

101st Airborne. The Army troops in the zone were placed under the operational control of Task Force Oregon (TFO) which was controlled by the III Marine Amphibious Force.

Early in May a Hoi Chanh led men from the 2nd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division to a weapons cache which consisted of 2,000 mortar rounds, 1,200 grenades, 20 claymore mines, 1,000 small arms rounds and 400 rifles.

The 101st Airborne's brigade launched Operation Malheur in Quang Ngai Province which in 28 days accounted for 392 enemy killed and 150 weapons captured.

While elements of the 25th Infantry Division began Operation Kole Kole, the 2nd Brigade of the same unit terminated Operation Ala Moana in Hau Nghia Province, accounting for 382 enemy deaths.

The Mobile Riverine Force clashed with the enemy for its first major engagement in the delta 15 miles west of My Tho.

In Saigon, Premier Ky announced his candidacy for president on May 12. Four days later the assembly approved the presidential election law.

The next day three new operations began: Operation Dallas by the 1st Brigade of the 1st Division and Operations Barking Sands and Diamond Head by elements of the 25th Division.

The enemy struck the 25th Division with 100 rounds of mortar and recoilless rifle fire. However, most guerrilla attacks were concentrated against ARVN and Vietnamese irregular forces during this period.

Seven new operations began during June. Most units in USARV were involved in Operations Coronado, Bluefield, Malheur II, Akron, Kawela, Billings, and Greely. More than



Villagers have their registration checked prior to voting in hamlet elections. Almost 77 per cent of the eligible voters turned out.



Parachutes lower supplies to troops as they are dropped from Air Force C-130s. Photo By Maj. John Shanahan.

1,500 enemy died from U.S. action during the month.

In July Thailand announced that it would send a 2,200-man regiment to the Republic of Vietnam. This force was the first ground combat unit contributed by the Thais who had already provided airlift of supplies on several occasions.

Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara conducted high-level conferences at USARV's Tan Son Nhut headquarters. The day after the Secretary left the country, President Johnson announced the United States would increase its troop commitment to Vietnam.

During the month, USARV moved to its new headquarters in the Long Binh complex and MACV moved to its new buildings opposite Tan Son Nhut civilian air terminal. Other units moved out of the capital area during the following months, including: 1st Logistical Command, 1st Aviation Brigade and 1st Signal Brigade headquarters, Saigon Area Command and many subordinate units.

Significant enemy attacks in July killed 37 civilians and wounded 29 when two civilian buses in the northern provinces were hit. The Viet Cong attacked the base camp of the 1st Battalion, 2nd Infantry and the airfield at Phuoc Vinh. More than 150 mortar and rocket rounds struck the area. In Phu Loi a 1st Aviation Brigade unit was also hit by mortar and rocket fire later in the month.

The 1st Brigade, 9th Infantry Division began Operation Riley in Bien Hoa Province. Elements of the 9th and 25th Divisions along with ARVN units conducted a seven-day operation, Coronado II/Song Thang 3, that resulted in 441 enemy casualties.

