

The enemy were occupying fortified positions and the infantrymen returned fire with unit weapons and were supported by artillery, helicopter gunships, and tactical aircraft. Another element of the brigade was air-assaulted into the vicinity to reinforce the troops in contact. The enemy withdrew at an unreported time with unknown losses. U.S. casualties were one killed and six wounded.

- XXIV CORPS (QUANG NAM PROVINCE) -- At 1510 two U.S. Marine Corps AH-1 helicopters collided in-air at the Marble Mountain Air Facility, two miles ESE of Da Nang. All four crewmen aboard the two aircraft were killed, and the two aircraft were destroyed. The aircraft were flying at approximately 700 feet altitude and at 100 knots (113 mph) at the time of the collision. The cause of the accident is under investigation.
- TOAN THANG OFFENSIVE (LONG AN PROVINCE) -- At 1540 a Ranger element of the 3rd Brigade, 9th Infantry Division, engaged an estimated enemy platoon 15 miles north of Tan An. The Rangers used small arms and automatic weapons and were supported by helicopter gunships. The enemy withdrew at an unreported time. Five enemy soldiers were killed in the action and one enemy soldier was detained. There were no U.S. casualties.
- II FFV (TAY NINH PROVINCE) -- At 2330 an 81mm mortar round being fired by an element of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment 23 miles NW of Tay Ninh City and three miles from the Cambodian border prematurely exploded inside the tube. Three U.S. personnel were killed and four wounded in the explosion. The incident is being investigated.
- An Army UH-1 helicopter was downed by enemy ground fire 17 miles north of An Khe in Binh Dinh Province, wounding three men aboard and destroying the aircraft.
- SVN TAC AIR: U.S. pilots flew 208 sorties (USAF 122, USMC 85, and USN 1), killing three enemy soldiers, triggering two secondary explosions, and igniting 35 fires. They also destroyed or damaged 96 fortifications, 244 bunkers and four sampans.
- Two B-52 missions were reported in today's releases with targets 3 miles north and 6 miles ENE of A Luoi.

LAOS

- HQ MACV -- U.S. Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, and B-52 aircraft flew interdiction operations along the Ho Chi Minh Trail in Laos. In addition, Air Force aircraft flew combat missions in Laos in support of Royal Laotian Forces.

26 March (Thursday)

- HQ MACV -- During the night, two significant enemy indirect fire attacks were reported throughout the country, neither of which was against U.S. forces. Four other indirect fire attacks were considered insignificant, causing no casualties or damage.

- HQ MACV -- During the 24-hour period ending at 0800 today, eight enemy indirect fire attacks were reported throughout the country, two of which were against U.S. units or installations. Two of the eight attacks caused damage or casualties. There were no U.S. casualties.
- OPERATION GENEVA PARK (QUANG NGAI PROVINCE) -- At 0430 an element of the 198th Brigade, AMERICAL Division, in night defense eight miles NW of Quang Ngai City (70 miles SE of Da Nang), received small arms, automatic weapons, and grenade fire from an undetermined size enemy force. The infantrymen returned fire with unit weapons and were supported by helicopter gunships and mortar fire. At an unreported time the enemy withdrew. No enemy were reported to have penetrated the perimeter. The bodies of four enemy soldiers were found in the battle area. In addition, three AK-47 rifles, one rocket-grenade launcher and 20 CHICOM hand grenades were captured. U.S. casualties were two wounded with no fatalities.
- XXIV CORPS (QUANG NAM PROVINCE) -- At 1945 an element of the 5th Regiment, 1st Marine Division, reinforced by tanks, received about five rounds of 82mm mortar fire and rocket-grenade fire from an undetermined number of enemy soldiers three miles NE of An Hoa (19 miles SSW of Da Nang). The Marines returned fire with unit weapons and were supported by artillery. At an unreported time the enemy withdrew with unknown losses. U.S. casualties were one killed and 12 wounded.
- XXIV CORPS (QUANG NAM PROVINCE) -- At 0930 and 1000 an element of the 1st Regiment, 1st Marine Division, discovered two enemy weapons and munitions caches 13 miles WSW of Da Nang. The caches, totaling about one ton, contained the following: 5 individual weapons; 3 machineguns; one rocket-grenade launcher; one 60mm mortar (complete); 9 cases of AK-47 rifle ammunition; 80 rounds of 60mm mortar; 39 rocket-grenade rounds; 8 rounds of 82mm mortar; 500 CHICOM hand grenades; 10 bangalore torpedoes; 70 pounds of medical supplies; two 25-lb. shaped charges; 10 cases of 60mm mortar charges; 10 cans of 60mm mortar fuzes; 7 cases of warheads for bangalore torpedoes.
- TOAN THANG OFFENSIVE (TAY NINH PROVINCE) -- At 1145 an element of the 1st Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), engaged an undetermined size enemy force 25 miles NNE of Tay Ninh City and three miles from the Cambodian border. The enemy returned fire with small arms, automatic weapons, and rocket-grenades. The troopers were supported by artillery, helicopter gunships, and USAF F-100's from the 3rd and 35th Tactical Fighter Wings. As fighting continued, another element of the brigade and troops from the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, in tanks and personnel carriers, reinforced the contact. Action continued into the early evening until the enemy withdrew at about 1910. Enemy losses were 68 killed. U.S. casualties were two killed and 22 wounded. Light materiel damage.
- TOAN THANG OFFENSIVE (TAY NINH PROVINCE) -- At 1340 helicopter crewmen from the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment observed 15 to 20 enemy soldiers 26 miles NNE of Tay Ninh City and two miles from the Cambodian border. The enemy were

engaged with aerial machineguns and rockets, and the bodies of 11 enemy soldiers were sighted in the strike area following the action. There were no U.S. casualties.

- HQ MACV -- It was announced that the U.S. Naval Support Activity (NSA), Da Nang's Bulk Fuel Division, was turned over to the U.S. Army during ceremonies at the Northwest Fuel Farm, today. The personnel of Da Nang and Chu Lai's tank farms will stay in Da Nang go to other activities for duty or will be redeployed as part of the Navy's 2,000 personnel space reduction in the previously announced Third Increment of Troop Redeployment. (See the CHRONOLOGY OF TROOP REDEPLOYMENT for the complete text of the release).
- HQ MACV -- It was reported that a number of bombs from a B-52 mission flown in an area four miles north of Tri Ton in Chau Doc Province impacted outside of the target area. Twelve Vietnamese civilians were reported wounded, three seriously, and two houses were damaged. The accident is under investigation.
- An Army OH-6 light observation helicopter suffered mechanical failure shortly after noon, crashed, and was destroyed, seven miles NE of Tan An in Long An Province. There were no casualties.
- SVN TAC AIR: U.S. pilots flew 217 sorties (USAF 129, USMC 88), killing 13 enemy soldiers, triggering 10 secondary explosions, and igniting 17 fires. They also destroyed or damaged 63 fortifications, 208 bunkers, and two sampans.
- Seven B-52 missions were reported in today's releases with targets 13 miles NNW and 14 miles east of Katum; 16 miles west and 22 miles NNE of Phuoc Binh; 7 miles NW of A Luoi; and 5 miles north and 6 miles NNW of Tri Ton.

LAOS

- HQ MACV -- U.S. Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, and B-52 aircraft flew interdiction operations along the Ho Chi Minh Trail in Laos. In addition, Air Force aircraft flew combat support missions in Laos for Royal Laotian Forces.

