27 Apr 1968 US Navy employs P-3V Orion aircraft in RVN for the first time replacing P-2V Neptune on MARKET TIME surveillance Patrols.
- 1 May 1968 USAF 120th TFW, formerly a part of the Colorado ANG and the first ANG unit to deploy to a war zone since WW II, arrives at Phan Rang AB to become part of the 35th TFW.
- 3 May 1968 Terrorists explode a taxi loaded with explosives outside Saigon AFRTS studios (3 civilian killed, 30 wounded (5US)). Broadcast service momentarily disrupted.
- 5 May 1968 VC infiltrators kill three Australian and one British newspapermen in Cholon, Saigon. First Secretary of the West German embassy is also killed by VC in Saigon.
- 5 May 1968 Tan Son Nhut AB Commander Col Luu Kim Cuong is killed leading a counterattack against VC units attempting to enter base.
- 7 May 1968 GVN imposes 24-hours curfew on Cholon section (6th, 7th and 8th precincts) of Saigon due to heavy fighting.
- 13 May 1968 MACV announces of the 26 VC/NVA bns. trying to enter Saigon since 5 May only elements of 8 actually reached the city's fringes. Enemy losses put at 2,500 KIA in city and over 5,200 KIA in III CTZ plus 1,951 I/W and 572 C/S.
- 13 May 1968 DEPCOMUSMACV for CORDS Robert Komer announces VC/NVA May offensive resulted in only 16 of 4,000 government posts being abandoned of which 10 have been recaptured; only 6 over 700 RD teams were withdrawn. 122,500 new refugees created in Saigon/Gia Dinh area.
- 13 May 1968 USS Henry B. Wilson (DDG-7) engages and sinks enemy 75-foot steel-hulled trawler 26 miles SW of Phu Vinh, Vinh Binh Province.

- 15 May 1968 MACV announces release of two VC prisoners from Quang Ngai prison camp as a reciprocal gesture for release of two U. S. soldiers freed by VC in Quang Tin Prov (USMC Cpl J. A. Santos and USA Pfc L. O. Rivera) on 23 January.
- 19 May 1968 Enemy commences campaign of nightly rocket attacks against Saigon. 22 rockets land in Saigon, about 150 houses destroyed near Central Market (3 NP and 3 Civ killed, 32 civ and 1 US wounded).
- 20 May 1968 Philippine tug BREAM with two US Military Police security guards on board while enroute from Vu Tau to Can Tho via the Mekong and Bassac Rivers loses way and strays over Cambodian border. Tug and all aboard are taken into custody and escorted to Phnom Penh. MPs are released on 10 June to Australian authorities in Phnom Penh and flown to Bangkok.
- 21 May 1968 President announces the nomination of Lt Gen George S. Brown, USAF to assume duties of Commander, 7th Air Force and DEPCOMUSMACV for Air. Incumbent Gen William W. Momyer, USAF will become Commander, Tactical Air Command.
- 26 May 1968 USAF jets damage or destroy 16 100mm AA gun emplacements between Dong Hoi and the DMZ. 100mm are largest enemy AA weapons in use to date.
- 28 May 1968 Gen W. C. Westmoreland, USA COMUSMACV departs RVN for 9-day trip to CINCPAC and Washington.
- 28 May 1968 ROKA Forces find 120mm mortar and 14 rds of ammunition 30 km NW of Qui Nhon, Binh Dinh Prov. First indication of enemy use of this weapon in coastal provinces of II CTZ.

- 1 Jun 1968 4th Bn, RAR closes RVN for ops with 1st AEF at Hue Det, Phuoc Tuy Prov. 2nd Bn. RAR departs RVN.
- 2 Jun 1968 Six high-ranking Vietnamese military and police officers are killed in Cholon when US helicopter fires rocket which malfunctions.
- 4 Jun 1968 Enemy fires rockets and mortars into Saigon and suburbs. A cargo ship and Cho Quan power station in south-central Saigon are hit.
