

# REDCATCHER



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## Mortarmen halt sappers

FSB Nancy - Quick reactions by the 18th Engineer Brigade's Co. C, 14th Engr. Bn., help repel a massive ground attack by an estimated enemy sapper battalion recently

According to one of those captured, the 120-man battalion had been in the Republic of Vietnam only three days.

During the early morning hours the sappers completely surrounded this fire base with eight-man teams. Although many sappers were repelled before they breached the concertina wire, some managed to slip through by making tunnels with bamboo strips.

The sappers had escaped detection by camouflaging themselves and crawling in the gullies and ravines along the perimeter. Once the attack started they were supported by rocket propelled grenade fire.

Due to Co. C's quick response to the attack and its ability to illuminate the area, the sappers were killed or forced to retreat.

A short time later the last groups of sappers inside Nancy were either killed or captured.

## Redcatchers rip enemy assault

FB Den - Elements of the 199th Light Infantry Brigade quelled a well-coordinated enemy mortar, rocket, and ground attack on their position here just before daybreak recently

Artillery, duster and air elements supported the Redcatchers during the 90 minute assault by an undetermined-sized enemy force.

Following the attack, sweeps of the area surrounding the base camp by soldiers of the 4th Bn. 12th Inf., located the bodies of 23 dead enemy soldiers. In addition, two wounded suspects were detained and a large quantity of enemy munitions was located by the infantrymen.

The action was triggered when Sgt. Edward Villegas' barking dog sensed the enemy's presence shortly before the early morning attack began.

"I knew she sensed something and I kept hearing noises myself," Villegas said. "Then I heard branches cracking, so I fired a burst from my '60 and popped a couple of flares."

Within a few seconds, the two crew members on Villegas' duster were awake and up on the gun.

Units defending the camp during the subsequent attack were elements of Co. B and C, 4th Bn., 12th Inf., and three gun sections of Btry C, 2nd Bn., 40th Arty.

In addition, six 155mm self-propelled howitzers from Btry A, 2nd Bn., 35th Arty. Gp., aided in the action. It wasn't long after the first RPG round came in before everyone in the camp knew what was going on.

As the Redcatchers' counterfire began to silence the enemy's rocket and mortar attack, Communist soldiers carrying fragmentation grenades, rocket grenades and satchel charges approached the base camp wire.