27 March (Friday)

- HQ MACV -- During the night, two significant enemy indirect fire attacks were reported throughout the country, neither of which was against U.S. forces. Three other indirect attacks were considered insignificant, causing no damage or casualties.
- HQ MACV -- During the 24-hour period ending at 0800 today, 12 enemy indirect fire attacks were reported throughout the country, two of which were against U.S. units or installations. Five of the attacks caused casualties or damage. There were no U.S. casualties.

- XXIV CORPS (THUA THIEN PROVINCE) -- At 1445 helicopter crewmen from the air cavalry squadron of the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) on a reconnaissance mission 28 miles SW of Hue and three miles from the Laotian border over the A Shau Valley received heavy small arms fire from an undetermined number of enemy soldiers. U.S. Air Force F-100's from the 31st Tactical Fighter Wing and artillery fire was directed onto the enemy location. The bodies of 21 enemy soldiers were sighted in the strike area following the engagement and three crew-served weapons were reported destroyed. There were no U.S. casualties.
- XXIV CORPS (QUANG TRI PROVINCE) -- At 1700 a U.S. Army OH-58 helicopter was hit by enemy ground fire and crashed while on a reconnaissance mission 10 miles south of Quang Tri City (80 miles NW of Da Nang). Troopers from the air cavalry squadron of the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) were air-assaulted into a landing zone in the general area and engaged an undetermined size enemy force. Small arms and automatic weapons fire was exchanged and the troopers were supported by helicopter gunships and tactical aircraft. As fighting continued, another element of the squadron reinforced the troops in contact. The contact was maintained throughout the night as the air cavalry troops proceeded to the crash site. Contact was lost at an unreported time. The crash site was reached 28 March. The aircraft was reported destroyed and both U.S. personnel aboard were found to be dead. Sixteen enemy soldiers were killed in the engagement. U.S. casualties were one wounded. The one U.S. wounded was an Air Force crewman from an HH-3 rescue helicopter attempting to reach the OH-58 crash scene prior to the insertion of air cavalry troops into the vicinity. The wounded Air Force crewman was evacuated before reaching the downed aircraft. There were no U.S. ground casualties in the fighting.
- XXIV CORPS (QUANG NAM PROVINCE) -- At 1530 a reconnaissance element of the 1st Marine Division discovered an enemy base camp 17 miles WSW of Da Nang. An undetermined number of enemy soldiers were observed and engaged by the Marines with unit weapons. At an unreported time the enemy withdrew, leaving behind five dead. There were no U.S. casualties.
- OPERATION FREDERICK HILL (QUANG TIN PROVINCE) -- At 1805 an element of the 196th Brigade, AERICAL Division, 12 miles NW of Tam Ky (28 miles SSE of Da Nang), detonated a 105mm artillery round emplaced by the enemy as a booby-trap. Two U.S. soldiers were killed and 19 wounded, 15 of whom were evacuated.
- TOAN THANG OFFENSIVE (LONG AN PROVINCE) -- At 0125 an element of the 3rd Brigade, 9th Infantry Division, engaged an undetermined number of enemy soldiers 10 miles NNW of Tan An. The enemy returned fire with small arms, automatic weapons, and rocket-grenades. The infantrymen were supported by helicopter gunships until about 0150, when the enemy withdrew. Eleven enemy soldiers were killed in the action. In addition, five individual and two crew-served weapons were captured. There were no U.S. casualties.

- DMAC (KIEN GIANG PROVINCE) -- At noon helicopter crewmen from an element of the U.S. Army 164th Combat Aviation Group observed an undetermined size enemy force in the U Minh Forest 35 miles SSW of Rach Gia. The enemy were engaged with aerial machineguns and rockets. The engagement lasted two hours before the enemy withdrew, leaving behind 15 dead. There were no U.S. casualties.
- CMAC (GIA DINH PROVINCE) -- At 0600 two suspected VC terrorists, wearing fatigues and riding two motorcycles, threw an estimated 12-pound plastic type explosive charge into the parking lot of the Louisiana U.S. Bachelor Enlisted Quarters on Chi Lang Street, two miles north of the center of Saigon. The charge exploded, destroying one parked vehicle. Two other vehicles received minor damage. There were no casualties. The terrorists escaped.
- HQ MACV -- At approximately 1600 hours, 24 March, Army of the Republic of Vietnam forces operating in Northern Kien Tuong Province received enemy-initiated fire originating from positions inside Cambodia. U.S. Air Force tactical air strikes were placed on the enemy firing positions inside Cambodia with unknown results. If friendly forces are fired upon from enemy positions outside the Republic of Vietnam, U.S. forces are authorized to return fire. This is an inherent right of self-defense.
- An Army AH-1 helicopter was downed by enemy ground fire 37 miles NE of Dak To in Kontum Province. There were no casualties, but the aircraft was destroyed.
- SVN TAC AIR: U.S. pilots flew 294 sorties (USAF 178, USMC 116), killing 31 enemy soldiers, triggering 23 secondary explosions, and igniting 30 fires. They also destroyed or damaged 147 fortifications, 433 bunkers, and 15 sampans.
- Three B-52 missions were reported in today's releases with targets 12 miles north of Phuoc Le; and 18 and 19 miles SE of Katum.

LAOS

- HQ MACV -- U.S. Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, and B-52 aircraft flew interdiction operations along the Ho Chi Minh Trail in Laos. In addition, Air Force aircraft flew combat missions in Laos for Royal Laotian forces.

28 March (Saturday)

- HQ MACV -- During the night, two significant enemy indirect fire attacks were reported throughout the country, neither of which was against U.S. forces. Five other indirect fire attacks were considered insignificant, causing no damage or casualties.
- TOAN THANG OFFENSIVE (PHUOC LONG PROVINCE) -- At 1300 an element of the 2nd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), engaged an undetermined number of enemy soldiers 24 miles NNE of Phuoc Binh, and one mile from the Cambodian border. Small arms and automatic weapons fire was exchanged and the troopers were supported by artillery and USAF tactical aircraft. Fighting continued

until about 1520 when the enemy withdrew, leaving behind 23 of his dead. U.S. casualties were five killed and ten wounded.

- TOAN THANG OFFENSIVE (PHUOC LONG PROVINCE) -- At 1930 an element of the 2nd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), in night defense 23 miles NNE of Phuoc Binh, and two miles from the Cambodian border, received small arms fire from an undetermined number of enemy soldiers. The troopers fired back with unit weapons and the enemy withdrew almost immediately. Five enemy were killed. There were no U.S. casualties.
- TOAN THANG OFFENSIVE (TAY NINH PROVINCE) -- At 1220 an element of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment engaged an undetermined number of enemy soldiers 30 miles NE of Tay Ninh City and three miles from the Cambodian border. The enemy withdrew almost immediately. The bodies of five enemy soldiers were found in the battle area and four individual weapons were captured. There were no U.S. casualties.
- TOAN THANG OFFENSIVE (BINH DUONG PROVINCE) -- At 1645 a helicopter from the 1st Brigade, U.S. 25th Infantry Division, received small arms fire from an estimated ten enemy soldiers while inserting troops into an area four miles north of Dau Tieng. The infantrymen returned fire with unit weapons. As contact continued, mechanized infantry troops from the brigade, in armored personnel carriers, moved to the area and engaged the enemy. Fighting continued until 1730 when the remaining enemy withdrew. Three enemy soldiers were killed in the action. One U.S. soldier was killed and one former enemy soldier, serving as a scout, was wounded. There were no U.S. personnel wounded.
- II FFV (PHUOC LONG PROVINCE) -- At 1500 an element of the 2nd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), 20 miles NNE of Phuoc Binh, and seven miles from the Cambodian border, received about 55 rounds of enemy 82mm mortar fire. There were no casualties and no reported materiel damage.
- An Army OH-6 light observation helicopter was downed by enemy ground fire seven miles SE of Sa Dec in Sa Dec Province, wounding one man aboard and destroying the aircraft.
- SVN TAC AIR: U.S. pilots flew 258 sorties (USAF 162, USMC 94, and USN 2), killing 15 enemy soldiers, triggering 20 secondary explosions, and igniting 38 fires. They also destroyed or damaged 99 fortifications, 320 bunkers, and three sampans.
- HQ MACV -- Today, a U.S. Navy F-4 aircraft, protecting unarmed reconnaissance aircraft, engaged and shot down an attacking North Vietnamese MIG-21 aircraft near Thanh Hoa, North Vietnam. This protective reaction to an enemy threat is an inherent right of self defense.
- Seven B-52 missions were reported in today's releases with targets 26 and 27 miles NW of Tay Ninh City; 6 and 7 miles NW of Cam Lo; 10 miles WNW of Katum; and 13 and 14 miles SW of Hoi An.

