

0. AIR AND GROUND ATTACKS - 1966-67 - Story
Preface

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U.S. forces used napalm strikes, during the Vietnam War, to disrupt the places where Vietcong (guerilla fighters from North Vietnam) were finding cover. In this photo, taken by an unnamed Associated-Press photographer in 1966, we see a fireball erupt after a napalm strike (with U.S. soldiers on the ground nearby). Copyright, Associated Press, all rights reserved. Image provided here as fair use for educational purposes.

Fighting in Vietnam's civil war intensified as America aided the South. These pictures, from various U.S. archives, help us to glimpse the impact:

- A Marine flame thrower tank in action near Da Nang.
- In March, 1966, the Viet Cong attacked a South Vietnamese village with particular ferocity. The U.S. Air Force airlifts villagers to a safe area near Saigon.
- The *USS Enterprise* cruising in the Gulf of Tonkin. (Decades later, the ship was the subject of a major scandal involving its Commander, Captain Owen Honors.)
- Troops from "A" company, 1st Air Cavalry, on "house patrol," check for North Vietnamese saboteurs.
- Marines take a rest and bathe in a stream.
- Soldiers take a break and drink coconut milk during the search and seizure phase of "Operation Pershing."
- While a Marine sentry stands guard, his comrades celebrate an outdoor Mass.
- A familiar sight during the war: Treating a wounded man injured by an exploding white-phosphorus booby trap.
- The President and General Westmoreland visit troops at Cam Ranh Bay.

By Christmas of 1967, when the President once-again visited the troops, something was in the works which he and his generals did not know. North Vietnam was planning a massive invasion of the South to coincide with "Tet" (the Vietnamese New Year).

Called the "Tet Offensive," it was responsible for huge losses in the South and major draft increases in America. Most people believe it was the turning point of the Vietnam War.

Tet's terror was widespread. With little doubt, the worst events took place in the ancient city of Hue where the Viet Cong massacred thousands of people.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/AIR-AND-GROUND-ATTACKS-1966-67-Vietnam-War>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/AIR-AND-GROUND-ATTACKS-1966-67-Vietnam-War>

Media Stream



Flame Thrower in Vietnam

Image from *Mounted Combat in Vietnam*, part of the Department of the Army's "Vietnam Studies" series. Online, courtesy [U.S. Army Center of Military History](#).

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Airlift Operation of Villagers

Online, courtesy U.S. National Archives. [ARC Identifier 541871](#)

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USS Enterprise

Online, courtesy U.S. National Archives. [ARC Identifier 558507](#)

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USS Enterprise - Captain Owen Honors

U.S. Navy photo, by Photographer's Mate Airman Rob Gaston, taken on 14 June 2004. The description of the photo, on the Navy's website, is as follows:

The aircraft carrier USS Enterprise (CVN 65) underway in the Atlantic Ocean. Enterprise is one of seven aircraft carriers involved in [Summer Pulse 2004](#). Summer Pulse 2004 is the simultaneous deployment of seven aircraft carrier strike groups (CSGs), demonstrating the ability of the Navy to provide credible combat power across the globe, in five theaters with other U.S., allied, and coalition military forces. Summer Pulse is the Navy's first deployment under its new Fleet Response Plan (FRP). The strike group will conduct a scheduled training exercise followed by overseas Pulse operations.

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House Patrol in Vietnam

Online, courtesy U.S. National Archives. ARC Identifier 530612.

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U.S. Marines Bathe in a Stream

Image online, courtesy U.S. National Archives.

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Operation Pershing - Taking a Break

Online, courtesy U.S. National Archives. ARC Identifier 530614

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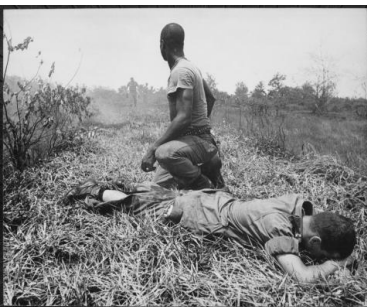
Marine Sentry Stands Guard

Image online, courtesy U.S. National Archives.

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Treating the Wounded - Booby Traps

Online, courtesy U.S. National Archives. ARC Identifier 541863

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President Johnson and General Westmoreland

Online, courtesy U.S. National Archives. ARC Identifier 192511

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Map Depicting the Tet Offensive

Map from *Mounted Combat in Vietnam*, part of the Department of the Army's "Vietnam Studies" series. Online, courtesy [U.S. Army Center of Military History](http://www.army.mil).

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