- 7 Jun 1968 Undetermined number of enemy rockets hit Saigon, killing some 20 Civs and wounding 40 others.
- 9 Jun 1968 GEN W. C. Westmoreland departs RVN for Washington, D. C., to assume duties of Chief of Staff, US Army. GEN Creighton W. Abrams assumes temporary command of USMACV.
- 11 Jun 1968 Enemy fire rockets into Central Saigon, killing causing 135 Civ casualties.
- 12 Jun 1968 Enemy rockets Tan Son Nhut Airbase, Gia Dinh Prov with 14 rds of 122mm (1VN KIA, 26 VN WIA).
- 14 Jun 1968 Enemy rockets Tan Son Nhut Airbase, Gia Din Prov 1 KIA.
- 16 Jun 1968 LtGen Frank T. Mildren assumes DCG, USARV vice Lt Gen Bruce Palmer.
- 18 Jun 1968 B-52s mark end of third year of participation in the war. USMC elements in defensive positions 14 km SSE of the Khe Sanh Combat Base are attacked by unknown size enemy force for 11 hours (EN: 128 KIA; FRD: 11 KIA, 30 WIA).
- 20 Jun 1968 II FFORCEV (FWD) becomes Capital Military Assistance Command.
- 21 Jun 1968 VC rocket northern outskirts of Saigon with at least 10 rockets (6 VN killed, 20 wounded).
- 22 Jun 1968 Eight rounds impact on SE side of the city. Six rounds fall into Saigon River or adjacent swamp, two hit British merchantman causing negligible damage (1 VN killed).
- 27 Jun 1968 USMACV announces Khe Sanh Combat Base, Quang Tri Province, will be abandoned, in a shift to more mobile operations.
- 27 Jun 1968 Elements of the ARVN 25th Inf Div find 76 122mm and 50 107mm rockets 13 miles NW of Saigon while participating in Operation Quyet Thang.
- 28 Jun 1968 VC sapper squad attacks Son Tra refugee hamlet six miles S of Chu Lai, Quang Tin Prov, killing 88, of whom 73 are Civs, and wounding 103 others. 85 percent of hamlet is burned to the ground, leaving 4,000 homeless.

- 29 Jun 1968 Elements of US 3rd Brigade, 9th Inf Div find large enemy arms cache near Moc Hoa, Kien Tuong Prov. (29 tons of TNT, 297,000 AK-47 rds, 1142 mortars, 8783 grenade, 401 weapons).
- 1 Jul 1968 1st Cav Div (AM) redesignated 1st Air Cav Div and 101st Abn Div redesignated 101st Air Cav Div.
- 3 Jul 1968 GEN Creighton W. Abrams, Jr., assumes command of USMACV.
- 5 Jul 1968 Last USMC units leaves Khe Sanh Combat Base, Quang Tri Prov.
- 11 Jul 1968 GEN Andrew J. Goodpaster assumes duties of DEPCOMUSMACV.
- 16 Jul 1968 GEN William W. Momyer, Commander 7th Air Force departs RVN to take up duties of Commander, TAC.
- 17 Jul 1968 US Army LCU 1577 of the 5th Trans Heavy Boat Co inadvertently crosses into Cambodia while enroute from Vung Tau to Can Tho. Eleven US and one ARVN are taken into custody by RKG.
- 19 Jul 1968 Presidents Johnson and Thieu meet at CINCPAC HQ, Honolulu for two days of discussions.
- 21 Jul 1968 VC terrosits kill 5 civs and injure 55 civs by a blast set off in the Quoc-Thanh Theatre, near National Police HQ, Saigon. Four others killed and 41 wounded as VC terrorists set off charge in a restaurant on Vo Tanh Street, 2nd Precint, Saigon.
- 22 Jul 1968 1500 Thai infantrymen of the Black Panther Div arrive in Saigon aboard USS OKANOGAN (APA-220), first of 12,000 to deploy to RVN. Unit will be stationed at Bear Cat, Bien Hoa Province.