LAOS.

- HQ MACV -- U.S. Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, and B-52 aircraft flew interdiction operations along the Ho Chi Minh Trail in Laos. In addition, U.S. Air Force and Marine Corps aircraft flew combat support missions in Laos for Royal Laotian forces.

29 March (Sunday)

- HQ MACV -- During the night, two significant enemy indirect fire attacks were reported throughout the country, neither of which was against U.S. units or installations. Six other indirect fire attacks were considered insignificant, causing no casualties or damage.
- HQ MACV -- During the 24-hour period ending at 0600 today, 13 enemy indirect fire attacks were reported throughout the country, five of which were against U.S. units or installations. Two of the 13 attacks caused casualties or damage. There were no U.S. casualties.
- XXIV CORPS (THUA THIEN PROVINCE) -- At 0900 a U.S. aerial observer sighted 24 enemy soldiers in an open area while on a reconnaissance mission 35 miles WSW of Hue (80 miles WNW of Da Nang) and five miles from the Laotian border. Tactical aircraft struck the enemy position, killing six enemy soldiers. In addition, one 12.7mm anti-aircraft machinegun was reported destroyed. There were no U.S. casualties.
- TOAN THANG OFFENSIVE (TAY NINH PROVINCE) -- At 0450 an element of the 1st Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), at Fire Support Base Jay, located 20 miles WNW of Tay Ninh City and four miles from the Cambodian border, received an undetermined number of 107mm rockets, 120mm and 82mm mortar and 75mm recoilless rifle rounds, followed by a ground attack by an estimated NVA Battalion. The enemy used small arms, automatic weapons, and rocket-grenade fire. The troopers returned fire with unit weapons, and were supported by artillery fire from within the base, helicopter gunships, and a USAF AC-119 gunship from the 14th Special Operations Wing. Fighting continued until about 0600 when the enemy force withdrew. Sporadic enemy sniper fire continued for about four hours. During a search of the battle area, the air cavalry troops engaged an undetermined number of enemy soldiers. Small arms fire was exchanged and contact was lost at an unreported time. Medical evacuation helicopters received 12.7mm anti-aircraft machinegun fire from two enemy locations during the action. The bodies of 74 enemy soldiers were found in the vicinity and three enemy soldiers were detained. In addition, 12 AK-47 rifles and an unreported number of 82mm mortar and 57mm recoilless rifle rounds were captured. U.S. casualties were 13 killed and 30 wounded. In addition, one former enemy soldier, serving as a scout, was wounded. Light to moderate materiel damage was reported, and no enemy penetrated the perimeter. The enemy unit was later identified as an element of the 9th VC Division.

- SWH TAC AIR: U.S. pilots flew 260 sorties (USAF 172, USMC 96, and USN 12), killing 14 enemy soldiers, triggering 31 secondary explosions, and igniting 32 fires. They also destroyed or damaged 98 enemy fortifications, 222 bunkers and one sampan.
- Two B-52 missions were reported in today's releases with targets 24 miles NNE of Phuoc Binh; and 13 miles WNW of Katum.

LAOS

- HQ MACV -- Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps aircraft and SAC B-52 bombers continued interdiction operations along the Ho Chi Minh Trail in Laos. In addition, Air Force and Marine Corps aircraft flew combat support missions in Laos for Royal Laotian Forces.

30 March (Monday)

- HQ MACV -- During the night, one significant enemy indirect fire attack was reported throughout the country. It was not against U.S. forces. Five other indirect fire attacks were considered insignificant, causing no casualties or damage.
- HQ MACV -- During the 24-hour period ending at 0800 today, nine enemy indirect fire attacks were reported throughout the country, three of which were against U.S. units or installations. Two of the nine attacks caused casualties or damage. There were no U.S. casualties.
- IIV CORPS (QUANG TIN PROVINCE) -- At 0450 an element of the 198th Brigade, AMERICAL Division, 43 miles SSW of Da Nang, observed 9-10 enemy soldiers with packs and weapons moving southeast. The enemy were engaged with unit weapons. Seven enemy soldiers were killed and two packs were captured. There were no U.S. casualties.
- OPERATION CHEEVA PARK (QUANG NGAI PROVINCE) -- At 1510 helicopter gunship crewmen from the armored cavalry squadron of the AMERICAL Division observed five enemy soldiers 16 miles NW of Quang Ngai City (66 miles SSE of Da Nang). The enemy were engaged with aerial machineguns. A short while later, infantrymen from the division's 196th Brigade were air-assaulted into the vicinity and found the bodies of the five enemy soldiers killed in the engagement. One individual weapon was also captured. About 15 minutes later, the troopers engaged four enemy soldiers in the same general area killing all four and capturing one more individual weapon. There were no U.S. casualties in either action.
- IIV CORPS (THUA THIEN PROVINCE) -- At 0315 an element of the 3rd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile), in night positions 16 miles SW of Hue (60 miles WNW of Da Nang), received rocket-grenade fire and satchel charges from an undetermined size enemy force. The troopers returned fire with unit weapons and were supported by artillery and helicopter gunships. As the contact continued, another element of the brigade moved into the area and engaged

an undetermined number of enemy soldiers. The troopers used unit weapons and fighting continued for about an hour until the enemy withdrew at 0540. The bodies of three enemy soldiers were found in the battle area. In addition, one individual weapon and one crew-served weapon along with two rocket-grenade rounds and ten satchel charges were captured. U.S. casualties were four killed and eight wounded.