1967 OPERATIONS

WHEELER/WALLOWA, Americal Div
Sept 11, 1967-Nov 11, 1968

MALHEUR I & II, 101st Abn Div
May 10-Aug 2, 1967

MACARTHUR, 4th Inf Div, 1st Cav Div, 173rd Abn Bde
Nov 1-Nov 26, 1967

FRANCIS MARION, 4th Inf Div & 25th Inf Div
April 5-Oct 11, 1967

SAM HOUSTON, 4th Inf Div
Jan 1-April 5, 1967

CEDAR FALLS, 25th Inf Div & 173rd Abn Bde
Jan 7-Jan 20, 1967

SHENANDOAH II, 1st Inf Div
Sept 28-Nov 19, 1967

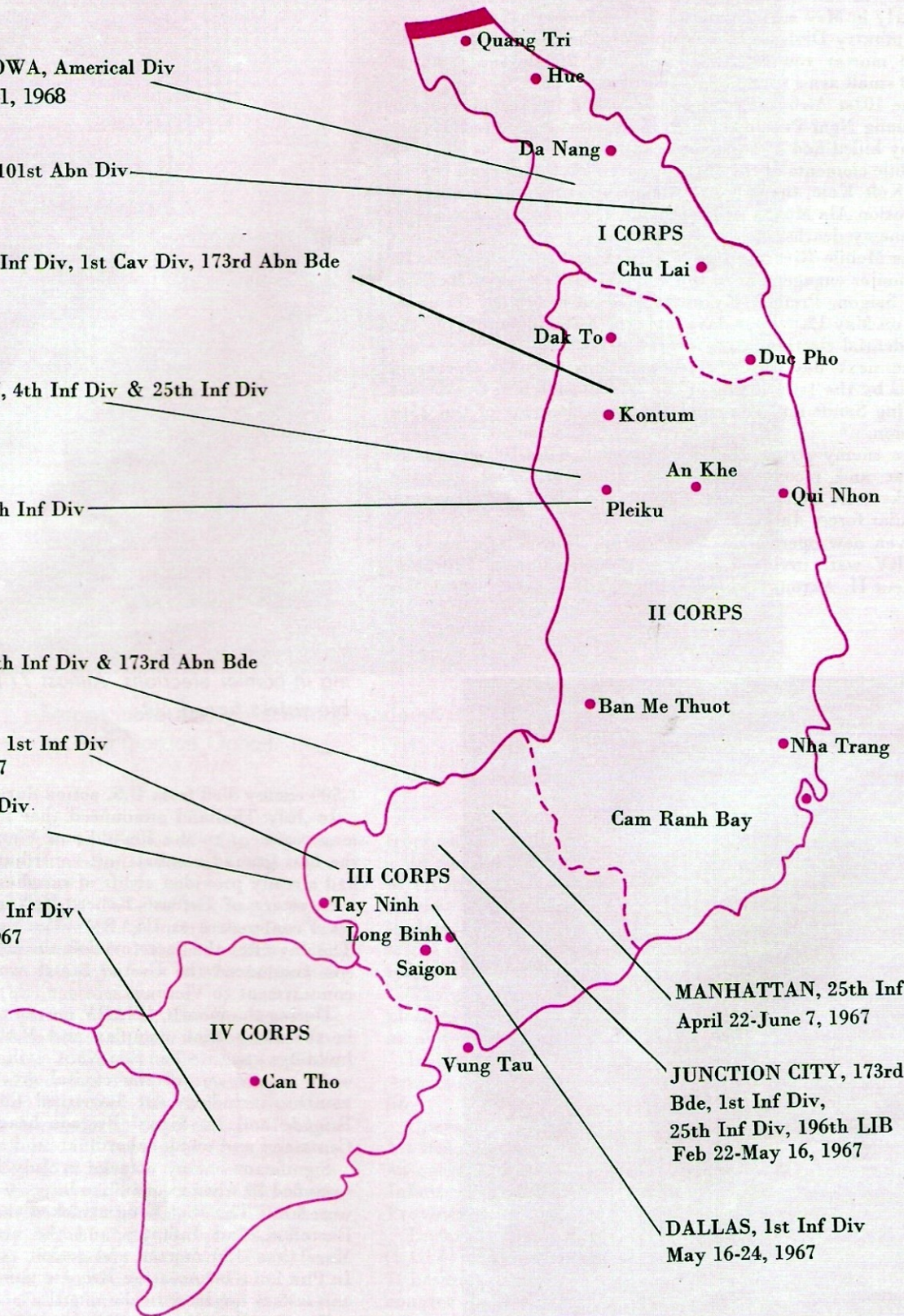
BILLINGS, 1st Inf Div
June 12-26, 1967

ENTERPRISE, 9th Inf Div
Feb 13-March 10, 1967

MANHATTAN, 25th Inf Div
April 22-June 7, 1967

JUNCTION CITY, 173rd Abn Bde, 1st Inf Div, 25th Inf Div, 196th LIB
Feb 22-May 16, 1967

DALLAS, 1st Inf Div
May 16-24, 1967





The USNS Corpus Christi Bay is the world's only floating depot maintenance facility. The Army's 34th General Support Group operates the facility. Photo by Sp4 Steve Kopels.