- 23 Jul 1968 MG Robert F. Worley, Vice-Commander, 7th Air Force is shot down and killed in an RF-4C Phantom 65 miles NW of Da Nang, Thua Thien Prov. Co-pilot bails out safely. MG Royal N. Baker, Asst COS MACJ5 assumes duties as Vice-Commander, 7th AF immediately instead of 9 August as previously planned.
- 26 Jul 1968 Four VC terrorists blow up Chinese A CHAN (Daily News) building in Cholon, Gia Dinh Province at 1315, after evacuating employees. Building destroyed.
- 28 Jul 1968 President Johnson names RADM Elmo R. Zumwalt, JR., to relieve RADM Kenneth Veth as COMNAVFORV and CHNAVADGRP and upgrades the position to VADM rank.
- 29 Jul 1968 1800 man contingent of Thai Black Panther Div arrives in Saigon boosting Thai forces in RVN to 3,300 of a programmed 12,000.
- 29 Jul 1968 RADM Kenneth L. Veth, COMNAVFORV presents first M16 rifles to VNN at VNN HQ, Saigon. VNN CNO Commodore Tran Van Chon attends ceremony.

- 31 Jul 1968 ADI John S. McCain, Jr., assumes duties of CINCPAC vice ADI Ulysses S. Grant Sharp, Jr.
- 31 Jul 1968 MG Carl A. Youngdale, USMC, assumes command of CG 1st MARDIV vice MG Donn J. Robertson, USMC.
- 31 Jul 1968 RADM Henry J. Johnson, CEC, USN, assumes duties of Officer-in-Charge of Construction RVN vice RADM Spencer R. Smith, CEC, USN.
- 31 Jul 1968 On Operation DAN SINH/COCHISE GREEN in Binh Dinh Prov, 15 km W of Phu My, the E/1/50 Mech while searching a cave complex in the vicinity of Hon Che Mtn discovers one ton of rice, assorted documents and 935,000-VN plus \$15,000 US in \$50 bills.
- 1 Aug 1968 Gen George S. Brown, USAF, assumes duties as Commander 7th Air Force and DEPCOMUSMACV for Air Vice Gen William W. Momyer, USAF.
- 1 Aug 1968 Arrival of 1st Bde, 5th Mech Inf Div is announced by MACV, Bde is deployed to Quang Tri and Thua Thien Provs.
- 2 Aug 1968 VNV releases USAF pilots (Majors James F. Low and Fred N. Thompson and Captian Joe V. Carpenter). The pilots were flown to Vientiane, Laos in ICC plane in company with three U. S. pacifists.
- 6 Aug 1968 Delta Blackhawk troops in Kien Giang Province, 46 km NW of Rach Gia discover and destroy enemy arms factory including 34 structures, forges, castings, 500 grenade casings, lathers, mines, cauldron, 22 I/W and misc supplies.
- 9 Aug 1968 USMC's newest FAC aircraft, the OV-10 Bronco, begins combat evaluation period in RVN by Marine Air Recon Squadron 2, Marble Mtn, Quang Nam Prov.
- 9 Aug 1968 VC terrorist tosses grenade into MP jeep in downtown Saigon, killing one and wounding one in 3d percinct. Terrorist escapes.
- 9 Aug 1968 USMACV announces 1,844 Chieu Hoi during the month of July the highest monthly total since August 1967.
- 10 Aug 1968 After one year's service in RVN the last element of the RTAVR "Queen Cobras" departs from Saigon for Bangkok.
- 14 Aug 1968 Delta Black unit (7th Sqdn, 1st US Air Cav and VN CSF units) 18 km E of Cao Lanh, Kien Phong Prov destroy three enemy munitions factories (melting, chemical, sheet metal, booby trap, and blacksmith shops; 4,800 hand grenades, 1,600 square feet of sheet metal, chemical stores, etc.