- TOAN THANG OFFENSIVE (TAY NINH PROVINCE) -- At 1800 a helicopter from the air cavalry squadron of the 1st Cavalry Division, while reconnoitering 26 miles NW of Tay Ninh City and one-half mile from the Cambodian border, received heavy small arms and automatic weapons fire from an estimated 15 enemy soldiers. The helicopter crewmen fired back with the aircraft's weapons and were supported by other helicopter gunships. The enemy withdrew almost immediately, leaving behind ten dead. There were no U.S. casualties.
- TOAN THANG OFFENSIVE (PHUOC LONG PROVINCE) -- At 1445 a U.S. Army Ranger element from the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) engaged an undetermined number of enemy soldiers 28 miles NE of Phuoc Binh and five miles from the Cambodian border. Small arms and automatic weapons fire was exchanged and the Rangers were supported by helicopter gunships. In about 15 minutes the enemy withdrew, leaving behind eight dead and three AK-47 rifles. There were no U.S. casualties.
- TOAN THANG OFFENSIVE (PHUOC LONG PROVINCE) -- At 1745 an element of the 2nd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), discovered the bodies of 21 enemy soldiers while searching an area of previous contact 24 miles NNE of Phuoc Binh and one mile from the Cambodian border. The enemy had been killed about 48 hours earlier.
- HQ MACV -- It was announced by Headquarters, Seventh Air Force, that the 557th, 558th, and 559th Tactical Fighter Squadrons will be inactivated at Cam Ranh Air Base tomorrow, 31 March, as part of the Third Increment of Troop Redeployment. (See the CHRONOLOGY OF TROOP REDEPLOYMENT, in this summary, for the complete text of the release).
- An Army UH-1 medical evacuation helicopter was hit by enemy ground fire, crashed, and was destroyed nine miles north of Phuoc Binh in Phuoc Long Province. There were no U.S. casualties.
- SVN TAC AIR: U.S. pilots flew 289 sorties (USAF 170, USMC 104, and USN 15), killing eight enemy soldiers, triggering 16 secondary explosions, and igniting 29 fires. They also destroyed or damaged 149 fortifications, 335 bunkers, and five sampans.
- Six B-52 missions were reported in today's releases with targets 33 and 34 miles SW of Quang Tri City; 18 and 19 miles NW of Tay Ninh City; and 6 and 7 miles north of Tri Ton.

LAOS

- U.S. Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps aircraft, and B-52 bombers of the Strategic Air Command flew interdiction operations along the Ho Chi Minh Trail in Laos. In addition, U.S. Air Force and Marine Corps aircraft flew combat support missions in Laos for Royal Laotian Forces.

31 March (Tuesday)

- HQ MACV -- During the night, five significant enemy indirect fire attacks were reported throughout the country, one of which was against U.S. forces. Six other indirect fire attacks were considered insignificant, causing no casualties or damage. The following attack was against a U.S. unit.

II FTV:

310205 -- BINH LONG PROVINCE -- A U.S. Army combat support element 14 miles south of An Loc received an undetermined number and type of mortar fire. Enemy losses are unknown. U.S. casualties and materiel damage were light.

- HQ MACV -- During the 24-hour period ending at 0800 today, 17 enemy indirect fire attacks were reported throughout the country, one of which was against a U.S. unit. Seven of the 17 attacks caused casualties or damage. There were no U.S. casualties. Six of the 17 attacks were in Tay Ninh Province.
- OPERATION IRON MOUNTAIN (QUANG NGAI PROVINCE) -- At 1130 a light observation helicopter from the 11th Infantry Brigade, AMERICAL Division, engaged 15 enemy soldiers seven miles NW of Duc Pho (98 miles SSE of Da Nang). The bodies of five enemy soldiers were sighted in the strike area. There were no U.S. casualties.
- XXIV CORPS (QUANG TRI PROVINCE) -- At 1750 a light observation helicopter crew from an air cavalry squadron of the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) observed an undetermined number of enemy soldiers 25 miles WSW of Quang Tri City (105 miles NW of Da Nang) and seven miles from the Laotian border. The enemy were engaged with aerial machineguns. A short while later, air cavalry troops from the squadron were air-assaulted into the vicinity and engaged an undetermined number of enemy soldiers. Small arms fire was exchanged and at an unreported time the enemy withdrew with unknown losses. U.S. casualties were one killed and five wounded.
- XXIV CORPS (THUA THIEN PROVINCE) -- At 1045 an element of the 3rd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile), received small arms, automatic weapons, and rocket-grenade fire from an undetermined size enemy force 15 miles SW of Hue (60 miles WNW of Da Nang). The troopers fired back with unit weapons and at an unreported time the enemy withdrew with unknown losses. U.S. casualties were eight wounded, no fatalities.

- JELIV CORPS (THUA THIEN PROVINCE) -- At 1015 an element of the 3rd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile), engaged an undetermined size enemy force 24 miles west of Hue (72 miles WNW of Da Nang). Small arms and automatic weapons fire was exchanged and at an unreported time the enemy withdrew with unknown losses. U.S. casualties were three killed and three wounded.
- I FTV (KHANH HOA PROVINCE) -- At 2330 three satchel charges, placed by an undetermined number of enemy sapper personnel, detonated at the Cam Ranh Bay fuel tank farm six miles NNE of Cam Ranh. Materiel damage was light to moderate. There were no U.S. casualties and no reported enemy losses. Explosive ordnance disposal personnel disarmed four other enemy explosive charges found in the fuel storage area.
- TOAN THANG OFFENSIVE (TAY NINH PROVINCE) -- At 1245 an element of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, in tanks and armored personnel carriers, engaged an undetermined size enemy force 27 miles NNW of Tay Ninh City and one-half mile from the Cambodian border. The troopers fired unit weapons and were supported by helicopter gunships and artillery. Fighting continued until 1530 when the enemy withdrew. The bodies of 30 enemy soldiers were found in the battle area and 16 suspects were detained. In addition, five individual and two crew-served weapons were captured. There were no U.S. casualties.
- TOAN THANG OFFENSIVE (TAY NINH PROVINCE) -- At 0135 the base camp of Hq 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, two miles west of Tay Ninh City, received less than five 107mm rockets, about 15 rounds of 60mm mortar fire, and an undetermined number of 82mm mortar rounds, along with small arms, automatic weapons, and rocket-grenade fire from an undetermined number of enemy soldiers. The infantrymen fired back with unit weapons and were supported by artillery and helicopter gunships. Fighting continued until 0515 when the enemy withdrew. The bodies of six enemy soldiers were found in the battle area and two enemy soldiers were detained. In addition, four RPG-7 rocket-grenade launchers, three AK-47 rifles, one CHICOM pistol, two bangalore torpedoes, 23 rocket-grenade rounds, and 30 CHICOM hand grenades were captured. No enemy penetrated the perimeter. U.S. casualties were seven wounded with no fatalities. There was no materiel damage reported.
- TOAN THANG OFFENSIVE (HAU NGHIA PROVINCE) -- At 2050 an element of the 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, nine miles WSW of Trang Bang and three miles from the Cambodian border, engaged an undetermined number of enemy soldiers in a ten-minute exchange of small arms fire, killing six enemy and capturing three individual weapons. No U.S. casualties.
- TOAN THANG OFFENSIVE (TAY NINH PROVINCE) -- At 1925 a helicopter from the air cavalry squadron of the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) engaged an estimated eight enemy soldiers in bunkers 14 miles NW of Katum and two miles from the Cambodian border. The helicopter crewmen were supported by artillery. Contact was lost immediately. The bodies of five enemy soldiers were sighted in the strike area and four bunkers were reported destroyed. There were no U.S. casualties.