A company from the 199th Light Infantry Brigade captured an enemy sampan which yielded 220 pounds of TNT and over 2,300 rounds of ammunition.

Enemy action during August was heavy. An enemy company struck the Edap Enang Montagnard resettlement village in the Central Highlands. The tank farm at Nha Be City, 10 miles southeast of Saigon, was hit by communist fire causing extensive damage. And the Ban Me Thuot airfield in Darlac Province was struck by mortars twice during the month.

Two more American operations started in August. The 21-day Operation Benton resulted in 397 enemy killed and over 150 weapons captured by elements of the 101st Airborne and the 196th Light Infantry Brigade. A 20-day operation, dubbed Coronado IV, was launched by elements of the 9th Infantry Division. It accounted for 101 enemy deaths and 180 weapons seized.

In I CTZ the Marine bases at Gio Linh and Con Thien began to receive heavy artillery and mortar attacks. These attacks reached a peak during September. Marine and Army artillery plus Air Force bombers lifted the siege from the DMZ bases.

On September 3 the presidential elections were held. About 83 percent of the voters turned out, the slate of Nguyen Van Thieu and Nguyen Cao Ky for president and vice president respectively receiving the voters approval. The voters also chose an upper house for the new government.

New operations during the month included: Task Force Oregon's Wheeler in I CTZ, accounting for nearly 2,000 enemy killed; the Mobile Riverine Force's Operation Coronado V in the Delta; costing the enemy 330 dead Operation Bolling, conducted by the 173rd Airborne Brigade and elements of the 1st Cavalry Division; and the 1st Infantry Division's

Operation Shenandoah in Binh Duong Province, which took 956 enemy lives and 100 weapons.

In Nha Trang a satchel charge exploded in the Neptune NCO Club killing one civilian employee and wounding several civilian and military personnel. Terrorists struck the Republic of China Embassy in the capital with explosives and sniper fire. Extensive damage was done to the building and many casualties resulted.

At the 9th Division's base camp at Bear Cat, Thailand's Queen Cobra Regiment settled into their new home and readied themselves for future operations.



Mobile Riverine Force boats move down the waterways of the Mekong Delta searching for Charlie. Photo by SSgt. Robert Peterson.

AMERICAL DIVISION FORMED

At Chu Lai, Task Force Oregon was redesignated the Americal Division, becoming the only named division on active duty in the U.S. Army. Now the blue patch with the white stars of the Southern Cross was to be seen in the Pacific area once more.

Russia made a late September announcement that a new military assistance agreement had been signed by the U.S.S.R. and North Vietnam whereby the Russians would furnish "airplanes, anti-aircraft and rocket equipment, artillery and small arms ammunition and other military equipment..."

Early in October the Vietnamese National Assembly validated the election results. This was followed by the installation of the 60 newly elected members of the upper house of the government. Later in the month the lower house elections were held with 73 percent of the electorate turning out to complete the last round of elections. On the last day of the month the inauguration ceremonies were conducted in downtown Saigon.

Following the inauguration a parade of civic and military forces marched to celebrate the South Vietnamese National Day. Flags of seven nations, representing the Free World Assistance Forces in Vietnam, led the march order.

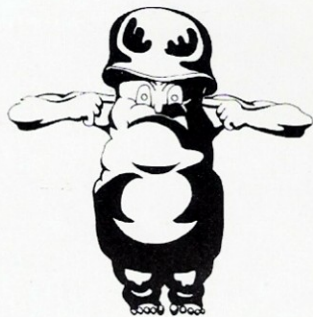
In I CTZ Army forces were increased as the 3rd Brigade of the 1st Cavalry joined the Americal Division. The brigade immediately began Operation Wallowa, which was later combined with Americal's Operation Wheeler.

HUEYCOBRA ARRIVES

October also saw the introduction of a helicopter especially designed for ground support—the Huey Cobra. This gunship, with advanced weapons systems, slim silhouette, high speed and maneuverability began combat operations in 1st Aviation Brigade units.

