

Appendix G

Chronology of Significant Events July 1971—September 1973

1971

- 1 July Start of the Consolidation I Campaign.
- 9 July American forces are no longer obligated to defend the region south of the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) at the 17th parallel. The U.S. military had moved into this area in 1966 to reinforce the 1954 Geneva Convention agreement, prohibiting ground or artillery attacks from this buffer zone.
- 9-11 July National Security Advisor Dr. Henry A. Kissinger visits China.
- 12 July American troop strength in South Vietnam is at 236,000, decreasing at a rate of about 14,000 a month.
- 19 July Redeployment of all major Marine Corps units from South Vietnam is completed.
- 18 August Australia and New Zealand announce the withdrawal of their combat forces from Southeast Asia.
- 25 August The Army's 173d Airborne Brigade withdraws from South Vietnam.
- 27 August The Army's 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized) withdraws from Vietnam. It had operated along the western area of the DMZ since January 1971.
- 8 October Operation Jefferson Glenn concludes, the last significant operation that included U.S. ground forces.
- 12 November President Richard M. Nixon announces that American military forces are now taking a purely defensive stance, leaving the offensive role entirely up to the South Vietnamese.
- 29 November An aid agreement with the Soviets is signed by the North Vietnamese in Moscow.
- 1 December Start of the Consolidation II Campaign.
- 26 December President Nixon allows the resumption of the bombing of North Vietnam as peace talks stall.
- 31 December The strength of the American forces in South Vietnam is down to 156,800. As of this date, 45,626 American military had been killed in action.

1972

- 1 January General Leonard F. Chapman, Jr., Commandant of the Marine Corps, is succeeded by General Robert E. Cushman, Jr.
- 12 January Long Cheng, Laos, captured by Communist forces using artillery and armor.
- 25 January New allied peace plan is announced by President Nixon and President Nguyen Van Thieu.

- 21 February President Nixon arrives for talks in China. This results in changes in U.S. Pacific strategy.
- 10 March Lon Nol is declared President of Cambodia. The U.S. 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) withdraws from South Vietnam, the last Army division to leave.
- 23 March The Paris peace talks are suspended at the behest of the American delegation, to be resumed when the North Vietnamese will engage in deliberations on specific topics.
- 30 March The Communist Nguyen-Hue Offensive commences with major attacks across the DMZ. The Vietnam Ceasefire Campaign begins.
- 1 April Marine landing forces and amphibious ready groups of the Seventh Fleet arrive off Military Region 1.
- 3 April Marine reconnaissance squadron detachment arrives at Cubi Point, Philippines to support renewed air operations.
- 5 April The North Vietnamese Army (NVA) attacks Loc Ninh in Military Region 3.
- 6 April Marine Aircraft Group 15 arrives at Da Nang. Lieutenant General John D. Lavelle, USAF, is recalled from command of the Seventh Air Force for exceeding rules of engagement policies.
- 7 April Loc Ninh is captured and An Loc is encircled by the NVA. The bombing of North Vietnam is resumed as Freedom Train and Linebacker Operations. The French Government is petitioned by the North Vietnamese in Paris to try to halt American bombing.
- 8 April The 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade arrives in the Tonkin Gulf.
- 15 April The bombing of Hanoi and Haiphong in North Vietnam is resumed for the first time since 1968. Bombing restrictions are lifted for most other targets.
- 15-20 April A wave of protests occurs in the United States as a result of the increase in fighting in Southeast Asia.
- 23 April NVA captures Dak To in Military Region 2.
- 27 April Major NVA attacks occur against Quang Tri City in Military Region 1. The Paris peace talks are resumed.
- 28 April-2 May NVA attacks on outlying defences of Hue in Military Region 1.
- 1 May NVA captures Quang Tri City.
- 3 May NVA/NLF capture Bong Son in Military Region 2.
- 4 May The Paris talks are again suspended indefinitely by the American and South Vietnamese delegations after the 149th session.
- 8 May Haiphong and other North Vietnamese harbors are mined by the U.S. Navy. President Nixon offers to withdraw all U.S. forces within four months of a ceasefire agreement.
- 14 May-25 May Major NVA attacks on Kontum in Military Region 2.
- 16 May Marine Aircraft Group 12 arrives at Bien Hoa.
- 19 May Soviet and Chinese delegations arrive in Hanoi to discuss support measures.
- 22 May President Nixon visits Moscow.
- 17 June Washington, D.C., office of Democratic National Committee is burglarized.