- TOAN THANG OFFENSIVE (BINH TUY PROVINCE) -- At 1010 an element of the 199th Light Infantry Brigade received small arms, automatic weapons, and rocket-grenade fire, along with a command detonated claymore-type mine, from an undetermined size enemy force 25 miles NNW of Ham Tan. The infantrymen returned fire with unit weapons and were supported by artillery, helicopter gunships, and tactical aircraft. Fighting continued until 1045 when the enemy withdrew. Two enemy soldiers were killed. U.S. casualties were two killed and seven wounded. In addition, one former enemy soldier, serving as a scout, was wounded.
- TOAN THANG OFFENSIVE (BINH DUONG PROVINCE) -- At 1115 an element of the 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, received small arms, automatic weapons and rocket-grenade fire from an undetermined number of enemy soldiers 10 miles west of Lai Khe. The infantrymen fired back with unit weapons and the enemy withdrew almost immediately with unknown losses. U.S. casualties were one killed and six wounded.
- HQ MACV -- It was announced by USARV (LONG BINH) that the 7th Battalion, 9th Field Artillery, stationed in III Corps, will depart the Republic of Vietnam tomorrow, April 1, as part of the third increment of troop redeployment. (See the CHRONOLOGY OF TROOP REDEPLOYMENT, in this summary, for the complete text of the release).
- HQ MACV -- It was announced by USARV (LONG BINH) that F Battery, 16th Field Artillery, in III Corps, will be inactivated in the Republic of Vietnam tomorrow, April 1, as part of the Third Increment of Troop Redeployment. (See the CHRONOLOGY OF TROOP REDEPLOYMENT, in this summary, for the complete text of the release).
- An Army UH-1 helicopter was downed by enemy ground fire 14 miles south of Ben Tre in Kien Hoa Province, destroying the aircraft. One U. S. and three ARVN soldiers were killed and three U.S. and seven ARVN soldiers were wounded.
- SVN TAC AIR: U.S. pilots flew 264 sorties (USAF 173, USMC 89, and USN 2), killing two enemy soldiers, triggering 25 secondary explosions, and igniting 45 fires. They also destroyed or damaged 75 fortifications, 290 bunkers, and two sampans.
- Four B-52 missions were reported in today's releases with targets 5 and 6 miles NW of Tri Ton and 15 and 16 miles NW of Phu Cat.
- HQ MACV -- The American Embassy, Bangkok, released the following on 31 March: "At approximately 12:15 P.M. on March 30, a United States Air Force F-4 fighter bomber crashed about 4½ miles north of Nakhon Phanom Royal Thai Air Force Base. As a result of the crash, two Thai civilians were injured. A man suffered head lacerations and a minor skull fracture. He was treated at the base hospital and then transferred to the Nakhon Phanom city hospital. In addition a young boy received a minor foot laceration. He was treated at the base hospital and then released. Property damage consisted of the destruction of two wooden buildings and damage to a rice field, timber and a well. United States

Air Force claims officers are now arranging for the settlement of the claims arising from the damage. The aircraft commander and the pilot both ejected safely and were recovered in good condition." (UPDATE) -- An investigation into the cause of the loss has revealed that the F-4 aircraft was hit by ground fire while escorting an unarmed RF-4 reconnaissance aircraft on a reconnaissance mission over North Vietnam. The ground fire came from an area 15 miles north of Mu Gia Pass. The escort aircraft did not expend ordnance and all other aircraft returned safely.

LAOS

- HQ MACV -- U.S. Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and B-52 aircraft flew interdiction operations along the Ho Chi Minh Trail in Laos. In addition, U.S. Air Force aircraft flew combat support missions in Laos for Royal Laotian Forces.

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MARCH

CHRONOLOGY OF TROOP REDEPLOYMENT

2 March

It was announced by III MAF (Da Nang) that four U.S. Marine units will depart Da Nang by ship and air tomorrow, 3 March, for Hawaii as part of the Third Increment of Troop Redeployment. The units are: Company A(-), 9th Engineer Battalion; Detachment, 3rd AMTRAC Battalion; Detachment, 1st Radio Battalion; and 3rd Interrogator Team. Total space reductions as a result of this redeployment will be 359. Except for a small contingent of key personnel, those Marines to redeploy will have served nine months or longer in the Republic of Vietnam. (The above is from a MEMORANDUM FOR CORRESPONDENTS, released with the evening NEWS RELEASE of 2 March, 1970).

9 March

It was announced by USARV (LONG BINH) that another U.S. Army unit will be inactivated in the Republic of Vietnam tomorrow (March 10) as part of the Third Increment of Troop Redeployment. The unit is the 2nd Medical Hospital (Surgical) at Lai Khe. Personnel from this unit will be reassigned within RVN or return to the U.S. provided they have completed a normal tour. The total space reduction as a result of this redeployment will be 126. (The above is from a MEMORANDUM FOR CORRESPONDENTS, released with the evening NEWS RELEASE the evening of 9 March, 1970).

+ + + +

It was announced that the U.S. Marine 26th Regimental Landing Team will commence embarkation aboard ships at Da Nang tomorrow, 10 March, as part of the Third Increment of Troop Redeployment. Elements of the 26th RLT and attached units will commence departing the Republic of Vietnam on 11 March enroute to Camp Pendleton and 29 Palms, California, for deactivation. The total space reduction as a result of this redeployment will be 7,097. The actual number of Marines to depart will be somewhat less than the space reduction. The majority of the Marines will return to the United States by aircraft beginning 11 March and the remainder will leave aboard ships of the 7th Fleet. The following units will redeploy to Camp Pendleton except for the 175mm gun battery and the 8-inch howitzer platoon which will redeploy to 29 Palms: Headquarters Company, 26th Marine Regiment; 1st Battalion, 26th Marine Regiment; 2nd Battalion, 26th Marine Regiment; 3rd Battalion, 26th Marine Regiment; 1st Shore Party Battalion; Detachment, Force Logistics Command; 1st Battalion, 13th Marine Regiment; Detachment, 9th Engineer Battalion; Battery K, 4th Battalion, 13th Marine Regiment; Company A, 5th Shore Party Battalion; Company A, 5th Tank Battalion; Company B, 1st MP Battalion; Company A, 5th Motor Transport Battalion; Company A, 5th Reconnaissance Battalion; Company A, 5th Medical Battalion; 5th 175mm Gun Battery; 1st Platoon, 5th 8-inch Howitzer Battery; 2nd Platoon, 3rd Bridge Company; Detachment, Headquarters, 4th Battalion, 13th Marine Regiment; Detachment, Headquarters and Service Company, 5th Shore Party Battalion; Detachment, Headquarters and Service Company, 5th Reconnaissance

Battalion; 1st Tank Battalion (-); Detachment, Marine Aircraft Group 16; Headquarters and Service Company, 5th Tank Battalion; Detachment, 1st Hospital Company; Headquarters, Detachment (Radar) - II MAF; and Detachment, 5th Motor Transport Battalion. All but a few key personnel will have served nine months in the Republic of Vietnam. The embarkation is expected to be completed by 20 March. (The above is from a MEMORANDUM FOR CORRESPONDENTS, released with the morning NEWS RELEASE of 9 March, 1970).

11 March

It was announced by USARV (LONG BINH) that another U.S. Army unit will be inactivated in the Republic of Vietnam tomorrow, 12 March, as part of the Third Increment of Troop Redeployment. The unit is the 205th Ordnance Platoon (Ammunition) at Pju Loi III Corps. Personnel from this unit will be reassigned within RVN or returned to the U.S. provided they have completed a normal tour. Space reductions as a result of this inactivation will be 90. (The above is from a MEMORANDUM FOR CORRESPONDENTS, released with the morning NEWS RELEASE of 11 March, 1970).

14 March

It was announced by USARV (LONG BINH) that another U.S. Army unit will depart the Republic of Vietnam tomorrow, March 15, as part of the Third Increment of Troop Redeployment. The 2nd Battalion, 13th Artillery, stationed at Phu Loi, will depart from Cam Ranh Bay and carry its colors back to Fort Lewis, Washington, for inactivation. The color bearing detachment representing the unit will be led by Captain Theodore J. Doucette, Beverly, Mass. Firing its first round of artillery support nearly five years ago, the highly mobile unit has since participated in several major operations, firing more than 800,000 rounds in support of Allied and U.S. forces in the Republic of Vietnam. For their outstanding job, the battalion has received two Meritorious Unit Citations. A reduction of 528 U.S. Army personnel spaces is involved in the redeployment. (The above is from a MEMORANDUM FOR CORRESPONDENTS, released with the morning NEWS RELEASE of 14 March, 1970).