The 4th Infantry Division started Operation MacArthur in Pleiku Province and the 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry joined the Iyymen in the Central Highlands during the month. Also the 3rd Battalion, 503rd Airborne Infantry arrived at Qui Nhon to further increase U.S. strength in Vietnam.

Communist activity included a North Vietnam Army regiment's attack on an ARVN regiment at Song Be with the North Vietnamese coming out on the short end of the battle.



A 175 mm gun speaks its piece to the enemy in I Corps Tactical Zone. The 2nd Battalion, 94th Artillery fires the big guns in support of operations along the DMZ. Photo by Sp5 Gordon Gahan.

ARVN losses were only 10 killed to the Communists' 130.

VC DEFEATED AT LOC NINH

At Loc Ninh, near the Cambodian border, two battalions of the 273rd VC Regiment attacked the perimeter where CIDG and ARVN troops were lodged. The Viet Cong broke through the perimeter and entered the village. The 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry was one of the first of the 1st Infantry Division units rushed to help push the enemy force from the area. This was accomplished after difficult street fighting and digging the enemy out of the perimeter bunkers they had occupied. When the ARVN, Special Forces and 1st Division troops finally forced the enemy to break contact, other troops of the 18th Infantry were waiting as a blocking force to cut them down.

The enemy retreated to a rubber plantation five miles south of the Cambodian border to avoid air strikes and artillery that harassed their move to high ground. On the third day of the battle the enemy began to return the artillery fire. Air strikes soon reduced the VC's fire.

Fighting broke out again when the Viet Cong attacked across the landing strip at the district headquarters. This attempt was broken up, but not before the VC had tried to scale the walls of the outpost. Enemy forces made sporadic attempts to get back into Loc Ninh, but they were met by American and ARVN patrols that hounded them until they withdrew from the area, losing over 1,000 men killed in the over-all action.

WEAPONS CACHE UNCOVERED

Thirty miles east of Saigon in Phuoc Tuy Province, Company B, 2nd Battalion, 47th Infantry and Company B, 3rd Squadron, 5th Cavalry were searching the area during the 9th Division's Operation Akron III. A concrete slab with wire hinges and handles was discovered. When it was opened, the troops found an entrance to a tunnel complete with steps cut into the side. Upon examination, a large supply of weapons, ammunition and medical supplies were found. Further tunnel discoveries were made in the immediate area. More arms, ammunition and supplies were uncovered as each tunnel was searched. The list of equipment brought out grew to tremendous size and included such weapons as 75 mm pack howitzers and .50 caliber machine-guns.





HueyCobra gunships were introduced in October of 1967. With its speed, maneuverability, and firepower, the AH-1G has proven to be combat ready and reliable.

Final count made this find the largest ever discovered. Besides other types of equipment and medical supplies, there were 1,140 weapons of all types, 95,000 rounds of small arms ammunition, 3,634 grenades and 452 mortar rounds. Many of the weapons were still packed in grease, cosmoline and plastic.

November began quietly with the 9th Infantry Division units starting Operation Coronado IX and joining with the 11th Armored Cavalry, Australian and Vietnamese troops in Operation Santa Fe I in the Delta. Vietnamese Marines joined the 9th in Coronado IX after the exercise began, causing the 502nd Local Force Battalion to slowly get chewed up in the operation 65 miles southwest of Saigon.

BIGGEST BATTLE TAKES PLACE

In the Central Highlands the rumblings of the biggest battle of the war were resounding in the hills around Dak To. For several weeks intelligence reports showed increased enemy activity in the vicinity of Dak To, astride the natural infiltration route along Route 312 north of Pleiku and close to the Laotian-Cambodian border. The town is normally garrisoned by ARVN troops and elements of a U.S. Special Forces-trained Civilian Irregular Defense Group.

When it became apparent the enemy was preparing battlefield positions for an assault on the town, the 4th Infantry Division's 1st Brigade was deployed into the area. Two companies from the 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry made initial contact with a strong North Vietnamese Army force. The hills soon resounded to the sounds of the battle, which grew in ferocity. The NVA regulars pinned the Americans down. The 3rd Battalion commander called in air support against positions astride the steep hill. Artillery and mortar fire combined with the bombs to stem the enemy fire. Morning recon patrols found the enemy so well entrenched he was barely hurt by the tremendous pounding. It was apparent the enemy was not going to give up easily or melt away into the jungle.