21 June	American troop strength in South Vietnam down to 60,000.
	First Marine combat sorties flown from Nam Phong, Thailand.
18 June	An Loc is relieved by South Vietnamese forces.
19 June	South Vietnamese counteroffensive begins in Military Region 2.
26 June	The 3d Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) withdraws from Vietnam.
28 June	South Vietnamese counteroffensive begins in Military Region 1.
29 June	The 196th Infantry Brigade withdraws from Vietnam, the final Army ground combat unit to leave. General Fredrick C. Weyand, USA, becomes Commander of the U.S. Military Assistance Command Vietnam, succeeding General Creighton W. Abrams, USA.
13 July	The Paris peace talks are resumed.
22 July-15 August	The 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade conducts flood relief operations in the Philippines.
18-19 August	NVA attack Que Son and capture Fire Support Base Ross in Military Region 1.
1 September	Admiral Noel A. M. Gayler, USN, becomes Commander in Chief of the Pacific Command, replacing Admiral John S. McCain, Jr., USN.
16 September	Quang Tri City is recaptured by South Vietnamese forces.
26-27 September	More private talks are held between Dr. Kissinger and the North Vietnamese representatives in Paris.
8 October	A breakthrough in peace talks is announced by Dr. Kissinger.
19-20 October	Dr. Kissinger and President Thieu hold discussions in Saigon.
24 October	Operation Linebacker I ends as bombing north of the 20th parallel is curtailed as a peace gesture.
7 November	In U.S. Presidential elections, President Nixon defeats Senator George S. McGovern.
11 November	Direct U.S. Army participation in the war concludes with relinquishment of the logistical base at Long Binh to the South Vietnamese.
20-21 November	More private talks are held between Dr. Kissinger and Le Duc Tho to design a final peace agreement.
13 December	Talks between Dr. Kissinger and Le Duc Tho reach a standstill.
14 December	President Nixon warns he will resume bombing if negotiations are not resumed.
18-29 December	Operation Linebacker II is launched against Hanoi and Haiphong, the "Christmas Bombing."
31 December	American troop strength in South Vietnam is at 24,200.

1973

8-12 January	Dr. Kissinger and Le Duc Tho proceed with their private talks.
15 January	With progress in peace talks, President Nixon declares an end to all U.S. offensive operations against North Vietnam.
25 January	Joint Homecoming Reception Center activated at Clark Air Force Base, Philippines.
27 January	The Americans and North Vietnamese sign the Paris Peace Accords. The conclusion of the military draft is announced by the Department of Defense.

- 28 January The Ceasefire Campaign ends as the final withdrawal of allied forces from South Vietnam begins.
- 30 January Melvin R. Laird is succeeded by Elliot L. Richardson as the Secretary of Defense.
- 21 February A ceasefire is reached in Laos.
- 25 February Task Force Delta commences combat sorties in Cambodia.
- 31 January Operation End Sweep mineclearing begins.
- 14 March Sub Unit One, 1st ANGLICO, the last Marine unit to leave Vietnam, is transferred to Fleet Marine Force, Pacific.
- 29 March The headquarters of the U.S. Military Assistance Command Vietnam is closed. Marine advisory effort ends. The release of prisoners of war by the Communists and the departure of all American forces from South Vietnam is completed.
- 4 April Joint Homecoming Reception Center reverts to a standby status.
- 22 May Dr. Kissinger and Le Duc Tho conclude their discussions on Vietnam truce agreement.
- 13 June A new treaty is signed by the Americans, South Vietnamese, National Liberation Front, and the North Vietnamese in an attempt to strengthen the ceasefire.
- 24 June Ellsworth Bunker is replaced by Graham A. Martin as U.S. Ambassador to South Vietnam.
- 2 July Elliot Richardson is followed by James R. Schlesinger as Secretary of Defense.
- 14 August Congress declares the cessation of all U.S.-funded military action in Southeast Asia. Marine air combat operations from Nam Phong end.
- 21 September Marines depart Nam Phong.
- 22 September William P. Rogers is replaced by Dr. Kissinger as Secretary of State. Dr. Kissinger continues his post as National Security Advisor.