+ + + +

It was announced that the U.S. Naval Support Activity, Da Nang, Detachment Tan My/Hue, will be turned over to the U.S. Army tomorrow, 15 March. The turnover will result in a decrease of approximately 300 Navy spaces to be applied against the 2,000-man Navy reduction in the Third Increment of Troop Redeployment. Personnel of the unit will be reassigned within the Republic of Vietnam or returned to the United States, provided they have neared completion of their tour in Vietnam. The Tan My/Hue activity began in July, 1967, when a small detachment arrived. Since that date, the activity has provided logistics support to U.S. and Free World Military Assistance Forces in northern I Corps and operated a Navy fuel tank farm. Supplies arriving at the Tan My ramp were off-loaded directly onto vehicles or transferred to smaller craft for further shipment up-river to Hue. The Tan My/Hue facility is the third Naval Support Activity element to be phased out as a part of the Third Increment of Troop Redeployment. Detachments at Cua Viet/Dong Ha and Sa Huynh were inactivated last month.

(The above is from a MEMORANDUM FOR CORRESPONDENTS, released with the morning NEWS RELEASE of 14 March, 1970).

15 March

It was announced by 7th AF (Tan Son Nhut Air Base) that the U.S. Air Force 16th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron, Tan Son Nhut AB, will leave tomorrow, March 16, for Misawa Air Base, Japan, as part of the Third Increment of Troop Redeployment. The 7th Air Force squadron has flown aerial reconnaissance missions over North and South Vietnam since its arrival in the Republic of Vietnam in October, 1965. Personnel, equipment and assigned RF-4 aircraft will be moved to Misawa Air Base Japan for duty with the U.S. 5th Air Force. The total space reduction as a result of this redeployment is 722. (The above is from a MEMORANDUM FOR CORRESPONDENTS, released with the evening NEWS RELEASE of 15 March, 1970).

26 March

It was announced that the U.S. Naval Support Activity (NSA), Da Nang's Bulk Fuel Division, was turned over to the U.S. Army during ceremonies at the Northwest Fuel Farm, today. The fuel division operates tank farms and supervises commercial fuel storage farms in the Da Nang area. Under the motto, "Where would you go without us," the division handles large quantities of petroleum products everyday. Since May, 1967, the Bulk Fuels Division has supplied POL (petroleum, oil, lubricants) to Free World Military Forces in the I Corps Tactical Zone. Bulk Fuel Division's tank farms at Chu Lai were also turned over to the Army today, March 26. The tank farm at Tan My was turned over on February 26. The personnel of Da Nang and Chu Lai's tank farms will stay in Da Nang, go to other activities for duty, or will be redeployed as part of the Navy's 2,000 personnel space reductions in the previously announced Third Increment of Troop Redeployment. (The above is from a MEMORANDUM FOR CORRESPONDENTS, released with the evening NEWS RELEASE of 26 March, 1970).

30 March

It was announced by Headquarters, 7th Air Force that three tactical fighter squadrons will be inactivated at Can Ranh Air Base tomorrow, 31 March, as part of the Third Increment of Redeployment of U.S. forces. The three units are the 557th Tactical Fighter Squadron, commanded by LTC George Aubry Jr. of Universal City, Texas; the 558th Tactical Fighter Squadron, commanded by LTC Ethan A. Grant of Ft. Walton Beach, Florida; and the 559th Tactical Fighter Squadron, commanded by LTC Lowell E. Shearer of Hampton, Virginia. Inactivation of the three squadrons, which are equipped with F-4C Phantoms, will result in a reduction of some 1,980 Air Force personnel authorizations in Vietnam. This figure includes authorizations for the three squadrons and supporting elements. Aircraft assigned to the squadrons are being transferred to George Air Force Base, California. Some personnel in the inactivated units will be transferred to other units to complete their Vietnam tour. The remainder will be returned to the U.S. using normal returnee procedures. The 557th

and 558th Squadrons arrived in the Republic of Vietnam in November 1965. The 559th TFS arrived in country January 1, 1966. (The above is from a MEMORANDUM FOR CORRESPONDENTS, released with the evening NEWS RELEASE of 30 March, 1970).

31 March

It was announced by USARV (LONG BINH) that another U.S. Army unit will depart the Republic of Vietnam tomorrow, April 1, as part of the Third Increment of Troop Redeployment. A detachment representing the 7th Battalion, 9th Field Artillery, stationed in III Corps, will depart from Cam Ranh Bay and carry its colors back to Fort Lewis, Washington, for inactivation. The returning color bearing detachment will be led by Captain Charles R. Ainsworth, Durant, Oklahoma. Firing its first round of artillery support nearly three and one-half years ago, the highly mobile unit has since participated in many major operations, firing more than 590,000 rounds in support of Allied and U.S. Forces in the Republic of Vietnam. The departure of this unit will result in a reduction of 528 personnel spaces. (The above is from a MEMORANDUM TO CORRESPONDENTS (#1), released with the evening NEWS RELEASE of 31 March, 1970).

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It was announced by USARV (LONG BINH) that another U.S. Army unit will be inactivated in the Republic of Vietnam tomorrow, April 1, as part of the Third Increment of Troop Redeployment. The unit is F Battery, 16th Field Artillery in III Corps. Members of this unit will be reassigned within RVN or returned to the U.S. provided they have completed a normal tour. A reduction of 125 personnel spaces will result from the inactivation. (The above is from a MEMORANDUM FOR CORRESPONDENTS (#2), released with the evening NEWS RELEASE of 31 March, 1970).

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C H R O N O L O G Y O F S I G N I F I C A N T E V E N T S

- 2 Mar 1970 Rear Admiral Albert R. Marschall, USN, relieves Rear Admiral John D. Dillon as 3d NAV CONST BDE.
- 4 Mar 1970 An estimated 50 enemy soldiers probe the night defensive positions of an element of the 2nd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), 29 miles north of Tay Ninh City. The troops react with organic weapons and receive artillery support. Thirty-seven enemy are killed, and 12 individual weapons captured. U.S. casualties are one killed, three wounded.
- 4 Mar 1970 BG Herbert E. Wolff, USA, assumes command of CHAC, replacing Colonel Byron D. Greene, Acting CG after the January death of Gen. Charles J. Girard, USA.
- 4 Mar 1970 Rear Admiral Albert R. Marschall, USN, relieves Rear Admiral Henry J. Johnson, USN, as Deputy Director, PACNAVFACSEA/OICC.
- 5 Mar 1970 DOD announces 113 Americans are killed in the week ending 28 February. It is the highest weekly total since 22 November, 1969.
- 5 Mar 1970 An element of the 2nd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) finds an enemy cache 22 miles northeast of Song Be in Phuoc Long Province. It weighs approximately nine tons and contains 1,100 rounds of 82mm mortar; 450 fuses for 82mm mortar; 225 primers for 82mm mortar; 35 bolt action rifles; 49 SKS rifles; 220 rifle grenades; 43,000 rounds of small arms ammunition; 2,400 pounds of TNT; 38 cases of plastic explosives; one anti-tank mine; 5,000 feet of detonating cord; 170 anti-tank CHICOM grenades; 340 rounds of rocket-grenades; 1,000 pick axes with out handles; and 15 shovels.
- 6 Mar 1970 The port of Can Tho, Phong Dinh Province, is turned over to the ARVN by the 1st Logistics Command.
- 6 Mar 1970 The 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment engages an enemy force seven miles southeast of Katum in Tay Ninh Province. Thirty-one enemy are killed. U.S. casualties are two wounded.
- 7 Mar 1970 The total number of helicopters lost to enemy action since 1961 in Vietnam reaches 1,500.
- 7 Mar 1970 An element of the 199th Light Infantry Brigade discovers a significant food cache weighing 7½ tons, 20 miles north of Ham Tan in Binh Tuy Province.
- 7 Mar 1970 Cambodian peasants stage demonstrations in Svayrieng, demanding VC troops leave Cambodia. They seize 11 weapons from the VC during the protests.