Additional American and South Vietnamese troops were

called to reinforce those presently locked in combat. The 173rd Airborne Brigade and later elements of the 1st Cavalry were brought in to assist the 4th Division troops. Besides artillery and helicopter gunship fire support, C-47 Dragonships and giant B-52 bombers flew supporting missions for the ground troops. Artillery and airstrikes pounded the hills for hours before infantry assaults on the enemy positions. The soldiers found the enemy still capable of delivering murderous fire to slow his advance. Casualties mounted on both sides, but gradually the NVA troops were forced back toward the Cambodian border and sanctuary. One of the bloodiest battles was fought for Hill 875. The remnants of the 24th, 32nd, 66th and 174th NVA Regiments stood and fought off American and ARVN soldiers for four days in the



Part of the largest enemy weapons cache ever found which totaled over 1,140 pieces.

area. When Thanksgiving Day arrived, Americans had claimed the hilltop and their turkey dinner was served them amidst the shattered bunkers and trees.

The enemy had paid a terrible price for the Dak To battle. His known losses were 1,641 men killed; how many more had been killed or seriously wounded and dragged from the battle area would be impossible to estimate. He had been subjected to fantastic bombardments during the 26 days of battle. Almost 138,000 rounds of artillery had been fired; 1,101 Army helicopter gunship sorties were flown against him, combined with 1,869 Air Force sorties and 32 strikes by B-52 bombers. Many hills looked like jumbled piles of huge matchsticks and splinters as great trees had been felled by the battle.

The battle was the largest in the war to date—exceeding the Ia Drang Valley battle of 1966 and the Loc Ninh battle of the preceding month.

Other November action: the enemy's shelling of the base camp of the 2nd Brigade of the 25th Division and the division main base camp at Cu Chi, plus the start of Operation Strike/Uniontown in Bien Hoa Province by the 199th Light Infantry Brigade. The operation was to account for 100 enemy losses.

THANKSGIVING IN THE FIELD

Despite battles raging from the North to the South of this war-torn nation, the 1st Logistical Command delivered 57,000 whole turkeys and 325 tons of boneless turkey meat plus all the trimmings of the traditional Thanksgiving feast. The impressive figures included 28 tons of cranberry sauce, 15 tons of nuts, 8 tons of candy, 11 of olives, and 33 of fruit cake.

The new "Three C Concept" of speeding supplies to the

user was introduced during the month. The Cs stand for one container, one customer and one commodity. The operation begins at a factory where a truck trailer is loaded. The trailer is then sealed and driven to port where the trailer is placed on a ship bound for a foreign port. Here it is unloaded and delivered, still sealed, to the using combat unit. The system virtually eliminates pilferage and speeds the vital supplies to units in less time. Once unloaded, the empty 35-foot trailer is returned to port for another round trip.

DAK SON TERROR

Year-end saw one of the most atrocious terror attacks in Vietnam's bloody history. In the Montagnard village of Dak Son two battalions of Communists struck on December 5. The VC regulars quickly pushed the local defense force into a small area, then rampaged up and down the hamlet streets systematically burning down more than half the 150 thatched homes. With flame throwers and grenades the Communists slaughtered people in their primitive homes and bunkers. Seven out of every 10 of the 252 victims were either women or children, some burned beyond recognition. An unknown number of men were kidnaped and led away by the 300-member Communist force.

At Saigon the Constituent Assembly disbanded as its activities were completed. The newly elected National Legislative Assembly convened to begin functioning as the lawmakers under the new constitution.

New U.S. troops continued to arrive in country during December, mostly from the 101st Airborne Division. The 3rd Brigade arrived at Bien Hoa on December 8; the command group on December 13; and the 2nd Brigade came, five



A trooper from the 173rd Airborne Brigade calls for a medic to aid his wounded buddy during fighting on Hill 882 near Dak To. Photo by Sp5 Gordon Gahan.