- 8 Mar 1970 An element of the 1st Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) contacts an unknown size enemy force 29 miles north of Tay Ninh City. Small arms and automatic weapons fire is exchanged, and the troopers are supported by artillery, helicopter gunships, and USAF tactical aircraft. Twenty-nine enemy are killed. U.S. casualties are three killed, 13 wounded.
- 9 Mar 1970 The Commanding General XXIV Corps assumes operational control of all U.S. forces in I CTZ and assumes duties of Senior Advisor to Commanding General, I Corps.
- 9 Mar 1970 Lieutenant General K.B. McCutcheon, USMC, replaces Lieutenant General Herman Nickerson, Jr., as Commanding General, III MAF.
- 10 Mar 1970 Major General Rexford H. Dettre, Jr., USAF, assumes duties of MACJ5, replacing Major General Richard F. Shaefer.
- 10 Mar 1970 Brigadier General Lawrence V. Greene, USA, assumes duties of MACJ1, replacing Brigadier General Albert H. Smith, Jr.
- 10 Mar 1970 The USMC 26th Regimental Landing Team begins embarking aboard ships at Da Nang for redeployment from RVN.
- 10 Mar 1970 DOD directs MACV to begin reporting aircraft losses in Laos as soon as SAR operations have been completed. Casualties immediately related to the losses are to be announced also.
- 10 Mar 1970 While operating four miles southwest of Loc Ninh, in Binh Long Province, an element of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment contacts an enemy force. Support comes from artillery, helicopter gunships and tactical aircraft. Fifty-four enemy are killed, and five detained. Also, 19 individual and ten crew-served weapons are captured. U.S. casualties are four killed and 18 wounded.
- 10 Mar 1970 Vice Admiral Maurice F. Weisner assumes command of the 7th Fleet, replacing VADM William F. Bringle.
- 11 Mar 1970 North Vietnam and Viet Cong embassies in Phnom Penh are targets of Cambodian demonstrators who ransack buildings, burn cars, and toss furniture into the streets.
- 12 Mar 1970 Prince Souvanna Phouma announces NVN must withdraw its troops (estimated at 67,000) before there is a cessation of U.S. bombing in Laos.
- 12 Mar 1970 Prince Norodom Sihanouk charges the Viet Cong and Viet Minh (NVN) have not respected their solemn promises to respect Cambodia's neutrality and frontiers.

- 13 Mar 1970 RKG demands that Viet Cong and NVA troops be withdrawn from Cambodian territory by dawn 15 March.
- 14 Mar 1970 USS REPOSE (AH-16), known as the "Angel of the Orient," steams out of Da Nang Harbor for the U.S. and decommissioning, leaving only one hospital ship in Vietnam waters.
- 14 Mar 1970 The SS COLOMBIA EAGLE, a cargo ship carrying munitions to Thailand, is commandeered by mutineers and taken to Cambodia.
- 15 Mar 1970 The U.S. Army assumes responsibility for the facilities of the Tan Ky/Hue logistics base formerly under control of Naval Support Activities Da Nang.
- 16 Mar 1970 Elements of the 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, engage an enemy force nine miles northeast of Tay Ninh City. Twenty-five enemy are killed. U.S. casualties are two killed and six wounded.
- 16 Mar 1970 A USN EC-121 "Constellation" crashes while landing at Da Nang Air Base. Of 31 crewmembers, 22 are killed and nine injured.
- 17 Mar 1970 Reports from Chau Doc Province tell of Cambodian troops attempting to push a VC battalion back across the RVN border and calling for assistance from RVN artillery.
- 17 Mar 1970 Secretary of the Army Resor announces the findings of a probe headed by Lieutenant General Peers into the alleged My Lai Massacre. Fourteen officers charged with various violations of the UCMJ are: LTG Samuel W. Koster, former CG, 23d (Americal) Infantry Division; BG George H. Young, former assistant division commander, 23d (Americal) Infantry Division; Col. Robert B. Luper, former commander 6th Battalion, 11th Artillery; Col. Nels A. Parson, former chief of staff, 23d (Americal) Infantry Division; Lt. Col. David C. Gavin, former district senior advisor of Son Tinh District; Lt. Col. William D. Guinn, Jr., former deputy province advisor, Quang Ngai Province; Maj. Charles C. Calhoun, former executive officer and operations officer of Task Force BARKER; Maj. Robert W. Knight, former operations officer, 11th Infantry Brigade; Maj. Frederic W. Watke, former commander Company B, 123d Aviation Battalion; Capt. Kenneth W. Boatman, former artillery forward observer; Capt. Dennis H. Johnson, former 52d Military Intelligence Detachment; Capt. Ernest L. Medina, former commander Company C, 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry; and, Capt. Thomas K. Willingham, former 1st Lieutenant in Company B, 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry.
- 17 Mar 1970 Major General Lloyd B. Ramsey is injured in the crash of his UH-1 helicopter in the jungle seven miles west of Chu Lai. The crash is not the result of enemy action.

- 18 Mar 1970 Radio Phnom Penh announces "From this day the Prince Norodom Sihanouk shall cease his function as head of the state of Cambodia and will be replaced by Cheng Heng, the Chairman of the National Assembly.
- 19 Mar 1970 Rep. L. Mendel Rivers, Chairman of the Armed Services Committee, announces a subcommittee is investigating the Pentagon's handling of the My Lai case and "at the proper time we will make a report."
- 20 Mar 1970 The White House acknowledges that there is "very limited" Thai involvement in Laos but describes as grossly exaggerated that U.S. aircraft have flown two battalions to the Laotian war zone.
- 21 Mar 1970 Major General Albert E. Milloy replaces Major General Lloyd B. Ramsey as CG, 23d (Americal) Infantry Division after General was injured in a helicopter accident four days earlier.
- 21 Mar 1970 Brigadier General John Q. Henion assumes command of the 1st Infantry Division, replacing Major General Albert E. Milloy.
- 21 Mar 1970 An unknown number of enemy enter the villages of Plei Khe and Huing Ya Kem, in Pleiku Province, and destroy 35 houses by fire.
- 22 Mar 1970 Thailand Prime Minister denies that two Thai battalions were sent to Laos but admits "that some volunteers" may have gone there.
- 22 Mar 1970 Terrorists throw hand grenades into the midst of Buddhist worshippers at a temple seven miles north of Saigon. The blast kills 14 women and children and leaves 20 others wounded.
- 22 Mar 1970 A helicopter of the 11th Aviation Group, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), engages 30-35 enemy soldiers eight miles west of Loc Ninh in Binh Long Province, killing 30 of them. There are no U.S. casualties.
- 23 Mar 1970 The Cambodian Government asks the ICC be sent to expel NVA and VC troops peacefully from Cambodian soil.
- 23 Mar 1970 In an area 15 miles northwest of Phuoc Binh, in Phuoc Long Province, an element of the 3rd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), finds a 13-ton rice cache.
- 23 Mar 1970 The postal strike in the U.S. slows down the Vietnam-bound mail. The mail received is down 50 percent.
- 23 Mar 1970 Cambodian Prime Minister Lon Nol states that the U.S. ammunition ship SS COLUMBIA EAGLE, hijacked and taken into Cambodian waters, will not be returned.

- 25 Mar 1970 VC and NVN diplomats are ordered home from their Cambodian embassies in Phnom Penh.
- 26 Mar 1970 An element of the 1st Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), engages an unknown size enemy force 25 miles north-northwest of Tay Ninh City. The troops are supported by artillery, helicopter gunships, and tactical aircraft. Eighty-eight enemy are killed. U.S. casualties are two killed, 22 wounded.
- 28 Mar 1970 The Government of Cambodia announces mobilization of all veteran soldiers to boost the armed forces in the face of a reported advance on Phnom Penh by four Viet Cong columns reported to be 3,600 strong.
- 29 Mar 1970 Cambodia Prime Minister General Lon Nol announces that the U.S. ammunition ship SS COLUMBIA EAGLE would be returned to the U.S. and that it was free to leave at any time but actual arrangements would be made through a neutral country.
- 29 Mar 1970 An enemy unit identified as an NVA element of the 9th VC Division attacks FSB Jay, 20 miles north-northwest of Tay Ninh City. The base is occupied by elements of the 1st Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), who return fire and are supported by artillery, helicopter gunships, and an AC-119 from the 14th Special Operations Wing. Seventy-four enemy are killed, three are detained, and 12 individual weapons and 20 rounds of 82mm mortar are captured. U.S. casualties are 13 killed and 30 wounded.
- 29 Mar 1970 The Chi Lang Training Center, Chau Doc Province, receives rockets and a ground attack. Thirty-eight enemy are killed, three are detained, and nine individual weapons are captured. Friendly casualties are 18 killed, and 35 wounded.
- 29 Mar 1970 An enemy force attacks the Ba Xoai Special Forces Camp located five miles south of Tinh Bien in Chau Doc Province. Thirty enemy are killed, and three are detained. Also, seven individual and three individual weapons are captured. No friendly casualties.
- 30 Mar 1970 A military court finds 1st Lt. James B. Duffy guilty of involuntary manslaughter and conspiracy to commit involuntary manslaughter in the killing of a Vietnamese prisoner 5 September, 1969.
- 30 Mar 1970 The Training Center at Chi Lang in Chau Doc Province receives an estimated 500 rounds of mixed mortar and rocket fire during early morning from an unknown size enemy force. Eleven enemy are killed. Friendly casualties are 95 wounded.
- 31 Mar 1970 MACV announces that a USN F-4 aircraft engaged and shot down an attacking NVN MIG-21 near Thanh Hoa, NVN. The F-4 was protecting an unarmed reconnaissance aircraft on 28 March.

31 Mar 1970 An element of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, in tanks and armored personnel carriers, contacts an undetermined size enemy force 27 miles north-northwest of Tay Ninh City. The friendly force engages the enemy with organic weapons and is supported by artillery and helicopter gunships. Thirty enemy are killed, and 16 are detained. Also, five individual and two crew-served weapons are captured. There are no friendly casualties.

31 Mar 1970 U.S. military strength in the Republic of Vietnam is 442,088.

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REVIEW OF GROUND OPERATIONS

| <u>OPERATION</u> | <u>PROVINCE INITIATED</u> | <u>FRIENDLY LOSSES KIA</u> | <u>WIA</u> | <u>ENEMY LOSSES KIA</u> | <u>IW</u> | <u>CSW</u> |
|------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------|---------------------------------|-----------|------------|
|------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------|---------------------------------|-----------|------------|

II FFV:

| | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|-----|-------|--------|-------|-----|
| TOAN THANG (PHASE IV) | III Corps | 628 | 4,054 | 13,614 | 5,298 | 529 |
| II FFV (US/FW) | 1 Nov 69 | | | | | |
| 1st 9th & 25th Inf Divs | | | | | | |
| 199th Lt Inf Bde/11th Armd Cav Regt | | | | | | |
| 3rd Bde, 82 Abn Div & 1st ATF/RTAVR | | | | | | |
| 1st Cav Div (Airmobile) | | | | | | |

XXIV CORPS

| | | | | | | |
|--------------------|------------|-----|-------|-------|-----|-----|
| FREDERICK HILL | Quang Tin | 440 | 2,618 | 5,001 | 814 | 112 |
| AMERICAL Div (Br+) | 18 Mar 69 | | | | | |
| IRON MOUNTAIN | Quang Ngai | 317 | 1,864 | 2,827 | 680 | 69 |
| AMERICAL Div (Br+) | 18 Mar 69 | | | | | |
| GENEVA PARK | Quang Ngai | 139 | 944 | 1,388 | 252 | 33 |
| AMERICAL Div (Br+) | 18 Mar 69 | | | | | |

MARCH CASUALTY & STRENGTH STATISTICS

| WEEK ENDING | KIA | KIA Since 1 Jan 61 | KIA Since 3 Jan 70 | WIA Hosp | WIA Non-Hosp | WIA Since 1 Jan 61 | WIA Since 3 Jan 70 |
|----------------|-----|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 7 Mar | 88 | 40,846 | 818 | 370 | 433 | 269,099 | 6,300 |
| 14 Mar | 101 | 40,947 | 919 | 258 | 362 | 269,719 | 6,920 |
| 21 Mar | 110 | 41,057 | 1,020 | 435 | 429 | 270,583 | 7,784 |
| 28 Mar | 79 | 41,136 | 1,099 | 274 | 245 | 271,102 | 8,303 |

Yearly US KIA low to date: 3 Jan 70 (65). Yearly US KIA high to date: 28 Feb 70 (113)

| WEEK ENDING | M/C/I | EN KIA | EN KIA Since 1 Jan 61 | EN KIA Since 3 Jan 70 |
|----------------|-------|--------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 7 Mar | 1,363 | 2,145 | 607,886 | 19,238 |
| 14 Mar | 1,372 | 2,372 | 610,308 | 21,610 |
| 21 Mar | 1,369 | 2,291 | 612,599 | 23,901 |
| 28 Mar | 1,367 | 2,136 | 614,722 | 26,037 |

M/C/I as of 3 Jan 70: 1,356

STRENGTH-IN-COUNTRY

| WEEK ENDING | ARMY | MARINES | AIR FORCE | NAVY | COAST GUARD | SUB-TOTAL | FWMAF | US OFF-SHORE (USN - USCG) |
|----------------|---------|---------|-----------|--------|----------------|-----------|--------|------------------------------|
| 5 Mar | 330,600 | 49,800 | 55,000 | 29,000 | 300 | 464,700 | 68,800 | 27,000 - 600 |
| 12 Mar | 328,900 | 47,800 | 54,700 | 29,100 | 300 | 460,800 | 68,700 | 27,000 - 600 |
| 19 Mar | 324,900 | 46,300 | 54,000 | 29,000 | 300 | 454,500 | 68,900 | 26,000 - 800 |
| 26 Mar | 321,400 | 44,200 | 53,900 | 28,800 | 300 | 448,600 | 68,900 | 26,000 - 600 |

Peak US Strength Apr 69: 543,400; Down from Peak Strength 26 Mar 70: @94,800; Authorized Strength
15 Dec 69: 484,000